



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Summary Records of the Proceedings of the 144th IPU Assembly

Nusa Dua, Indonesia

20-24 March 2022

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Introduction

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, Türkiye, 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).

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%).

Inaugural ceremony of the 144th Assembly

SUNDAY, 20 MARCH 2022

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 ideal 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 deployment 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 had struggled 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 hold off 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.

Sitting of Monday 21 March

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 11:05 with Ms. P. Maharani (Indonesia), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

The President said in her opening remarks to the Assembly that, in the current time of strenuous challenges compounded by a multitude of crises, the world must stand together with renewed commitment to identify actions for building mutual trust to create lasting peace, for strengthening global solidarity to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and for bolstering partnerships to lower global greenhouse gas emissions. With international peace and stability still challenged by conflicts in the world, the IPU's founding objective remained ever-relevant. The 144th Assembly must therefore give parliaments the momentum to contribute through dialogue and diplomacy to the fight for peace. All countries, without exception, must respect international law, the Charter of the United Nations, and the territorial integrity of States. Parliaments, as guardians of democracy, must demonstrate their ability to increase democracy's resilience and thereby further enhance its benefits.

The massive impact of the current pandemic, including on the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), was an incentive for parliaments to continue strengthening the global health architecture as well as pandemic response preparedness. The pandemic recovery, however, must also embody a social focus centred on ongoing efforts to drive women's and youth participation in decision-making and tackle the disproportionate effects of not only the pandemic but also conflict and climate change on women and girls. The coming General Debate, *Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change*, was an opportunity for parliaments to be at the forefront in achieving zero emissions and overcoming the existential crisis of climate change through, for example, mobilizing mitigation and adaptation actions, realizing the commitment to the provision of climate change finance, and supporting clean energy transition through technology transfer and investment. To those ends, it was vital to strengthen global partnerships and multilateralism, translate international commitments into national actions, build a culture of peace, dialogue, tolerance and trust, and actively bridge differences.

Mr. D. Pacheco (Portugal), President of the IPU, welcoming participants and the occasion once again for parliamentarians from around the world to discuss shared challenges in an in-person setting, said that the worsening climate change crisis – driven primarily by human activity – called for swift changes to economies, energy use practices and food systems to alleviate the enormous impact on the planet, on biodiversity and human populations struggling to survive. Climate change exacerbated inequalities and vulnerabilities, especially among women and girls, undermining in addition sustainable development and already causing irreversible damage. Without urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the effects would be even more devastating and costlier still to address.

The ambitious goals set in 2015 in the landmark Paris Agreement on climate change were far from being met. Parliamentarians must therefore act on the opportunities they had identified at the recent UN Conference on Climate Change in Glasgow for scaling up parliamentary action to surmount the problem, which called for strong political leadership. In addition to protecting those most vulnerable to climate change, parliamentarians could use their legislative, budgetary and oversight powers to put in place robust climate laws, with ample funding to match, and hold governments to account on their climate-related commitments. To encourage further sustainability, parliaments must also reduce their own emissions and boost their green credentials. Climate-related displacement and migration – which were set to rise with the intensification of climate change – must be tackled through action informed by science and developed through a gender-responsive and socially inclusive lens. Future generations were counting on parliamentarians to shoulder their responsibility to act and cooperate with others in a constructive and open dialogue aimed at securing a healthy planet. The IPU stood firmly committed to advancing parliamentary action and fostering solidarity in the global fight against climate change for the well-being of all.

Mr. Ban Ki-moon (former Secretary-General of the United Nations and Founder of the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens), special guest, said in a pre-recorded video message that the current global crisis prompted by the climate emergency and the COVID-19 pandemic had set back the achievement of SDG targets, especially those focused on addressing climate change. Parliaments played a cardinal role in mobilizing crucial climate actions through cross-cutting interventions that could drive both international diplomacy and localized grass-roots implementation. The IPU's

identification of climate change as a global intergenerational crisis denoted the strength of political commitment to delivering solutions to the emergency. In the absence of an urgent legislative response, however, the pledge cemented at the recent UN Conference on Climate Change to reduce greenhouse gas emissions would remain unmet. It was therefore vital to develop high-impact and innovative adaptation and mitigation solutions, including through the updating of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

The Global Centre on Adaptation, which he co-chaired and which worked on solutions to accelerate global adaptation action, would continue to support the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and to promote its ambitious climate action. The CVF Parliamentary Group, furthermore, would provide opportunities for parliamentarians from around the world to engage in productive discussions on ways to mobilize committed and unified global climate action.

The video message delivered on 28 February 2022 by Mr. A. Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the launch of the report Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, was played. In his message, Mr. Guterres outlined the core truths exposed by the report, describing it as a damning indictment of failed climate leadership and underscoring the need for urgent action.

A video showing Mr. S.P. Teo, Speaker of the Parliament of Tuvalu, delivering a statement to the UN Conference on Climate Change in October 2021, was played. In his statement, Mr. Teo described the deleterious effects of sea-level rise on his low-lying island State and the resulting threat to its existence, despite its negligible contribution to climate change.

Ms. M. Wijsen (co-Founder, Bye Bye Plastic Bags and leader of the Youthtopia movement), special guest, said that climate change was real and already taking place across the entire world, which had little over seven years to take action to reverse the crisis. In that knowledge, young people were not waiting until they were older to act. As children growing up in Bali, she at the age of 12 and her younger sister had decided to act against plastic pollution by ridding the country of plastic bags. Now aged 21, she had since grown into what she hoped was a confident entrepreneur and role model for young people, including the 80 million aged below 30 in Indonesia.

Young people were working to protect biodiversity, bring indigenous communities into climate-related processes, increase marine protected areas, stop deforestation, end the construction of new fossil fuel power stations, and accelerate the achievement of the SDGs so that no one was left behind. Those inspiring young people were also doing so at increasingly younger ages – invariably with a vision for a better world – and were serious about leading by example. As such, her challenge to participants was for them to invite young people to participate in decision-making and problem-solving, from start to finish. Although accounting for perhaps only 25 per cent of the global population, young people made for 100 per cent of the future and stood ready for action to reverse the current climate crisis.

Ms. H. Ramzy Fayeze (Bahrain), First Vice-President of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, speaking in place of Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine), President of the Bureau, by way of informing the coming General Debate from the gender perspective, said that climate change was among the greatest threats to society, jeopardizing its very foundations and immediately affecting already vulnerable and marginalized populations. The advancement of climate action required proactive measures to increase women's political participation and measures that had a proven association with lower carbon dioxide emissions, as well as more effective climate change policies. According to IPU data, however, women were under-represented in national and global policy spaces, currently accounting for only 26.1 per cent of parliamentarians worldwide. Gender-responsive climate legislation and policy reform, including for gender equality, went hand in hand and must be further developed for the sake of the climate agenda. Also essential were green and gender-responsive institutions, starting with parliaments, many of which were already going green. In that context, parliaments must additionally take into account gender and other socially differentiated needs. Lastly, actions must be stepped up to secure the future of families and their children's children. In sum, parliamentarians across regions were stronger when they worked together.

Ms. S. Albazar (Egypt), President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, articulating the youth perspective on the topic of the General Debate, said that climate change was a key defining issue for young people whose future would be determined by action to repair the global effects of that change over the coming decade. As those who would most suffer the effects of the environmental degradation that had preceded their existence, the young generations must be allowed

to contribute their talents and innovative ideas towards such action, including in parliament. The under-30s were, however, greatly under-represented in that institution, comprising fewer than 3 per cent of all parliamentarians. The urgent measures needed to prioritize the implementation of the Paris Agreement demanded more participation in parliamentary processes by youth, whose views should be championed by parliamentarians of all ages. In addition to joining the IPU's *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign, Members were urged to send young delegations to two forthcoming events to be held in Egypt, the IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians dedicated to climate action and the Conference of Youth (COY) relating to multilateral UN climate processes, so that the youth perspective could be fed into discussions at the UN Conference on Climate Change in November 2022.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on the theme

Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change

(A/144/3-Inf.1)

Mr. P. Katjavivi (Namibia), opening the high-level segment of the debate reserved for Speakers of Parliament, said by way of information that it was 32 years to the day since his country had attained its freedom and independence and that his delegation included two members of the Namibian Children's Parliament. Although Namibia contributed an insignificant amount to greenhouse gas global emissions, its small population was negatively affected by emissions from elsewhere. Most regions of the country were experiencing climate change effects in the form of prolonged periods of drought followed by increased flooding. Estimates were that the mean annual temperature in Namibia would rise further in the coming two decades, whereas annual rainfall would decrease. Climate change threatened livestock production – a major income generator through exports – on which the majority of Namibians relied in addition to rain-fed agriculture. Climate change adversely affected food security and the most vulnerable groups, especially women and children. In the country's rural communities above all, women played a crucial role in securing food and income through food-harvesting activities.

Countries must work in partnership to develop strategies for reducing vulnerability to climate change, including with the participation of those most affected, and improve adaptive capacities through training and the use of relevant local knowledge. His own country's national climate change policy was regularly reviewed and a new green hydrogen initiative was under way to transform the economy and tap into the abundant Namibian potential for renewable energy production. His Parliament shared the commitment to tackling the devastating impact of climate change.

Mr. Byeong-seug Park (Republic of Korea), citing examples of extreme weather events threatening the planet, said that parliaments must lead action on the commitments made under the Paris Agreement towards carbon neutrality, including by setting reduction targets. The Korean National Assembly had called in 2020 for an emergency response to the climate crisis and had subsequently enacted legislation to promote carbon neutrality and green growth, which had prompted the Government to increase its NDC target. In its own efforts to become more environmentally friendly by 2030, the National Assembly was accelerating digitalization, switching to green options for its official vehicle fleet and greener products. It was furthermore pursuing a just transition to a carbon-neutral society through mechanisms aimed at protecting disadvantaged populations from any resulting economic, environmental and social inequalities and at ensuring fair burden-sharing.

Parliaments should also facilitate the development of green technologies and industries, which were integral to any transition to a decarbonized economy. Through appropriate legislation, his National Assembly had accordingly laid the foundation for the country's New Green Deal policy of supporting businesses to move into cutting-edge industries as they shifted to eco-friendly and low-carbon systems. The country's newly established Climate Crisis Response Fund, moreover, would help towards securing funding to promote energy transition and green growth. Environmental concerns must always assume high priority, as failure to address the climate crisis would lead only to economic and political instability and insecurity. It was therefore time for countries to act to get to net zero and save the Earth.

Mr. R. Talbi El Alami (Morocco) said that, in addition to its history of presiding over and hosting important international climate-related processes, his country had spearheaded proactive measures to protect the environment as an integral part of public policy. It was producing energy from renewable sources and implementing an ambitious agricultural strategy that contributed to environmental

preservation. It strictly monitored fishing activities and fresh water use, including in agriculture and industry. It prohibited the manufacturing of non-biodegradable plastics and the authorization of projects lacking a positive environmental impact study. Lastly, it was ramping up the construction of renewable power stations countrywide and also reused treated wastewater in the context of a bold water management plan.

Morocco was committed to sharing its expertise with sister African countries through such flagship projects as the Adaptation of African Agriculture Initiative, which was designed to reduce agricultural vulnerability to climate disruptions and contribute to poverty reduction. New productive partnerships were vital to tackling the impact of climate change from which Africa suffered disproportionately as a continent responsible for only a modicum of global emissions. Morocco furthermore adhered to all international initiatives for preservation of the marine environment. The implementation of environment-related conventions was hindered, however, by the inadequacy of international commitment and green funding, which necessitated solidarity and sharing. In energy preservation, parliaments must lead the way. As to the South's excessive exposure to environmental risks and climate change effects, it tested the values of the international community, challenging its political will and, above all, its sense of responsibility.

Mr. J.F.N. Mudenda (Zimbabwe) said that climate change had intensified globally at a much faster rate than initially predicted by scientists and that parliaments should intensify their responses to match by legislating for climate change mitigation measures. Heads of State and Government were urged to increase their NDCs, ambitions and climate actions towards securing net zero emissions and keeping the 1.5°C temperature rise threshold in reach. To that end, parliaments should use their constitutional mandates to ensure that governments unequivocally met their mitigation targets and fully implemented their commitments under the Paris Agreement and subsequent international processes. Equally, they must ensure that developed countries honoured their financial pledge of US\$ 10 billion towards mitigation. For robust oversight purposes, the IPU Members should forge strategic partnerships to enhance understanding of the climate change discourse multilaterally.

In addition to creating incentives for green infrastructure projects, better waste management and a circular economy, parliaments must mainstream climate change-related legislation to expedite the transition to clean renewable energy. In Zimbabwe, which had recently launched a national climate fund to give direction and sustainability to climate action, the responses to climate change were guided by the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities, respective capabilities and climate justice. In line with its Low Emission Development Strategy and bolstered by the mainstreaming of climate change in its National Development Strategy, Zimbabwe had increased its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It was also crafting a comprehensive climate change bill focused on climate financing, measurement of greenhouse gas emissions, compliance, reporting and a verification matrix.

Ms. C. Gotani Hara (Malawi) said that, owing to their low adaptive capacities, the world's poorest countries felt the challenges of climate change more acutely than others and that parliaments, which were well positioned to influence the fight against climate change, held the key to resolving those challenges. Malawi was currently reeling from the devastating effects of successive cyclones, with lives, incomes and infrastructure destroyed and no end in sight. Rises in temperature and abnormal rainfall, as well as drought and food shortages, added to the heap of misery of the country's vulnerable citizens in a poor country already badly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and without the resources to cope.

As should all parliaments within their crucial constitutional mandates, her Parliament continued to do its best to provide leadership and ensure that adequate resources were allocated to alleviating the suffering caused by natural disasters and to mitigating climate change. All countries needed effective legislation that took its cue from the global approach to climate change, as embodied in related policies and treaties. To that end, parliaments must harness the valuable information and research provided by international bodies and institutions. Currently, the Parliament of Malawi was considering legislation to improve land use, and forest and water conservation in the hope of contributing significantly to global action on climate change. Parliamentarians could inform the development of national negotiating positions in international agreements on climate change and should aim to build political and public support for the implementation of climate-related instruments to which their countries had acceded.

Mr. M. Nadir (Guyana) said that no serious action was being taken to mitigate and stop climate change even though it was known to be happening. His country was at the frontline of the negative effects of climate change. It had been forced to raise its sea defences by two feet in a number of areas and to dig water wells to a depth of 100 feet in the interior. It had also suffered the ravages of weather swings brought on by the El Niño and La Niña patterns. To reach net zero, everyone would have to unite. His recommendation to parliaments, including his, was that they should follow the example of those that had passed a resolution requiring their respective governments, both current and future, to pursue climate action. The reason for passing such a resolution was that when governments changed, as they did in any democracy, so did policy.

The sitting rose at 12:50.

Sitting of Monday 21 March

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 14:55 with Mr. H. Alziadin (Jordan), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda (continued)

General Debate on the theme ***Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliament to act on climate change*** (A/144/3-Inf.1)

Mr. P.T.C. Skelemeni (Botswana) said that Botswana's key economic sectors had been adversely affected by climate change, resulting in economic losses for citizens, in particular in rural areas. Climate change would increase the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events which would have dire consequences for livelihoods thus exacerbating inequalities and vulnerability to poverty. Parliaments must ensure that policies and action plans were in place to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change risks and impacts. To that end, a climate change policy and a national action plan for its operationalization had been adopted in Botswana. A long-term, low carbon strategy had been developed, including actions to mitigate climate change, a national adaptation plan, use of new technologies, education and awareness-raising and a financing mechanism. Ministries, parliamentary committees and other stakeholders were putting in place the necessary institutional arrangements to implement it.

In line with its commitments under the Paris Agreement, the Government of Botswana had communicated its nationally determined contribution (NDC) and was preparing its second report for submission to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Parliament had established a portfolio committee on wildlife, natural resources and climate change, and a special select committee on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Further capacity building was still required. The Parliamentary Caucus on Women provided a gender perspective on all policies, including the national developmental agenda and climate change mitigation activities. Parliaments had a key role in ensuring that the commitments made at the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) were translated into reality, and that legislation was passed to increase the pace of implementation of the Paris Agreement. Parliaments must also increase investment for a sustainable, low-carbon future, with equitable development for all. COVID-19 pandemic recovery plans should include strategies that could be easily aligned to the green transition. Parliaments must take the lead in shaping climate policies and bridging development gaps at the local, national and global levels.

Mr. H. Gebaly (Egypt) said that climate change was having catastrophic consequences the world over, with a disproportionate impact on developing countries. The international community must work together to mitigate its impacts, in particular by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Government of Egypt was particularly focused on climate change; adaptation and mitigation were national priorities. The whole of society was responsible for tackling climate change and protecting the environment. Comprehensive participation at the global level was required in all climate change mitigation measures. In Egypt, legislation had been enacted, climate-related policies were in place, and priority was being given to the transition to a green economy. The Government of Egypt had adopted a national strategy for climate change, including targets to be attained by 2050, which aimed to reduce carbon emissions in all sectors and promote the transition to renewable energy sources, and pledged to work on technology and knowledge management. The Government of Egypt stood ready to cooperate at the international level to address climate change and looked forward to hosting COP27. Parliamentarians must mobilize to respond to climate change at the national and international levels, in particular by overseeing their governments' efforts to abide by the commitments undertaken in that regard. The planet must be preserved for future generations.

Mr. P. Wichitcholchai (Thailand) said that climate change was affecting the lives and livelihoods of people all over the world. Thailand was making good progress in fulfilling its commitments under the Paris Agreement and had announced new goals to reach carbon neutrality by 2050 and net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2065. The Government would continue to prioritize the circular economy and pursue a greener, digitally-driven, low-carbon path to development.

Efforts would be made to restructure the energy industry and focus on climate-smart infrastructure to accommodate the transition to clean and renewable energy, as well as greening the financial system through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Low Carbon Energy Programme and optimizing energy consumption using next-generation technologies for electric vehicle production. New climate change legislation was currently under preparation, including obligations for the private sector to report greenhouse gas emissions to the national greenhouse gas inventory with a view to aligning business practices with climate targets.

To meet the target of limiting global warming to 1.5°C, capacity building, technology transfer and financial supports for developing countries were essential. With enhanced support for and access to climate finance and low-carbon technology, net zero could be achieved before the 2065 target. The COVID-19 pandemic should be viewed as an opportunity; recovery should be greener, creating more balanced low-carbon and climate-resilient societies and economies for the benefit of everyone. There was little time left to enhance climate action; parliamentarians the world over should work together to intensify action to tackle the climate emergency and achieve the goals and objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement. Humanity must join hands to protect the planet for future generations.

Mr. M. Al-Ghanim (Kuwait) said that climate change was a global challenge that affected everyone in the world, without exception. The COVID-19 pandemic had highlighted the vulnerability of humanity, and had shed light on nationalism and a lack of human solidarity with regard to vaccine distribution, which flew in the face of the many international agreements and declarations made since the end of the Second World War on working together to end suffering. Wars and conflicts around the world continued to demonstrate the vulnerability of international political systems. The world was interconnected; crisis in one region, whether political, economic, military or environmental, affected everyone everywhere. No one was immune to disaster. The repercussions of all crises were far-reaching. Prevention and mitigation measures must therefore be taken immediately to avoid crises, rather than waiting to deal with their consequences.

Mr. M.R. Rahmani (Afghanistan) said that in seven months of rule in Afghanistan, the Taliban had consistently reneged on its commitments. It had failed to create an inclusive government, or to guarantee respect for human rights, in particular women's rights, freedom of expression and freedom of the press. Poverty and unemployment had reached peak levels, with some families forced to sell their children into slavery. Crimes and kidnappings were increasing daily. The Taliban's general amnesty had been a sham; former members of the Afghan defence and security forces were being killed. Freedom of expression, gained over 20 years with the support of the international community, had vanished. Most local media outlets were either blocked or being censored, and hundreds of journalists had lost their jobs. Women had been deprived of their most basic rights, including the rights to education and to work. Most former government employees had either been fired or had not received their salaries since the Taliban had taken control. People's privacy was being violated by politically motivated door-to-door searches.

While the humanitarian assistance provided by the international community was appreciated, it had mostly not been distributed to the intended beneficiaries. The migration crisis remained ongoing; tens of thousands of Afghans had migrated to neighbouring countries, with hundreds of thousands more still waiting to leave. An inclusive, democratic government must be founded as a matter of urgency, including representation of all ethnic groups, free from all forms of discrimination, with the full participation of women and with full respect for freedom of expression. He urged the international community to continue to support the people of Afghanistan.

Ms. F. Bint Abdulla Zainal (Bahrain) said that climate change was one of the most dangerous challenges facing humanity, which could only be tackled through close cooperation at the international level. Climate disasters would force people from their homes; extreme weather conditions had already resulted in large numbers of migrants, with the most vulnerable in the world disproportionately affected. Mitigation measures must be taken at the political and business levels. Sea levels were rising, flooding was increasingly common, and cyclones and storms were on the rise. Immediate measures must be taken, with a focus on behavioural change. Food security, water security and health security were all at risk. The world's parliaments must work in a coherent, coordinated manner to tackle those environmental challenges. Urgent mitigation measures were needed; the United Nations had given clear warning of the potential humanitarian crisis that would unfold. States' capacities to receive migrants must be enhanced. The transition to a green economy was essential. In that regard, the private sector should be encouraged and incentivized to develop sustainable production and consumption models and to increase their use of renewable energy sources. The commitments undertaken at COP26 must be implemented.

At the national level, the Kingdom of Bahrain remained committed to tackling climate change. Strategies and policies were in place in that regard and several bodies had been established, including a high council for environment matters and a committee for renewable energy. Legislation on tackling environmental issues had been enacted and public awareness-raising measures were being conducted. The Government of Bahrain was committed to upholding the principles and standards of the Paris Agreement. Best practices were being applied for attaining the SDGs, in particular with regard to the uptake of renewable energies and a significant tree-planting project, “Forever Green”, which was currently under way. The 144th IPU Assembly was a unique opportunity for parliaments to reiterate their commitment to tackling the climate crisis.

Ms. N. Mapisa-Nqakula (South Africa) said that high income countries must step up and take responsibility for climate action. Clear commitment to phasing out fossil fuels by 2050 was still lacking from some developed countries and there was a lack of clarity on outstanding financial commitments. Developed countries were not walking the talk. Tackling the climate crisis was not simply a question of making statements; it was a matter of establishing trust. Developing countries were facing economic devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Assistance pledged to Africa by developed countries had not always been forthcoming, and there were growing concerns about vaccine hoarding which had negatively impacted relationships of trust. Developed countries must put fossil fuels aside.

The Government of South Africa was committed to meeting ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction targets by 2030, including by phasing out several coal-fired power stations. In that regard, the agreement through which international partners had committed funds for South Africa's just energy transition was greatly appreciated. The Parliament of South Africa would play an active role in overseeing the implementation of that agreement. A national climate change bill was being processed through Parliament which would contribute to the implementation of the national development plan and green recovery plan. A truly just transition would leave no-one behind.

The Government of South Africa remained focused on securing an ambitious and progressive finance and adaptation package to support the African region in alleviating the negative impacts of climate change. While the effects of climate change depended on geographic location, the hardest hit were inevitably the poorest and most vulnerable, who were predominantly inhabitants of rural communities in developing countries. That situation could only change with a change in policy; parliamentarians, as policymakers and legislators, therefore had a key role to play. Historically, great changes had been born out of crises; current opportunities must not be wasted.

Mr. A. Farrugia (Malta) said that the world had changed dramatically in a matter of months. No-one had imagined that war could return to Europe. Victims were dying on the streets in Ukraine; women and children were fleeing their homes and crossing borders to safety. The war would not stop at the borders of the countries directly involved; it was sending shockwaves across Europe and the rest of the world. Conflict was also affecting efforts to address the climate crisis; the invasion of Ukraine was hampering vital research on permafrost in Russia, a vast area of frozen ground estimated to hold twice as much greenhouse gas as the atmosphere. The sudden spike in the price of fossil fuels, on which humanity remained dependent, served to demonstrate the unsustainability of such a volatile market. The transition to renewable energy was not only necessary from an environmental perspective, but also for economic security. The transition away from fossil fuels was a matter of action, rather than choice, requiring strong political will and a change in mentality.

The global ability to adapt swiftly to mitigate crises had been proven by the response to the COVID-19 pandemic; a similar approach must be taken to address climate change. The transition to a green economy must be fair; it could only succeed if no-one was left behind. Reforms must be sensitive. The Government of Malta had long been an advocate of including climate change on international agendas, and its resolution *Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind* had been adopted unanimously by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1988 (A/RES/43/53). In 2015, the Parliament of Malta had enacted legislation on climate action which included the establishment of a representative body, the Climate Action Board, to monitor implementation of international and regional commitments to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, among others. Under that legislation, a low-carbon development strategy and national adaptation strategy had also been prepared, which would be regularly reviewed and updated. As the body responsible for holding the executive to account, parliaments must oversee the implementation of legislation and ensure that commitments were upheld and targets met. Climate change required a cross-sectoral approach; the establishment of cross-cutting parliamentary committees on climate change, to coordinate all sectoral perspectives, was therefore particularly important.

Ms. N.B.K. Mutti (Zambia) said that communities around the world, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable, were experiencing the devastating effects of climate change. Women and girls were disproportionately affected. Following the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, green recovery efforts were being encouraged. Parliaments must take the lead in that regard, through their legislative, oversight, budgetary and representative functions. The Parliament of Zambia faced several challenges, in particular limited financial resources, lack of technical capacity, and insufficient data and information. Capacity building for parliamentarians would be crucial. As representatives of the people, it was important for parliamentarians to take action at the local level, in their constituencies, where the impacts of climate change were being felt directly. In rural areas in particular, measures to change behaviours and attitudes, including to prevent charcoal burning and deforestation, were essential to halt changing rainfall patterns and mitigate the local impacts of climate change.

A Zambian parliamentary conservation caucus had been established through which parliamentarians across parties could build consensus on issues affecting conservation, management of natural resources and climate change. The caucus had been instrumental in advocating for legislation on forest protection and management, resulting in the enactment of the Forest Act. It had also participated in the revision of the Wildlife Act. Zambian parliamentarians had partnered with the forestry department and pledged to plant trees in their constituencies in an effort to mitigate climate change impacts at the community level. Parliament was also doing its utmost to reduce its own institutional carbon footprint by working in partnership with a local recycling company to recycle all waste paper and, in collaboration with Zambia's energy provider, to install a small-scale solar plant as an alternative energy source for Parliament. The world's parliaments must remain at the centre of the climate change response, involving citizens in consultations and decision-making processes. Climate change could only be tackled by combining a global perspective with local action.

Mr. S. Phokeer (Mauritius) said that climate change remained one of the most critical contemporary global challenges. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic had altered the socioeconomic outlook of small island developing States posing yet more complex development challenges. Greenhouse gas emissions continued unabated. Although progress towards sustainable development was particularly challenging for small islands, the Government of Mauritius remained committed to protecting the planet through sustainable consumption and production and by sustainably managing its natural resources. Climate change issues had been integrated into national development strategies. Political will to develop resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change and achieve the SDGs was strong and significant budget had been allocated to the national climate agenda. Plans were in place to create a green energy industry as an important pillar in the national economy and to promote eco-friendly development.

Mauritian Parliamentarians held the Government to account on the delivery of its commitments undertaken at the national, regional and international levels. Climate change was a frequently occurring topic in parliamentary questions and with respect to budget allocations. Two members of the National Assembly sat on the Board of the Mauritius Renewable Energy Agency to ensure that parliamentarians had a voice in the Agency's work. Legislation had been enacted banning the use of non-biodegradable plastic bags and single-use plastic products. The Climate Change Act was intended to consolidate the legal framework and mechanisms for boosting resilience to climate change and achieve a low-emissions economy, thereby contributing to the sustainability of the planet. In consultation with constituents, the Parliament of Mauritius had been requested to encourage the Government to promote the use of electric vehicles. A project was also under way to achieve a paperless parliament; all parliamentarians were provided with a tablet through which they accessed the electronic document management system.

Humanity had changed the environment for the worse by taking incorrect actions; the time had come to change it for the better. The whole global community must work together to that end. It was not too late to win the race.

Mr. G.P. Timislina (Nepal) said that tackling the climate crisis required strong political will and legislative action. Cooperation between parliaments, particularly to share best practices, was crucial. Parliaments played a key role in promoting the transition to a green economy, in particular through the adoption of green economic policies and laws. Cooperation should be fostered between parliaments, the private sector, development partners and civil society organizations.

The adverse impacts of climate change on mountain ecosystems must be addressed as a matter of priority. As a mountainous country, Nepal was facing serious challenges. Rising temperatures and pollution were causing the snow in high mountains to melt, carrying the threat of glacier bursts. Wherever climate disasters struck, the poorest and most vulnerable were

disproportionately affected. Developed countries should provide assistance to Nepal's efforts to reduce climate change. Through its strategic programme on forest landscapes and climate action, Nepal was eligible to receive emission reduction purchases from developed countries wanting to offset their carbon emissions. Purchases supported new opportunities to regenerate landscape and biodiversity, while supporting resilient, inclusive, sustainable and efficient economic growth for Nepal.

The Government of Nepal had committed to increasing forest cover to 45 per cent by 2030 and halting deforestation completely, attaining net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045, and to protecting the lives and livelihoods of people from climate-induced disasters, loss and damage. The Parliament of Nepal was focusing on policy and legislative reforms to ensure compliance with environmental and climate-related obligations and to integrate climate change mitigation into sectoral development policies. Parliament would ensure that Nepal met its international commitments on net zero emissions and climate resilience. Particular efforts were being made to set and meet appropriate gender equality and social inclusion targets, to ensure that climate-related funds reached women, indigenous groups and low-income households and communities. The 144th IPU Assembly was an opportunity for parliaments to work together to seek innovative solutions to climate challenges. The Parliament of Nepal was committed to working with others in a spirit of mutual support and solidarity.

Mr. A. Longuinhos Guterres Lopes (Timor-Leste) said that the world was facing significant challenges posed by increasing climate change and the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In Timor-Leste, efforts were being made to protect vulnerable families, in particular through an extensive vaccination campaign. Timor-Leste was vulnerable to extreme weather events as a result of climate change, including forest fires and drought, both of which had significant impacts on food security. Tropical storms had led to widespread destruction and loss of human life. Climate change was a global responsibility; it was caused primarily by the industrialized, developed countries, while less developed countries, including Timor-Leste, were the most vulnerable to climate change impacts. Timor-Leste had been at the forefront of efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet the commitments undertaken at COP26, as well as under the Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol. Climate action was essential to sustainable development. Building resilience was key. The global parliamentary community must work together to ensure that sustainable development was achieved and enjoyed by all, in particular the most vulnerable, for the benefit of humanity as a whole.

Mr. A. Simonyan (Armenia) said that global warming and other long-term climate change trends were expected to continue, which would trigger irreversible damage to the planet and endanger biodiversity. Although Armenia, a mountainous, landlocked country, was only contributing to a fraction of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, the Government was taking active measures to reduce emissions and prevent and mitigate climate change. Armenia's approved NDC for the period 2021-2030 set a target of a 40 per cent reduction in emissions by 2030 in relation to 1990 emissions levels and a 12.9 per cent increase in forest cover. A national adaptation plan had been adopted to support coordination and build synergies across and between sectors. Policies and legislation had also been adopted to increase the share of renewable energy by expanding solar generation and promoting energy savings in all sectors of the economy through a strategic programme for energy sector development. In rebuilding in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, efforts were needed across all sectors of the economy and society to promote a green recovery. The energy sector, which was the largest emitter of greenhouse gases, needed reform. Relevant legislative and regulatory changes were under way in Armenia. Parliament was overseeing the implementation of international conventions and agreements, as well as national legislation, on climate-related matters. It stood ready to cooperate with other parliaments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector to advance the global environmental agenda to secure a safe planet for future generations.

Mr. S.M. Tunis (Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)) said that climate change affected everyone. Rapidly rising summer temperatures combined with harsh winters, droughts and storms were devastating the planet and threatening life on Earth. It was time to mobilize communities, nations and regions. Members of parliament should be educated on adaptation and mitigation measures, and should mainstream climate and the environment in all sectors through the national budget. In West Africa, many countries were experiencing severe drought, deforestation, desertification, flooding, coastal erosion, disease outbreaks, famine and food shortages. To redress those challenges, ECOWAS had drawn up a strategic programme for reducing vulnerability to climate change in West Africa. The Commission expected members of parliament in the region to be proactive and support the programme by encouraging governments to seek alternative fuel sources to charcoal and wood, develop alternative energy sources, seek technology transfers for renewable energy from

developed countries, and encourage industrialized countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Parliaments should also legislate for climate change adaptation and mitigation. Given that treaty negotiations were the business of the executive, it was imperative that parliamentarians should be briefed on the context, objectives, content and expected outcomes of any agreements concluded, to facilitate ratification and oversight of implementation. Parliaments should commit to allocating substantial budgetary resources to climate change in all key development sectors. The world's parliamentarians should work together; cooperation was the key to strength and success.

Mr. M.Y. Abeywardana (Sri Lanka) said that climate change was one of the greatest threats to global prosperity and development. Increased emissions of greenhouse gases would leave the world irrevocably changed. Rising sea levels, devastating heat waves, persistent droughts, and unprecedented floods would impact the lives of people, mainly the poor and vulnerable, in particular affecting health, food security, infrastructure, and ecosystem integrity. Parliamentarians must stand together and commit to cut global greenhouse gas emissions, increase forest coverage, and restrict environmentally harmful human activities to limit global warming. Legislators had a pivotal role in identifying and highlighting good practice at the local level to formulate national policies and legislation, while educating the general public about the global challenge of climate change. As a small island in the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka was highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and its coastal region was susceptible to changes in sea level. One-third of the total population lived in the coastal belt which had been severely affected by the Tsunami in 2004. Global climate change also would affect the national economy and livelihoods of the people engaged in tourism, agriculture, plantation and fisheries sectors.

A Climate Change Secretariat had been established under the Sri Lankan Ministry of Environment. A memorandum revising Sri Lanka's NDC had been adopted in 2021 highlighting the Government's commitment to implementing the Paris Agreement. A national monitoring committee had been appointed to supervise the effective implementation of those contributions in line with a comprehensive national action plan on climate change. Parliament had committed to focussing on law-making and oversight with regard to mitigating climate change, minimizing carbon emissions and facilitating the transition to renewable energy. Parliamentary committees, along with experts and representatives of academia, would scrutinize policies and practices in all sectors and ensure that innovative approaches were taken to mainstream climate change and environment into all policies. Parliament would also allocate more financial resources for climate action with a view to meeting SDG 13.

Mr. A. Al-Asoomi (Arab Parliament) said that climate change, with its grave implications for all aspects of life, remained the ultimate challenge for the whole world. The crisis could not be addressed by governments alone. Parliamentarians, through their legislative and oversight powers which made them guarantors of the implementation of international obligations, had an instrumental role to play in addressing the issue. Collective action at the international level was key. Constructive and effective climate cooperation must be based on all States upholding their obligations and respecting the principles of equity and shared responsibility. Commitment to international climate justice was crucial; the obligations placed on States must be proportionate to the damage they had caused to the environment. More advanced States were producing the highest proportion of greenhouse gas emissions, while those with limited resources were the most vulnerable to climate change. Equitable burden sharing was therefore essential.

Developing countries' capacity to implement their commitments under the Paris Agreement should be assessed and developed countries should be required to uphold their commitments under the Paris Agreement to provide financial support to developing countries' efforts. A global parliamentary appeal should be issued in that regard. The Arab States had made significant efforts to address the climate change crisis, in particular through the Middle East Green Initiative launched by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which could be used as a model for action at the regional level. Arab States would be hosting COP27 and COP28. All parliaments should participate in the preparatory parliamentary meetings for those conferences.

Mr. S. Gkikas (Greece) said that scientists had long warned of the devastating consequences of global warming. Numerous international goals and targets had been set, few of which had been achieved. Every continent was facing significant challenges; extreme weather events and climate-related disasters were impacting national security. Action must be taken in every country to contribute to the global green transition; collaboration and cooperation were crucial. International agreements could only be implemented if action was taken at the national level. Every country should

therefore enact new climate laws and frameworks for action for the coming 30 years. National goals and targets must be set, and roadmaps put in place to meet them. Parliamentarians had a duty to ensure that laws were not only enacted, but also applied. Climate-related crises exacerbated poverty and inequality. Warning and defence systems for extreme weather events must be set up, along with resilient infrastructure to prevent loss of lives, homes and livelihoods. Victims of climate-related disasters must be supported and assisted.

Interparliamentary cooperation could contribute significantly to exchanges of expertise and best practices. Strong political will was required to ensure a comprehensive response to climate change, which must be backed up by adequate funding. At the regional level, the European Union had established a recovery fund to cope with the economic crisis arising from the COVID-19 pandemic to finance actions and policies to prevent climate change. Investment in green energy was boosting the economy and creating new jobs. The European Union was also providing financial support to developing countries for the reduction of their greenhouse gas emissions and for adapting to the impacts of climate change. The European Union remained committed to the pledge made by developed States under the Paris Agreement to provide annual financial support to developing countries in the fight against climate change until 2025. Parliaments had a key role in ensuring that governments lived up to those commitments. Time was short; every effort must be made to create a safe planet to hand down to future generations. If peace prevailed and the resources currently used to fund wars and post-conflict reconstruction could instead be devoted to tackling climate change, the effects would be remarkable.

Ms. H. Baldwin (United Kingdom) said that the 144th IPU Assembly was taking place at a time of three simultaneous crises: the climate emergency, the COVID-19 pandemic, and an illegal and brutal invasion by one United Nations Member State of another. The world's parliamentarians should commit to ending those crises. There was no greater tragedy than that created by bombs and tanks invading a neighbouring country. War was not only causing a humanitarian disaster but also an environmental one with habitats destroyed and fields of crops ruined. The crisis could be halted with an immediate ceasefire. The pandemic had horrified the world; 18 million people had died of COVID-19 around the world. That crisis could be ended through vaccination; every effort must be made to distribute vaccines equitably and to the remotest parts of the world. If the correct doses arrived in the correct places at the correct time, the pandemic could be brought to an end. The climate crisis could also be overcome. The COP26 outcome document was strong. The United Kingdom had enacted legislation to deliver on the commitments elaborated in the document, and focus was being placed on harnessing renewable energy, in particular wind and solar energy. The Russian invasion of Ukraine had given impetus to the search for green alternatives to Russian oil and gas. Significant investment was being made in the promotion of electric vehicles and other climate-related measures, including reforestation and the perseverance of peatlands and wetlands. The British Parliament had put in place milestones and targets for the journey to net zero, and was instrumental in measuring progress and thus holding the Government to account. Global crises could be solved with concerted action and parliamentary cooperation.

Ms. N. Essayan (France) said that the latest IPCC report called for strong and consolidated action by all States, in particular the major carbon emitters, to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Paris Agreement had set targets; although they could have been more ambitious, every effort must be made to meet them. All countries would always need energy; the war in Ukraine and fuel price inflation served as daily reminders. High energy prices would result in social and political unrest, and the fight against climate change would be lost. Consideration must therefore be given to how to generate cleaner and more affordable energy. In France, significant investment had been made in peaceful nuclear technology for the production of decarbonized energy, as well as in renewables, including wind, solar and hydroelectric energy sources. Such investments were significant and were not financially possible for countries with limited resources. Parliaments should continue to remind the executive of the need to, whenever possible, strengthen the resources of the Green Climate Fund which was essential to ensure that the burden of the ecological debt of industrialized nations was not shouldered by developing economies.

The sitting was suspended at 17:15 and resumed at 17:30.

Mr. D. Pacheco (Portugal), President of the IPU, took the Chair.

Item 2 of the agenda**Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item
in the Assembly agenda**

(A/144/2-P.1 to P.3 and Inf.1.rev.1)

The President, introducing the item, said that three requests had been received for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda. The first request, submitted by the delegation of Ukraine, was entitled *Russian and Belarusian aggression against Ukraine*. The second, submitted by the delegation of Indonesia, was entitled *The role of parliaments in supporting a peaceful resolution to the Russian-Ukrainian conflict*, and the third, submitted by the delegation of New Zealand, was entitled *Peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, respecting international law, the Charter of the United Nations and territorial integrity*. Details of those requests were contained in, respectively, documents A/144/2-P.1, P.2 and P.3 and the annexes thereto.

The Secretary General of the IPU explained the rules and the procedure, set out in document A/144/2-Inf.1-rev.1, that were to be followed for selecting the emergency item to be included in the agenda.

Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine), presenting her delegation's request via video link from the Ukraine-Poland border where she was conducting a humanitarian mission, said that the Russian Federation had been waging an all-out war of aggression against her country for 26 days and that Russian troops were killing Ukrainian women and children and targeting Ukrainian parliamentarians to be either killed or taken as hostages. She appealed to Members to vote unanimously in favour of a draft resolution on Ukraine, taking their cue from UN General Assembly resolution ES-11/1 on aggression against Ukraine, which had won the support of 141 countries. The parliamentary community must stand united against that Russian crime of aggression, which had implications for global defence and security and harked back to days of empire that were long forgotten and should remain consigned to history.

With those words, she announced that her delegation was withdrawing its request in favour of that submitted by New Zealand, which she called on all Members to support, on behalf of the 44 million Ukrainians who were risking their lives for global freedom, in a vehement condemnation of the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

Mr. F. Zon (Indonesia), presenting his delegation's request, said that the IPU's founding aim of building bridges on the basis of parliamentary democracy was the motive for that request and read out the related explanatory memorandum set out in Annex II to document A/144/2-P.2.

Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka (Poland), speaking on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group, said that she opposed the Indonesian request in favour of that submitted by New Zealand for the simple reason that the former described the situation in Ukraine as a conflict, whereas the unprovoked, unjustified military aggression against Ukraine was a full-scale war unlike anything seen in Europe since the Second World War. Furthermore, that aggression had multiple dangerous consequences that extended far beyond Europe and would affect all.

Ms. L. Wall (New Zealand), presenting her delegation's request, said that everyone must do what they could to support Ukrainian citizens in need of help to meet their immediate and basic humanitarian needs and stop the destruction of homes, communities and the Ukrainian way of life. In the spirit of the IPU's commitment to democracy, her delegation had therefore submitted its request, which had been drafted with the support of colleagues representing Ukraine and Indonesia to ensure that it respected the intent of the requests submitted by their delegations. Members should unite in dialogue with a view to seeking a diplomatic solution to the situation in Ukraine, bringing about a cessation of hostilities and helping to advocate for peace. Parliamentarians were part of the solution and she urged them to support her delegation's request.

Mr. N.F. Shivambu (South Africa) said that his delegation opposed the request submitted by the delegation of New Zealand in favour of that submitted by the delegation of Indonesia, which it viewed as more measured and more sensibly balanced. In particular, it identified specific action to be taken by the IPU on the situation in Ukraine, including the establishment of a task force to make practical interventions and encourage dialogue. By contrast, the New Zealand request drew one-sided conclusions about the situation without due regard for the geopolitical considerations and dynamics that had led to the conflict.

A vote was taken by roll call on the requests submitted by the delegations of Indonesia and New Zealand for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda.

With 376 votes in favour, 472 against and 162 abstentions, the request submitted by the delegation of Indonesia failed to obtain the required two-thirds majority of the 765 "yes" and "no" votes cast and was therefore rejected.

With 577 votes in favour, 188 against and 258 abstentions, the request submitted by the delegation of New Zealand obtained the required two-thirds majority of the 765 "yes" and "no" votes cast.

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority and the largest number of positive votes cast, the request submitted by the delegation of New Zealand was added to the agenda of the Assembly as item 8.

The sitting rose at 18:30.

Final Agenda

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

SITTING OF TUESDAY 22 MARCH

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 09:20, with Mr. J.F.N. Mudenda (Zimbabwe), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 8 of the agenda

Plenary debate on the emergency item *Peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, respecting international law, the Charter of the United Nations and territorial integrity* (A/144/8-DR)

Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine), speaking in a video message recorded in advance of the debate on the emergency item, said that, on 24 February 2022, the Russian Federation had escalated its eight-year aggression against Ukraine to unprecedented levels. No Ukrainian parliamentarians were present at the 144th Assembly because they were fighting alongside the Ukrainian people to defend Ukraine and its right to exist as an independent sovereign State. Women were being raped, tortured and hanged by Russian armed forces, who had furthermore gained control of two of the five nuclear power stations in Ukraine amid concerns of a global nuclear disaster should President Putin choose to press the wrong buttons. Ukrainian parliamentarians in their hundreds were also being targeted by his forces to be either killed or taken hostage.

In the draft resolution on the emergency item, the IPU must firmly unite in condemning in the strongest terms the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and indeed the global defence and security framework. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to keep their people safe – an impossibility as long as Russian aggression persisted, be it in Ukraine or elsewhere. A soft stance towards the Russian Federation in the current situation would send a message to other totalitarian leaders and terrorist States that every rule of international law and international humanitarian law could be broken with impunity. The Russian Federation must be brought back to the table of dialogue but only on condition that it ended its occupation of Ukraine, reinstated the internationally recognized borders of Ukraine, and paid reparations for the damage caused by its troops and for the impact on other States that were courageously supporting Ukraine in its existential fight. The goal was to ensure a peaceful and secure world for the current generation of children.

Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation), also speaking in a video message recorded in advance of the debate, said that the current first-ever absence of the Russian delegation from an IPU Assembly had unfortunately been prompted by the statement issued by the Executive Committee, on 26 February 2022, on the situation in Ukraine, an important issue that should be openly discussed from the viewpoint of more than just one geopolitical group. That tragic situation, however, had been ongoing since February 2014, when nationalists had seized power in Ukraine and instituted a policy of genocide against the Russian-speaking population who had lived there for centuries. The proposed draft resolution set out in document A/144/8-DR failed to mention numerous pertinent factors, among them the 16,000 killed by Ukrainian forces in the Donbas region, the pro-Nazi collaborators declared heroes of Ukraine, the prohibition of opposition parties and mass media, and the use of migrating bats, birds and insects to spread experimental United States-funded bioweapons to neighbouring countries.

The aim of the draft resolution was to justify the actions of one side and place the entire blame on the other, without reference to earlier events for which the West had a partial responsibility that it sought to shirk by misleading the debate. Since 2014, the Ukrainian Government had been sabotaging the Minsk agreements, whereas the Russian Federation had been attempting to prevent war, most recently with a security guarantee proposal that had elicited no reaction from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In contrast to past NATO operations and those of the Ukrainian army in south-eastern Ukraine, the Russian special operation did not target cities or civilian populations, despite claims otherwise by Western media, which were disseminating fake news and staged footage. The purpose of that special operation was to restore security for the Russian people. The sooner the monopolar NATO-centric world became truly democratic, the sooner conflict and war would diminish.

Provided that it remained objectively focused on the human aspect of the situation, the debate on the emergency item would be an opportunity to calm emotions and halt the bloodshed. The IPU's neutral approach had always been its strength and belief in the wisdom of the parliamentary community was one that he retained.

The Chair, after recalling Rule 16.2 of the Standing Committees relating to the composition of drafting committees, said that the African Group, the Arab Group and the Eurasia Group had yet to submit their nominations for membership of the drafting committee to be tasked with finalizing the draft resolution on the emergency item and invited them to do so promptly.

Mr. A.R. Al Nuaimi (United Arab Emirates), opening the debate, said that the Russian-Ukrainian crisis was undoubtedly disrupting global security and stability, with consequences for all. The draft resolution must be focused on the IPU's founding values and principles and contribute to resolving – not exacerbating – that crisis. Statements that were worded too strongly or too lightly would not help in any crisis. Any statement should instead seek to promote rapprochement and dialogue towards a solution, without which there would always be victims, as was apparent from all those who continued to suffer in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Ms. L. Fehlmann Rielle (Switzerland) said that the Russian act of aggression against an independent State constituted a grave violation of international law and such principles as self-determination, peaceful coexistence and respect for the Charter of the United Nations. Falsely justified by the Kremlin leader, the invasion of Ukraine had already produced thousands of casualties, including many civilians, and a mass exodus. Russian and Belarusian pacifists were sacrificing their freedom and risking their lives to oppose the war. Countries had mobilized to provide humanitarian support and take in Ukrainian refugees in a new-found solidarity not always apparent towards refugees from elsewhere. Concerning the Swiss Government, its imposition of sanctions on the Putin regime was not an abandonment of its neutrality; it had always been free to take political positions and defend respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Neutrality was not synonymous with indifference or with allowing the unacceptable to happen.

Ms. Q.M.D. Thai (Viet Nam) said that the IPU's priorities of peace and cooperation were shared by her country, which advocated the peaceful resolution of disputes and compliance with the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. Concerned, therefore, by the ongoing armed conflict in Ukraine, Viet Nam called for immediate restraint, cessation of the use of force, and the resumption of dialogue through all channels. It took note of the negotiations under way between the parties and looked forward to continued engagement to ensure public safety and security and the protection of civilian infrastructure, in line with international law. It called on the international community, including IPU Members, to continue promoting dialogue to those ends, as well as in the interest of all inhabitants of Ukraine, including Vietnamese nationals, whose evacuation should also be facilitated.

Mr. M. Rezakhah (Islamic Republic of Iran), emphasizing his country's unwavering opposition to war and destruction, said that the Ukraine crisis was rooted in political and militaristic decisions of the United States Administration. The policy of double standards was no solution to war, which should be resolved through peaceful means. The eastward expansion of NATO should not give rise to security concerns for independent States. International law and international humanitarian law must be respected and both sides must immediately engage in dialogue and diplomacy to negotiate an end to the war in Ukraine.

Mr. A. Farrugia (Malta), expressing support for the proposed draft resolution, said that Malta was another neutral country that had joined European Union (EU) sanctions against the Russian Federation. Clearly, the war in Ukraine must be ended without delay. As a parliamentary forum, the IPU must take into account matters relating to both sides in its discussion of how best to contribute towards that objective. It should, for instance, consider the question of Ukraine acting as a buffer zone between the West and the Russian Federation and the rights of minorities in Ukraine. As stated in the draft resolution, the IPU must use its good offices to encourage dialogue so as to defuse tension and promote an immediate end to the war.

Ms. J. Mahmood (Maldives), agreeing that the Russian aggression against Ukraine was a straightforward violation of the territorial integrity of a sovereign State, said that the war was responsible for huge numbers of internally displaced persons within Ukraine, including many thousands of expectant mothers. Maternity wards and medical units had, however, been destroyed in an example of how war intensified gender-based violence and abuse. Her delegation therefore

proposed that the draft resolution should include an appeal to all IPU Members to engage immediately to join the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization in calling for an immediate cessation of all attacks on health-care units in Ukraine and facilitating the safe passage of humanitarian support and aid to Ukraine. It further proposed the inclusion of an additional reference to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security in the operative part of the draft resolution.

Mr. S. Gkikas (Greece) said that the unprovoked and unjustified Russian military aggression against Ukraine was a gross violation of international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and also undermined European and global security and stability. Revisionism in the 21st century was unacceptable. The Russian Federation bore full responsibility for the war and must cease its military actions and withdraw all forces and military equipment from Ukrainian territory. Those forces were driving a humanitarian catastrophe and a refugee crisis, bombing civilian sites and placing cities under brutal siege, including Mariupol, despite Russian reassurances about the safety and welfare of the Greek community for whom Mariupol had been home for generations. His country called for the swift establishment of humanitarian corridors that must remain open to ensure access for civilian supplies and evacuation to safer areas. Respect for humanitarian law was essential. Civilians must not be targeted and diplomacy must prevail.

Mr. F. Zon (Indonesia) said that his delegation supported the basic values articulated in the draft resolution but suggested that the text should emphasize the historical context in which the IPU had been established as a parliamentary organization working to maintain peace. The draft resolution must also be as objective as possible and acceptable to all parties. Through dialogue and diplomacy, the IPU must play a central role in all efforts aimed at ending the war, de-escalating the situation and fostering lasting peace. Humanitarian corridors must furthermore be established as an immediate priority to ensure the safety and well-being of the Ukrainian people. Lastly, the IPU should set up a task force to work on practical measures for resolving the conflict.

Mr. A. Savinykh (Belarus), recalling that war in Ukraine had started in 2014, said that, shortly before the current conflict, the Ukrainian Government had declared its intention never to implement agreements that it had signed and had amassed thousands of troops armed with offensive weapons near Donetsk and Luhansk in preparation for a massive military attack. The death toll of 16,000 during the 8 years of civil conflict in that region should not be forgotten. Important facts neglected in the proposed draft resolution, moreover, were the repeated Russian reminder of the pivotal principle of security and the role of NATO in instigating tensions and disrupting the overall EU security system. As such, the draft resolution reflected bloc thinking and the philosophy of domination, undermining the true principles of the IPU in favour of bias. His delegation therefore supported the statement by the Indonesian representative.

Mr. V. Vojtko (Czech Republic) said that the situation in Ukraine was rightly described as a war and not a conflict. It was a full-scale Russian military attack taking place on Ukrainian soil in a blatant violation of international humanitarian law and involving multiple war crimes. As the victim, Ukraine needed full political support, humanitarian aid and means of defence. His country had been a victim of similar aggression in 1968, the year of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion, an experience that had shaped his country's outlook. It was currently hosting some 300,000 Ukrainian refugees, whose access to health and social care, education and employment had been facilitated by recent legislation. Even greater numbers of refugees were being hosted in countries neighbouring Ukraine. In addition to exerting pressure on the Russian Federation to stop the war immediately, the global security framework should be reviewed and focus placed on such matters as the increased risk of human trafficking.

Mr. Chen Guomin (China) said that all parliamentarians must work together urgently to promote dialogue and negotiation between the parties concerned with a view to the earliest possible cessation of hostilities, an end to civilian casualties, the supply of humanitarian needs, and a lasting political settlement of the Ukraine issue. That issue had resulted from a confluence of factors and an eruption of built-up tensions. The purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations must be respected, along with, at all times, the sovereign and territorial independence of all countries. International disputes must be peacefully resolved, with dialogue and negotiation as the fundamental way out, as opposed to war and sanctions. Measures to be taken should be conducive to the establishment of a ceasefire and a swift end to the war. Always a force for world peace, China was committed to facilitating dialogue for peace and to providing humanitarian assistance to Ukraine.

Mr. B. Llano (Paraguay) said that his country had repeatedly called for peace and condemned the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, which ran counter to the principles of international law and threatened global stability. Paraguay had voted in favour of the UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions demanding an end to the aggression and the immediate withdrawal of Russian military forces from Ukrainian territory with a view to diplomatic negotiations leading to an acceptable and lasting solution. It urged the parties to the conflict to facilitate unimpeded access for humanitarian assistance to the civilian population in Ukraine. The Paraguayan Parliament had issued statements condemning the armed aggression against Ukraine and calling for dialogue towards a peaceful solution. Through the multilateral framework and the UN Security Council, efforts must be redoubled to protect the international order and guarantee global peace, as there was no knowing where the violence might otherwise end.

Ms. H. Hughes (Australia) said that her country strongly condemned the unprovoked and illegal Russian war against Ukraine as a gross violation of the principles of international peace and security and the rule of law. It stood in solidarity with Ukraine, whose people had shown incredible courage and resolve in the face of the Russian aggression. The high number of civilian casualties and the fastest-growing refugee crisis since World War II were of immense concern. The Australian Government had swiftly imposed wide-ranging sanctions on influential Russians and donated substantial amounts of humanitarian and military aid to Ukraine. It called for an immediate withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukrainian territory in line with the legally binding decision of the International Court of Justice. It furthermore called on China to demonstrate its declared commitment to global peace and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity by joining the rest of the world in denouncing the Russian aggression.

Ms. N. Mapisa-Nqakula (South Africa), expressing support for the Indonesian position, said that her delegation called for the cessation of hostilities between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, for peaceful mediation efforts and for the UN Security Council to pursue its objective of maintaining international peace. In so doing, however, it was mindful of the many other conflicts around the world that had received considerably less global attention. World leaders must desist from making inflammatory statements and demonstrate the political and emotional maturity needed to calm conflict. The international community, in particular parliaments, must work collectively to promote a peaceful solution without singling out one country for blame. For their part, both countries must commit to a peaceful negotiation process as a catalyst for lasting peace. In conclusion, she called for an urgent transformation of the UN Security Council to ensure inclusivity.

Ms. A. Mulder (Netherlands), in expressing support for the brave citizens of Ukraine, said that the courage and wisdom of Ukrainian President Zelenskyy could not be in greater contrast to the action of President Putin in opting for power over justice, the rule of law and peace as he prosecuted his illegal war on the basis of false assumptions about threats from Ukraine. His aggression against a sovereign State was a violation of international law that Belarus had also joined in committing. The IPU resolution should include references to UN General Assembly resolution ES-11/1 and to the statement issued by the Executive Committee on the situation in Ukraine. Women and children suffered most from the war, which China should play a role in working to end through peaceful dialogue. The war was already disrupting supply chains, causing fuel and food prices to skyrocket and encouraging human trafficking. It must be stopped through concerted efforts.

Ms. A. McMorris (United Kingdom) said that the unprovoked Russian attack on Ukraine was an illegal and unethical war in which a sovereign Member State of the United Nations had invaded another in violation of international law. It was an outrage that the Russian delegation had been given a platform at the IPU to spread further misinformation and lies about Putin's heinous crimes against democracy itself. In Ukraine, innocent civilians were being killed, women raped and civilian homes destroyed in what was no distant conflict but an illegal war that would touch every part of humanity unless it were stopped. Neighbouring countries taking in millions of frightened Ukrainian refugees wondered if they would be next as the history books were replayed. With the world at such a turning point, parliamentarians must remain on the right side of history by standing in solidarity with the Ukrainian people and coming together to stop the invasion of Ukraine.

Ms. T.V. Muzenda (Zimbabwe) said that the international community must tirelessly facilitate constructive dialogue as the only viable way out of the deepening crisis in Ukraine. Both parties, too, must further intensify their existing efforts to seek an expeditious and peaceful resolution of the conflict. Diplomacy through dialogue could only succeed, however, if it was mutually recognized that States had a duty to exercise their sovereignty in a spirit of coexistence, without inadvertently raising existential security concerns for other sovereign States. In addition to the right to associate with any

other on a basis of sovereign equality, all States had a sacrosanct responsibility to avoid overt or covert threats to others. As to the UN Security Council, it must work without bias or undue influence to end the conflict. Following the cessation of hostilities, the United Nations must facilitate the deployment of a credible monitoring team to secure unhindered access to post-war recovery and humanitarian operations.

Mr. H. Carneiro (Portugal), calling on all Members to support the proposed draft resolution, said that the appalling Russian invasion of a sovereign State, in violation of its territorial integrity, was inadmissible in the 21st century. The cruel war in Ukraine had never been about a “special operation of denazification”. Historically neutral countries had commendably spoken out against Putin’s war crimes and, for its part, the IPU must clearly articulate the view of the world’s parliamentarians vis-à-vis the destruction of one country by another. Portugal stood with the Ukrainian people in their strong conviction, unity and sense of belonging that all must respect, and was preparing to receive Ukrainian refugees. It also stood with young Russian soldiers sent into a war that they understood little – and in which many of them would unfortunately die on the battlefield – and with Russians arrested for expressing their free opinion. The war must stop for the good of the entire world.

Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka (Poland), reiterating that the Ukraine crisis was not a conflict but an unprovoked and unjustified Russian act of aggression, said that the war had changed the security situation in Europe and beyond; no nation could feel secure if the international rules-based order was broken. All nations committed to the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity must strongly condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The earlier Russian statement was simply disinformation and propaganda intended to justify the brutal Russian actions in Ukraine. The truth heard from the 2 million refugees in Poland alone, however, was that a nuclear State with the world’s second most powerful army had savagely attacked a State that had voluntarily given up its nuclear arsenal in 1994 in exchange for a Russian guarantee of its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The IPU must unite in solidarity to support the heroic efforts of Ukrainians to defend their homeland.

Mr. M. Bouva (Suriname) said that his country advocated universal respect for and adherence to the norms and principles of international law, which were fundamental to maintaining the international order and global peace and security. The hostilities in Ukraine ran counter to the principles of the IPU and the Charter of the United Nations, including peace through dialogue, respect for sovereignty and non-intervention. Suriname therefore supported the loud and clear message articulated in UN General Assembly resolution ES-11/1 to end those hostilities and engage in dialogue and diplomacy, without delay. The war in Ukraine was causing great loss of life and its economic repercussions were being felt worldwide. Already struggling with climate change disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic, the world could not afford another global crisis. He called on all Members to support the proposed draft resolution and to show leadership at every level to end the terrible episode in Ukraine and save the world.

Mr. A.H. Da Costa (Timor-Leste) said that the ongoing Russian military offensive was senseless and contrary to the universal values of humanity. A large majority had voted in favour of UN General Assembly resolution ES-11/1 condemning the Russian aggression and use of force against Ukraine. A co-sponsor of that resolution, Timor-Leste upheld such principles as the right to self-determination, sovereignty over wealth and natural resources, protection of human rights, mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, equality among States, and non-intervention in domestic affairs. Asserting that war benefited no one, Timor-Leste had contributed a substantial sum towards humanitarian assistance for the Ukrainian people, with whom it stood in solidarity as they defended their land, their rights and their independence. The violence had to stop and dialogue must prevail, which called for reason and restraint. To that end, the channels of diplomacy and negotiation must remain open in the interest of an immediate and definitive ceasefire.

Mr. B. Mahtab (India) said that his country remained deeply concerned by the progressively deteriorating situation in Ukraine evidenced by the number of civilian deaths and refugees and by the ever-growing humanitarian needs demanding a generous international response. In the coming days, India would be adding further to the many tonnes of essential humanitarian supplies that it had already sent to Ukraine and its neighbours. With the help of the respective authorities, India had ensured the safe return of thousands of its citizens from Ukraine and assisted other nationals in that process. Humanitarian action must always be guided by the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, without politicization. In reiterating its call for the immediate cessation of hostilities across Ukraine, India emphasized the path of dialogue and diplomacy as the only option for resolving the situation. It stood ready to continue engaging on those objectives in multilateral forums and with the parties concerned.

Mr. R. Lopatka (Austria), observing that the effects of the war in Ukraine extended beyond Europe to the whole world, said that the tragedy of the Ukrainian people was reflected in the huge numbers of refugees created within the space of only three weeks. Austria could not retain its usual neutrality in the face of the blatant Russian violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. With respect for sovereignty essential for a peaceful world, it was vital to support all initiatives aimed at ending the war immediately through negotiation between the two sides and at ensuring a return to the rules-based international order. Consideration must also be given to the post-war reconstruction of Ukraine, already destroyed by war, which was never a solution to anything.

Mr. H.K. Kazimete (Zambia) said that war was an outmoded and primitive method of resolving issues and that two wrongs did not make a right. In the modern era, issues were best resolved through diplomacy and peaceful means. All countries, irrespective of size, had the right to plan their own destiny, which, if opposed by others, must be discussed at the table. It was not wrong to tell friends that their actions were misguided; on the contrary, remaining silent would not resolve problems. It was therefore essential to take a clear stand on the situation in Ukraine and to sharpen negotiating skills in order to find the answer. Any country that attacked a sovereign State must be strongly condemned and told to stop waging war in favour of resolving problems through discussion.

Ms. H. Järvinen (Finland), agreeing that the Russian attack waged on Ukraine with Belarusian help was wrong, said that the war brought to Europe for the first time since World War II would re-establish the Iron Curtain and affect the entire global economy. The Russian invasion had changed lives forever, with particular implications for Finns and their future. Although not the fault of ordinary Russians, that shocking invasion had effectively consigned Finnish-Russian cooperation to the dustbin. All thoughts instead were with Ukraine and its people, forced in their new war economy to depend on international support. Finland had donated large amounts of funds and supplies as well as, for the first time in its history, military equipment. To counter the Russian information war, Finnish television was broadcasting news in Russian and Nordic newspapers were producing Russian-language editions, an example that others could perhaps emulate. Support for Ukraine and Ukrainians must continue; they were fighting for everyone.

Mr. S. Al Salloum (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation rejected the proposed draft resolution in its entirety, as – in contrast to the Indonesian proposal – it held one side responsible for the situation in Ukraine and its wording was unbalanced. In particular, its operative paragraphs 3 and 4 prejudged matters, with potentially serious consequences, by accusing the Russian side of having committed war crimes. That approach would not help towards resolving the crisis or finding a peaceful or appropriate solution. The draft resolution also failed to take into account the legitimate Russian concerns over the provision of collective security guarantees to all parties. For all those reasons, it was biased and lacking in objectivity.

Mr. M. Sulaiman (Malaysia) said that his country, deeply worried by the escalating war in Ukraine, urged immediate action to de-escalate the situation and prevent further deaths and devastation. Based on the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, dialogue and negotiations must be vigorously pursued and escalated in search of a peaceful and amicable solution to the conflict. The direct talks between the two sides were therefore welcome. In addition to exercising restraint, all parties must avoid unilateral acts that might increase tensions, with far-reaching ramifications regionally and globally. There must be access to humanitarian assistance and safe passage for innocent civilians, in particular vulnerable groups, whose protection was an immediate priority. All parties must accordingly adhere to applicable norms of international humanitarian and human rights law and earnestly comply with UN resolutions. Malaysia refrained from all acts of intervention or interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Ms. R. Kavakçı Kan (Türkiye) said that her country had supported UN General Assembly resolution ES-11/1, that its parliament had held special sessions on the situation in Ukraine, and that Turkish organizations were providing humanitarian and other assistance to Ukraine where needed. At the recent Antalya Diplomacy Forum, the open dialogue among the many high-level participants had been focused on ending the war in Ukraine and preventing loss of life, to which end Turkish President Erdoğan had also reached out to his Ukrainian and Russian counterparts. All Ukrainians were welcome in Türkiye alongside the many other refugees. Representing almost the entire global community, the IPU had a powerful voice through which to promote all-important dialogue towards a resolution of the situation. The same stand must be taken in future towards all others, irrespective of race, ethnicity or language, who faced similar situations. Immediate reform of the UN Security Council would make for a fairer world.

Mr. H. Alziadin (Jordan) said that the international community and all parties must do their utmost to resolve the Russian-Ukrainian conflict by peaceful means. All parties must also abide by international instruments, comply with international law and respect such principles as State sovereignty, territorial integrity and good-neighbourliness. Jordanians were all too aware of the impact of war, Jordan having hosted successive waves of refugees from neighbouring countries for over half a century, with little help from the international community towards shouldering the accompanying heavy burdens. Civilian safety in Ukraine must be ensured, as in any war, and dialogue must prevail. It was time for the peoples of the world to lead secure and stable lives and for development, education, employment and health to take precedence over the focus on war and armament.

Mr. A.H. Fulata (Nigeria) said that his country was for peace as proposed by the delegation of Indonesia. The war in Ukraine was a proxy war between the Russian Federation and Western nations – the very same that had attacked Libya and killed its then President, endangering security across the entire Sahel region and exposing it to terrorist threat. Those same nations had also attacked Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. Furthermore, they had closed to refugees from the Middle East and Africa the gates that they were currently opening to Ukrainian refugees. Such double standards and hypocrisy were unfortunate. The truth was that the West had been taking the whole world for granted. Africa would not fight another world war on anyone's behalf. Ever since colonial times, it had endured humiliation and degradation at the hands of Western nations. It was high time to insist that they stop the war and stop making assumptions.

Mr. V. Sánchez del Real (Spain) said that the Spanish Parliament firmly condemned the Russian military actions in Ukraine as a serious violation of international law and an unjustified aggression that undermined European and global security and stability. It urged the immediate cessation of hostilities and the complete withdrawal of the Russian army from Ukraine, affirming its full support and respect for Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity. In solidarity with Ukraine and its people, it deplored the loss of life and expressed deep sorrow for all victims and for the unnecessary suffering of the entire population. It also urged the EU and all institutions to provide urgent financial and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. It furthermore reminded the Russian Federation of its obligation to respect international humanitarian law and international legitimacy and called on it to lay down arms and return to diplomatic channels – diplomacy being the only way forward to conflict resolution, which was the IPU's *raison d'être*.

Mr. A. Dicter (Israel) said that his country was opening that day the first field hospital in western Ukraine, which it had supplied with requisite materials and staff. Named Shining Star, the hospital was intended as a forerunner in treating injured Ukrainians as best possible in the chaos that was Ukraine. Few of the IPU's 178 Members were positioned to mediate between the Ukrainian and Russian sides, which the Israeli President and others were attempting to do, but all of them could help Ukrainians by mobilizing humanitarian aid to the country, which was needed immediately.

Mr. M. Bouden (Algeria), noting the IPU's continued success in organizing open and wide-ranging discussions on global issues, said that it consequently bore a great responsibility to deal with such issues in a fair and just manner. Double standards were sometimes at play, however, as with the swift reaction to the Ukrainian crisis and the calls for international law to be respected – a reaction that was regrettably absent in other situations, including such long-standing conflicts as those involving Palestine and Western Sahara. The recent abrupt departure by Spain from its position on the latter, described by the United Nations as the last colony in Africa and whose people had the right to self-determination, was shocking and unacceptable. His delegation's support for the Indonesian proposal was accordingly based on defending the right to the peaceful settlement of disputes through dialogue and negotiation between the parties to the conflict, without escalation, as a matter of principle.

Ms. L. Wall (New Zealand), rounding up the debate, said that a commitment to peace for Ukraine, the Russian Federation and all global citizens lay at the heart of the draft resolution proposed by her delegation. Parliamentarians were determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war by promoting tolerance and peaceful coexistence. The contributions to the emergency item confirmed the parliamentary commitment to working for peace, democracy and human rights and to supporting a free and open rules-based international order. Parliamentarians did their utmost to ensure that their citizens were happy and healthy. As highlighted by the IPU legacy, peace in Ukraine would be achieved through meaningful dialogue and diplomacy, which would prevail only if there were an immediate ceasefire to secure the environment needed for peaceful engagement. She expressed thanks in advance to the drafting committee tasked with finalizing the draft resolution for its collective work to ensure that parliamentarians stood always united for peace.

The Chair expressed thanks to all speakers for their contributions to the debate and congratulated them for having retained their calm in addressing the subject matter.

Ms. M. Guerra (Mexico), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda
(continued)

General Debate on the theme
Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change
(A/144/3-Inf.1)

Ms. T. Ackson (United Republic of Tanzania) said that, notwithstanding milestones achieved since the commitments made under the Paris Agreement on climate change, the threat to planet Earth remained huge and real, as demonstrated by the many consequences of the climate crisis, ranging from severe floods, prolonged droughts and sea level rise to declining crop yields and food insecurity, with adverse effects on human lives. It was clear from the recent twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) that timely action was pivotal to preserving the planet for future generations. With climate financing lagging behind, parliaments must give priority to enacting budgets aimed at curbing greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to the construction of a large hydropower dam to provide sustainable energy, the Tanzanian Parliament had accordingly approved budgets for clean energy transport systems with a view to the long-term objective of net zero.

Parliaments undoubtedly had an immense role to play in combating climate change. It would also be necessary, however, to bring together disjointed efforts and forge new international partnerships as a crucial step towards fully addressing the climate crisis. Parliaments must support governments to meet their climate-related targets and goals, in particular by urging developed countries to fulfil their pledge to provide US\$ 100 billion annually for climate action by 2023. All parliaments must furthermore fully exercise their oversight role to ensure that governments met their commitment to address climate change through sustainable solutions. If parliaments played their part, net zero could be reached.

Ms. J. Nunu Kumba (South Sudan) said that parliamentarians were obliged to combat the results of their own negligence as manifested in adverse weather conditions affecting, among others, vital agriculture, water and ecosystems. The worsening climate crisis was evident in South Sudan, where severe flooding had resulted in dire living conditions and the loss of countless livelihoods – a loss further exacerbated by crop failure from excessive heat, drought and haphazard rainfall. The country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and first national adaptation plan were ambitious, despite its negligible emissions, but their implementation would depend on climate finance from developed countries. It was therefore dismaying that 2023 had been set as the new date for raising the amount pledged for 2020.

Arbitrarily set at US\$ 100 billion, that amount should be revised upwards, with one half earmarked for adaptation projects and all funds for implementation provided as grants only. All parties, moreover, that had not yet done so were urged to submit ambitious NDCs and thereby keep the 1.5°C goal alive. In line with the COP26 Declaration on Forests and Land Use, South Sudan hoped to access funding to plant 100 million trees in 10 years. It also planned to alleviate the pressure on its forests as essentially the sole energy source by transitioning to clean and renewable energy, which would require financial support, capacity-building and technology transfer. Ultimately, however, climate change reversal hinged on drastic emission cuts by the big emitters and on the fulfilment of their pledge of predictable funding for mitigation and adaptation projects in developing countries.

Ms. P. Maharani (Indonesia), President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka (Poland) said that climate issues and sustainable development should be systematically integrated into strategic planning, a process often complicated by such factors as expense and arguments raised by interest groups. In that context, parliamentarians should seek to educate constituents and colleagues alike as to the overarching importance of environmental protection, including by ensuring that specialized parliamentary committees never lost sight in their work of the looming climate crisis. In all legislation, parliamentarians must bear in mind agreed global climate goals and seek to protect the social groups most affected by the consequences of climate change. Their daily decisions critically influenced the effectiveness of global action.

Posing a potential nuclear threat to the environment, the Russian-fuelled conflict in Ukraine cast new light on climate challenges, including in respect of the search for alternative energy sources. European countries had stood strongly united on the Russian aggression, with Poland, for its part, supporting Ukraine politically and militarily and Polish citizens actively helping Ukrainian refugees. The primary aim, however, was to end the war and punish those guilty of crimes against the Ukrainian people. Russian imperial ambitions must be countered through continued tough sanctions. If human rights protection prevailed over economic interests, the joint development of green energy infrastructure might, in future, be considered more favourably. The war had changed perspectives; there could be no return to tolerating the actions of an aggressor engaged in a war of genocide against Ukraine, in violation of all humanitarian principles.

Mr. Y. Al Harthi (Oman) said that his country was under threat from temperature rise and from increasing numbers of tropical cyclones, the most recent of which had struck in 2021. It was committed to tackling such phenomena and to protecting the environment on the basis of its experiences and through the Omani Parliament, which had enacted relevant legislation even before Oman had joined the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. Under its Vision 2024, Oman aimed to strike a balance between development and protection and preservation of the environment, including by working to reduce harmful emissions. Most prominent in that respect were its projects for producing green hydrogen, photovoltaic power and solar power.

Parliaments must seek to protect the environment from greenhouse gas emissions by enacting appropriate legislation, especially bearing in mind that large corporations were relocating to countries where such legislation was lacking. At the same time, the profile of environmental issues should be heightened through traditional and online media, an endeavour in which young Omanis were engaged by disseminating messages about the importance of efforts to reduce the pace and impact of climate change and raise public awareness. All Members should enlist the help of their own youth to engage in similar media campaigns to secure the well-being of all countries, without exception.

Mr. M. Rezakhah (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that developed countries, while responsible for the largest share of historical emissions, remained hesitant to take the lead in addressing the root causes of climate change. The climate mitigation gap stemmed largely from unfulfilled and inadequate – if not evaded – commitments on their part. With flexibility the key to success for developing countries in mitigation, adaptation and capacity-building, such principles as common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities should not be ignored. Climate change goals were achievable through inclusive cooperation beneficial to all, including for the development of a greener and more sustainable economy as part of post-COVID-19 recovery plans. For developing countries, the provision of financial resources, capacity-building and related technologies, in a timely manner and without politicization, was critical. COP26 had given hope that new ambitious goals on climate finance would be set, with gaps bridged by committed countries, especially in the post-pandemic recovery phase.

In limiting greenhouse gas emissions, the difficult transition to zero carbon for countries dependent on fossil fuel, including his, should be recognized. Economic terrorism was an emerging threat to sustainable development. The unjustifiable and unfair economic coercive measures imposed on his country had affected the health and well-being of citizens, constraining access to and transfer of technologies required for adaptation, mitigation and air-quality improvement. Together with unilateral sanctions, those measures imposed in contravention of the global sustainable development agenda and relevant multilateral agreements contributed to global warming. Despite that unlawful pressure, his country had made significant strides towards sustainable development.

Ms. C. Widegren (Sweden), citing the UN Secretary-General, said that that nearly half of humanity lived in the danger zone, many ecosystems had reached the point of no return, and the abdication of leadership was criminal. Climate change was a reality and must be urgently dealt with as a momentous issue for all, including those in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. Innocent lives there were being wasted, thanks to the Russian aggression. The war must stop for a multitude of reasons, but there could be no development without peace and security, which were essential to building a green planet for current and future generations. A greener and more peaceful future would take climate change to a different level entirely.

Representing every corner of the planet, parliamentarians must take on that responsibility without delay by seizing the opportunity provided by the COVID-19 recovery period to make a new start towards a peaceful, more stable and greener world. If all parliamentarians worked to that end, another IPU figure might be invited to join the eight who had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize since the IPU's establishment 133 years earlier. The new 2022–2026 IPU Strategy, furthermore, would enable the IPU to “green” its work towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) and their targets. In addition to approving the necessary laws and budgets, parliaments contributed action plans and roadmaps for the benefit of those they represented. It was up to them to make that new start.

Ms. C. Mix (Chile) said that the worrying conclusions drawn in the most recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change called for a change of lifestyle in terms of, among others, biomass fuel consumption, rice and cattle production, transport and landfill use, in view of their detrimental impact on the environment. Progress towards the goal agreed by consensus in 2015 to limit the average temperature rise to 2°C – and ideally to 1.5°C – was disappointing. At COP26, with participation drastically reduced against the backdrop of the pandemic, the principle of intergenerational equity had been excluded from the equation, together with consideration for persons with disabilities, a deeper gender-based approach, certain indigenous issues, and human rights language, with limits also placed on the scope of climate justice.

Parliaments must promote action on climate change through legislation and public policy. In Chile, plastic bags were prohibited and marine ecosystem protection had been increased, including thanks to new marine parks covering a vast ocean area, which would enhance marine conservation and sustainability in line with SDG 14 on life below water. The Chilean Parliament was working to introduce incentives for green hydrogen use and renewable energy generation and to accelerate the closure and repurposing of coal-fired plants. The country's substantial renewable energy potential, above all in the form of solar power, had enabled it to develop a strategy for just transition. Chile had recently acceded to the important regional Escazú Agreement relating to environmental matters. Its Congress now had the vital task of approving that decision.

Mr. H. Alziadin (Jordan), after appealing for support towards a peaceful solution of the Palestinian cause, said that measures to address climate change were a priority requiring a shared global response. Goals would be attained only through partnership among States, especially in crises that touched all continents. As a country badly affected by climate change, Jordan was committed to ongoing cooperation in the matter for the sake of a better future for all and because no region or economy could protect itself single-handedly from the challenges associated with climate change, which demanded sustained and results-oriented collective action. Jordan continued to suffer the effects of climate change at every level. It was the world's second most water-poor country, imported almost all of its energy needs and shared its resources with the refugees it hosted. Demand for food, water and medicines had risen while employment had fallen and the economy declined, thanks to the failure of the international community to honour its moral and humanitarian commitments towards refugees and host countries.

Despite those pressures, Jordan continued to assist all those who sought refuge on its soil and to fulfil its international responsibilities, including with respect to climate change as a signatory of key instruments on the subject. Those instruments, however, must be fully implemented and made binding to ensure that countries most directly affected by climate change received the necessary support. For their part, parliaments had a responsibility to monitor government actions on climate change and a duty to strengthen international cooperation for development.

Mr. S.H. Tuku (Bangladesh) said that recent scientific reports had warned of grave and devastating consequences without bold action to curb global carbon emissions. Despite its insignificant carbon footprint, Bangladesh was bearing the heavy brunt of climate change as the seventh most climate-vulnerable country. Extreme weather events were severely affecting lives and livelihoods, with studies projecting a staggering annual gross domestic product loss of 9 per cent by 2100, and coastal inhabitants were at the same risk of displacement as had occurred as a result of river erosion. Climate change was equally threatening food security.

A global leader in climate change mitigation and adaptation nonetheless, Bangladesh had been the first least developed country to establish a climate change trust fund, in 2009, and in 2021 it had updated its NDCs with ambitious quantifiable mitigation targets. It was accordingly scaling up renewable energy production and aimed to generate a substantial proportion of its total energy mix from green sources by 2041. In addition to installing solar home systems providing electricity access to millions in remote areas, it had cancelled the installation of coal-based power plants and formulated a plan for low-carbon economic growth for optimized prosperity. As to the Bangladesh Parliament, it had consistently approved budgets for a green transition against the COVID-19 backdrop. In currently presiding over the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), Bangladesh had launched the CVF Global Parliamentary Group in a sign of its commitment to resolving the climate emergency. Parliamentarians must build cooperation to tackle that emergency, including through robust international climate coalitions.

Ms. H. Bint Hassan Alsulaiti (Qatar) said that the goal of net zero emissions by 2050 was achievable through collective efforts by all States and key economic actors. The fulfilment of commitments on that score would help in developing countries to reduce mortality from toxic carbon emissions and protect farms and organisms from their effects. For its part, Qatar was committed to hosting the first-ever carbon-neutral football World Cup tournament in 2022. Solar energy would be used to operate all championship stadiums, four of which had already received Global Sustainability Assessment System certification. Other measures included reuse and recycling of waste and water, tree planting and greening, and dismantling and repurposing of certain stadiums.

In addition to enacting legislation to promote clean and renewable energy, Qatar was supporting small island developing States and less developed countries to address climate change, natural hazards and environmental challenges and build capacities to cope with their devastating effects. Its own national environment and climate change strategy included projects for reducing air pollutants and carbon-dioxide (CO₂) emissions while increasing reliance on renewable energy sources. In late November 2021, Qatar Airways had been the first airline to operate a carbon-neutral flight through a clearing house run by the International Air Transport Authority. A prerequisite for sustainable development, a clean environment would be attained only with the maintenance of international peace and security, which was currently being threatened by the serious developments in Ukraine. The parties must de-escalate that situation and resolve the dispute by peaceful means for the sake of all humanity.

Mr. S. Praseuth (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that his country was among those with economies and livelihoods significantly affected by climate change. It was experiencing more frequent and more severe flooding and drought year on year, but the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions posed a major long-term challenge for a country lacking relevant information, funding, technology and expertise. The country was preparing a national adaptation plan in line with the main international instruments on climate change, to which it was a party, and had signed an agreement with the World Bank for a project to protect forests and reduce carbon emissions. It had also introduced related socioeconomic measures, a green growth strategy and appropriate regulations, including in the area of mitigation.

In addition to enacting a series of environmental laws and monitoring environmental policy, the Lao National Assembly endeavoured to promote renewable energy research and pollution and waste reduction and to raise awareness of climate change issues to encourage public engagement towards achieving net zero emissions by 2050. It had set ambitious goals in that connection and with respect to forest coverage and clean and renewable energy use. Other measures for addressing climate change included a planned flood alert system, tree planting and environmental transportation, all with an emphasis on cooperation, technical assistance and public information campaigns. His delegation looked forward to continued IPU support in future and called on all Members to show their political will by working together to further develop renewable energy sources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to curb global warming.

The President, after extending deepest sorrow to the delegation and people of China over the crash of China Eastern Airlines flight MU5735, recalled in introducing the keynote speaker, Mr. Robert Floyd, Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), the aims and benefits of the Treaty in preventing the development, or further development, of nuclear weapons and emphasized in that regard the importance of international cooperation.

Mr. R. Floyd (Executive Secretary of the CTBTO), keynote speaker, thanking the IPU for its long-standing support for the shared goal of universalizing the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), said that the recent events in Ukraine had underscored the urgency of getting to zero in the context of nuclear disarmament. With nuclear weapons reportedly placed on high alert and fears that the conflict would further escalate and expand, those events were deeply worrying. All should take heed of the particularly resonant message of the Elders group of world-renowned leaders that existing nuclear weapons would inevitably be used, by design, accident or miscalculation.

Simple steps to a world free from nuclear weapons included universal adherence to the CTBT, which would provide a legally binding and verifiable prohibition on nuclear testing. In its current 25th anniversary year, the Treaty's delivery on its stated object and purpose was inspiring and proven by its creation of a firm and virtually unchallenged norm against nuclear testing. Particularly compelling was the stark contrast between the world before and after the adoption of the CTBT in terms of the number of nuclear tests conducted and their explosive yield. Now almost complete, the International Monitoring System (IMS), constituting the lynchpin of the global verification regime, had repeatedly proven its ability to meet the Treaty's verification requirements, thanks to the extraordinary sensitivity of the sensors deployed at over 300 IMS stations strategically located around the globe. Beyond its

core mission of nuclear-test monitoring, the verification regime provided additional value by contributing to tsunami early warning, earthquake detection and climate change research for the benefit of all humanity.

With 185 signatures and 170 ratifications, impressive progress had been made towards the CTBT's universalization. Collective efforts to further increase adherence would continue to strengthen the Treaty and the international norm against nuclear testing. The CTBTO was undertaking strategic and multitasked outreach to advance that goal and had set a target of achieving at least five additional ratifications by the end of its current 25th anniversary year in September 2022. Three countries had already completed their ratification processes at the national level and many more were making impressive progress towards that end. Every country had committed to the vision of a nuclear weapons-free world, but until that time the risk of nuclear-weapon use remained. Indeed, the world was currently teetering on the brink of the potential use of nuclear weapons in warfare. For the sake of all generations and those to come, parliaments must unite in working for the entry into force and universalization of the CTBT, which would provide much needed momentum for nuclear disarmament.

Mr. R. Lozano (Uruguay) said that the environmental dimension of sustainable development was increasingly visible and required vigilance in an ever-more interconnected world, which in turn required climate policy alignment. With multiple adverse effects of climate change already a stark reality, there was no time for parliamentarians to delay their further involvement in seeking solutions. Uruguay was vulnerable to those effects, despite contributing little towards global warming, and was concerned by the potential impact of the growing number of extreme weather events on its overall development. Its long-term climate strategy was intended to guide the transformations needed in the interest of adaptation, mitigation, resilience and risk reduction and to fulfil the country's obligations under the Paris Agreement. Uruguay continued to promote low-carbon development and aspired to achieve CO₂ neutrality by 2050 and to stabilize methane and nitrous oxide emissions.

In addressing the climate crisis, issues of distribution, inequality and territorial imbalance must be recognized and taken into account to ensure access for rural populations to services, technologies and the like. A healthy environment was a human right and a circular economy was more attuned to nature. Steps should be taken to progress in favour of a new economic model that would improve lives and to redress the imbalance between the three pillars of sustainable development, with efforts continuing towards the creation of a just society, a viable economy and a harmonious environment. An economic dimension balanced with nature would foster a healthy environment, with happier populations who valued democracy, freedom and peaceful coexistence.

Ms. B. Coma (Andorra) said that long-term global action to address the complex problem of climate change must be preceded by national action. The first step was to reduce CO₂ emissions towards the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, which meant transforming economies and lifestyles. Andorra had low greenhouse gas emissions but was committed nonetheless to strong, decisive and impactful climate action. Parliament had approved an innovative law on energy transition, as well as a declaration of a state of climate and ecological emergency encompassing a range of multisectoral measures, and was currently working on a law to promote the circular economy, recycling, sustainable consumption and reduced food waste. Secondly, strategic measures should be based on vulnerabilities and economic considerations, which in the case of Andorra related to its position as a small, landlocked mountainous country sensitive to climate change effects and greatly dependent on winter sports tourism. Thirdly, citizens must be involved in decision-making and become a driving force for change through awareness-raising, without which a sustainable energy transition was impossible.

In other moves, Andorra was providing subsidies to increase domestic renewable energy use and exploring options for reducing car travel and promoting greener and more sustainable transport. It was also seeking to amend an obsolete land-use planning law to address the worrisome exponential growth of the construction sector. Lastly, it was planning national debates to foster a constructive dialogue among all stakeholders about their preferred socioeconomic model for the country and, above all, about its future legacy. The stakes were high but not unreachable.

The sitting rose at 13:20.

Sitting of Tuesday, 22 March (Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 14:45 with Ms. C. Gotani Hara, Speaker of the National Assembly of Malawi, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda (continued)

General Debate on the theme ***Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change*** (A/144/3-Inf.1)

Mr. A.I. Wase (Nigeria) said that climate change was posing a growing threat to agriculture, health and socioeconomic activities. Nigeria had been working hard to reduce the impacts of climate change. The Parliament was transposing all international agreements and protocols on climate change into national laws and supporting those laws with appropriate budget allocations and oversight. Among the laws passed was a national climate change law which offered an overarching framework for achieving the country's long-term climate goals, including the net-zero carbon emissions target. The Petroleum Industry Act had also been adopted to address the environmental degradation caused by petroleum exploration.

Moreover, the Government had recently launched an extensive review of the country's hydrocarbon pollution restoration project, although inadequate funding had hindered its success. The environmental restoration of Ogoniland had begun in line with the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme. Sanctions had also been introduced for the indiscriminate cutting down of trees, with citizens encouraged to plant trees instead.

Parliaments should craft a legislative response to climate change that was consistent with national climate goals and with the Paris Agreement. They should accelerate ratification and implementation of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol. Lastly, it was important to strengthen oversight of national and international commitments, including by monitoring government implementation of national legislation.

Ms. R. Kirova (Bulgaria) said that achieving a climate neutral society was challenging but possible. The European Union (EU) had already shown that it was feasible to decouple economic growth from emissions. Indeed, since 1990, its GDP had grown by over 60 per cent while greenhouse gas emissions had fallen by a quarter. The EU was currently negotiating a legislative package for the European Green Deal. The goal was to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 per cent by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. It would be a complete transformation of the way in which people generated energy, moved around, built and heated their homes, and used their land.

Bulgaria was fulfilling its commitments to the Paris Agreement. It had introduced a recovery and resilience plan which was its new roadmap for decarbonization and economic growth. The country would focus its efforts on three main areas: (1) creating the conditions to accelerate the development of renewable energy sources; (2) intensifying actions to increase the energy efficiency of the economy; and (3) promoting sustainable mobility. It was, nevertheless, important that the transition did not take place at the expense of jobs or energy security.

Collective efforts were needed to successfully address climate change. Participation was required from the whole of society, including the public and private sectors. No country could face the threat of climate change alone. She called on countries to scale up their mitigation and adaptation efforts, for instance through legislation.

Mr. A. Shareef (Maldives) said that the Maldives was facing an uncertain future because of climate change. Frequent flooding and the destruction of coastlines had caused immense suffering to many communities. Certain activities, such as dredging, had exacerbated the problem. Several recommendations had been formulated to better preserve the natural ecosystem in the Maldives but had initially been ignored for political reasons. More recently, however, the Parliament of the Maldives had been proactive in addressing climate change. It had banned single use plastic products in Parliament and established a committee on environment and climate change. A few bills and resolutions had also been passed, including the Climate Emergency Act.

It was important to stand united as countries embarked on the post-COVID-19 recovery. Parliaments should capitalize on the support offered by the IPU in their efforts to fight climate change. He encouraged delegates to think outside the box and to engage communities.

Parliamentarians should reflect on their own lifestyles and make any eco-friendly adjustments needed, such as limiting the number of paper napkins used or the amount of food thrown away. Change began with parliamentarians. Parliamentarians must be the ones setting the example and promoting good practices.

Ms. M. Guerra (Mexico) said that global warming was intensifying. The past six years had been the hottest ever recorded. Failing to act on climate change was one of the biggest threats of current times. Mexico was committed to climate action. It had agreed to reduce its black carbon emissions by 51 per cent and its greenhouse gas emissions by 22 per cent by 2030. It was also working to increase the population's adaptive abilities and to achieve zero deforestation. Experts agreed that framework laws played a fundamental role in ensuring effective climate governance. As a result, the Parliament of Mexico had pushed through a framework climate law which was considered a model for other countries. The law established a system by which local governments, municipal associations and congress representatives could contribute to climate change efforts. In 2020, Mexico had become the first country in the world to issue a sovereign bond to fund the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a total value of USD 890 million.

Parliamentary powers were key in the fight against climate change. It was crucial to legislate on issues such as sustainable infrastructure, waste management, clean energy, green jobs, the rule of law and environmental protection. Parliaments must acknowledge the historic challenge ahead of them and make climate action a priority. They must be receptive to all ideas and proposals that could accelerate the climate response. The time to act was now as the world was already late. Change was possible but it depended on the commitment of legislators.

Mr. B. Mahtab (India) said that India had been at the forefront of global climate action. Its non-fossil fuel energy had increased by more than 25 per cent in the past seven years and currently represented 40 per cent of the national energy mix. The country was fifth in the world in terms of its solar power deployment and fourth in the world in terms of its wind installed capacity. India had recently launched a five-point strategy for climate action called *Panchamrit* which contained a target to reach net-zero emissions by 2070 along with other climate targets.

India firmly believed that the issue of climate change was not country-specific but interdependent in nature and required cooperation among nations at the international, regional and bilateral levels. As a result, India had helped to establish a number of global initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.

The role of parliaments was at the heart of the climate change response. Parliamentarians could play a crucial role in sensitizing decision-makers, monitoring the government on its responsibilities and transforming international obligations into national legislation. Measures that could be taken included introducing green production processes and imposing charges for using emission-intensive sources of energy. It was also important to establish a robust system of research and development to find new ways of reducing emissions. Parliaments should share best practices and learn from each other's experiences, knowledge and expertise.

Ms. S. Melo (Angola) said that the climate crisis was one of the biggest threats facing humanity and its socioeconomic impacts were a real challenge to development. It was a transnational problem which required collective action.

Angola was vulnerable to the effects of climate change. It had been experiencing floods, droughts, food shortages and public health problems as a result of climate change. With approximately 1,600 km of coastline, Angola was also directly exposed to the risk of rising sea levels. Regionally, climate change had been a major cause of conflict due to scarce water resources and a decline in land productivity, leading to increased migratory flows.

Angola had been continuing its development while working to mitigate the impacts of climate change. It had translated international conventions into national legislation and passed laws and budgets in favour of sustainable investments and infrastructure. A national strategy for climate change for 2021-2035 had been adopted to guide long-term climate action. Angola had contributed very little to the current concentration of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere but was committed to keeping the global temperature rise down to 2 degrees Celsius.

Mr. S. Yang (Cambodia) said that Cambodia had been prioritizing climate change solutions in its national development agenda. It recognized the importance of taking urgent climate action, including mitigation and adaption measures, in accordance with the principle of common but

differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. His country had ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement. In 2021, it had submitted its Long-Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality to the Secretariat of the UNFCCC, which balanced a number of key development areas, such as emission reductions, economic growth, social justice and climate resilience. Cambodia was committed to addressing global warming by (1) cancelling plans for a new coal plant project; (2) prohibiting further construction of hydropower dams on the Mekong River; and (3) seeking to achieve zero greenhouse gas emissions from the forestry sector by 2040. The country had recently launched a 400-megawatt solar power plant which accounted for 15 per cent of the country's power generation.

Climate change required multisectoral and multistakeholder approaches. First, parliaments should build regional and global partnerships with a view to achieving their carbon neutrality targets. Second, multilateralism should be enhanced among key stakeholders, including government agencies, development partners and the private sector. Third, it was important to offer protections to vulnerable groups, including natural disaster responses and measures to improve access to clean water. Fourth, developed countries should offer support to developing countries, including in the form of financial assistance, technology transfer and capacity building.

Mr. A.R. Al Nuaimi (United Arab Emirates) stressed the importance of solidarity between parliaments in their efforts to find innovative solutions to global problems. Parliaments should work together to create a culture of peaceful coexistence and tolerance. They had a responsibility to prohibit hate speech and promote dialogue. The Parliament of the United Arab Emirates had enacted laws to combat extremist discourse and established the Hedayah and Sawab centres for countering terrorism. Parliamentary diplomacy was more important than ever for peace and security.

He drew attention to a number of volatile situations around the world. First, the Houthi militia was conducting attacks against civilians in his country. The UN Security Council had issued resolution 2624 (2022) condemning the activities of the group and describing them as terrorists. He urged the IPU to respect the resolution when making decisions. Second, the United Arab Emirates was involved in efforts to deescalate tensions in Ukraine. He called for dialogue, protection of civilians and compliance with international humanitarian law. Third, a peaceful solution was needed to the dispute over the Emirati islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs. He urged Iran to respond positively and in line with international law. Fourth, the international community must put an end to the occupation of Palestine and establish a Palestinian State in line with the borders of 1967 and with Jerusalem at its capital.

He reiterated the full commitment of the United Arab Emirates to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Mr. F.P. Lodewijk (Indonesia) said that stopping global warming was key to creating a safe and resilient world. Indonesia was on track to meet its climate change targets, including the target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2060.

Funds were required to proceed with the transition to clean energy. Indonesia was mobilizing climate funds outside of the national budget and using new financial instruments, such as the green sukuk. It had a road map that required financial institutions to increase their green portfolios. However, more innovation was needed to solve environmental challenges.

Parliaments had a strategic role to play on climate change. They should monitor the government on its climate commitments and pass relevant climate laws. The Parliament of Indonesia regularly carried out checks and balances, including through post-legislative scrutiny. It had recently passed laws to regulate renewable energy and protect biodiversity. The entire legislative process must be done with due diligence, taking into account environmental impacts.

It was important for parliaments to engage the public in national debates on climate change. In Bali, citizens were able to attend meetings on the management of forests and water.

There was a need to make sure that international agreements on the environment prioritized climate justice. Climate actions should be based on the principles of fairness and equity. A multistakeholder approach was necessary to ensure climate justice. Participation was required not only from parliaments and governments but also from the private sector and other non-State actors. Above all, political will was crucial in the fight against climate change.

Ms. H. Hughes (Australia) said that Australia had been an active participant in international climate change negotiations since the 1980s and had committed to a number of international climate change agreements, such as the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. It had set a target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and was on track to reduce emissions by up to 35 per cent

by 2030. Australia was also committed to its regional partners. The Government had increased its climate finance commitments, assisting its neighbours to transition to low-emission, climate resilient economies and adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change. That said, the country also supported market-led investments where the private sector was encouraged to drive climate solutions. Australia was committed to ensuring that emission reductions were driven by technology. It had defined seven technology stretch goals to bring the price of key low-emissions technologies to cost parity with current higher-emissions technologies. Among the technologies being targeted were clean hydrogen, solar energy, energy storage and battery technology, green steel and aluminium along with soil carbon measures. Australia was focused on driving costs down while still providing reliable base load power. It was working proactively with other countries to accelerate solutions and uptake of renewables. Australia welcomed the positive outcomes of the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP26), particularly the finalization of the Paris Rulebook which included transparency and carbon market rules.

Mr. P.F. Casini (Italy) said that the level of awareness around climate change was growing, particularly among younger people. In that context, it was important to make accurate science-based information easily accessible and to create an all-round culture of respect for the environment. It would require a profound change of mentality among institutions, businesses and individuals. Progress towards climate adaptation goals was not the same everywhere, with big gaps between low-income and high-income countries. Low-income countries were shouldering at least 75 per cent of climate impacts despite only generating 10 per cent of global emissions. The environmental transition was a complex task and required an understanding of the many interdependent aspects of the term “sustainability”, including environment, energy, food, demographics and health.

Europe's Green New Deal was an opportunity to steer the economy in a more sustainable direction. However, Russia's invasion of Ukraine risked reversing the progress made thus far. Any conflict was a tragedy with enormous costs, not just in terms of human lives and economic repercussions, but also for the ecosystems involved. Parliaments could not look the other way as the military aggression against Ukraine unfolded. The invasion was an explicit violation of the principles of the IPU, of the Charter of the United Nations, and of other international obligations. It was vital to show solidarity with Ukraine not only virtually but also in terms of concrete actions. The IPU had a duty to reaffirm the close link that existed between peace, democracy, freedom, human rights and self-determination.

Mr. R. Brinkhaus (Germany) said that climate change was a major challenge for parliamentarians all over the world, who must work faster and more intensely to reach their climate goals. The Parliament of Germany had made it very clear that the German ecological footprint was far too big. It had launched a bundle of measures to start the climate turnaround and address other ecological challenges, such as the loss of biodiversity and plastic waste. However, all efforts in Germany were of little use if global action was not taken. It was very important for countries to cooperate and learn from each other. Dialogue among parliamentarians was a good place to start. There was also a vital need to provide support to the countries that were suffering most from climate change, particularly low-income countries. The fight against climate change became secondary when people were living in poverty or suffering as a result of war.

Indeed, war was what the people of Ukraine were currently facing. Ukraine had fallen victim to an aggressive Russian invasion that had no justification. The Russian Federation was not only breaking the rules of the United Nations but was also questioning the pillars of a rules-based world order. The war waged by the Russian Federation violated the territorial integrity of Ukraine. If the Russian Federation was to succeed, the territorial integrity of other countries was also at risk. Life, as the world knew it, would come to an end. It would be a victory over diplomacy and dialogue as well as over the main principles of the IPU. However, it was not only about principles but also about humans. It was important to stress that the war in Ukraine was a war waged by President Putin and his supporters, not by the Russian people. Many Russians were just as dedicated to peace as other people in the world.

Mr. A. Dicter (Israel) said that it was dangerous to believe that climate change was a linear process that caused temperatures to rise by 0.5 degrees Celsius each decade. Indeed, temperatures could begin to rise exponentially causing the climate crisis to suddenly deteriorate. Many vulnerable regions with hot climates, such as Africa, would then be in serious trouble. The name of the game was the ability to store energy. Energy storage would make it possible to use renewable sources, such as solar power, all day every day instead of having to resort to coal, oil and other polluting energy sources. Batteries were the best way to store energy. He urged legislators to take a number of actions. First, they must pass laws that supported the process of collecting energy from the sun and storing it

on batteries. Second, governments should set goals to achieve a dramatic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Third, significant budget allocations were needed to speed up the energy transition. Fourth, countries must unite in their efforts to tackle climate change. Fifth, providing aid to developing countries was crucial.

Israel had done a great deal to tackle climate change in recent years. In 2010, it had produced 60 per cent of its electricity from coal and 40 per cent from natural gas and renewables. By 2020, coal output had fallen to 26 per cent and output from natural gas and renewables had risen to 74 per cent. Similarly, between 2010 and 2020, the amount of water produced from desalination had risen from 10 per cent to 25 per cent.

Regional cooperation was crucial to protect the planet. Israel had made an agreement with Jordan under which it would provide Jordan with desalinated water in exchange for solar powered electricity. He called on Palestine to join Israel in promoting green energy projects.

Mr. W. William (Seychelles) said that the national security of the Seychelles and other small island developing States (SIDS) was under threat given the failure of governments to act on climate change. Not enough was being done to curb greenhouse gas emissions, cut back on deforestation activities, transition to renewable energy and fulfil pledges. Research and development were also moving at a slow pace.

The Government of the Seychelles had taken many ambitious actions on climate change. However, the problem did not lie in the little pollution his country was making but in the emissions being released elsewhere. He called on countries around the world to consider the vulnerability of SIDS when making decisions and planning their development agendas. The current way of being was a long-term crime against humanity. It was time for the world to rethink its actions, make concrete political commitments and offer redress. “Business as usual” must come to an end once and for all.

National parliaments should promote bipartisan approaches to national and global concerns such as climate change. Partisan politics should not divide politicians or delay collective actions. The Glasgow Climate Pact was an opportunity for countries to take a stronger ownership role and redouble their efforts nationally, regionally and globally.

Parliaments must urgently coordinate to adopt common and like-minded legislation, oversight tools and budgetary scrutiny strategies. Not only was it important to hold governments accountable but also to align parliamentary practices globally. Domestic laws should be harmonized with international norms to keep national and global governance on track.

Working in silos on climate change must stop. He called on parliaments to unite for the future they wanted. Together, they must push for fairer, more inclusive and more democratic processes in order to build a more secure, resilient and sustainable world.

The General Debate was adjourned.

Launch of the Global Parliamentary Report 2022

The President of the IPU said that the Assembly would proceed to the special segment on the *Global Parliamentary Report 2022: Public engagement in the work of parliament*, jointly produced by the IPU and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). As an organization of national parliaments, the IPU was always searching for ways to promote democracy, peace and development. One of the key principles of democracy was representation. However, many people did not feel represented by their parliaments. Abstention was increasing which showed that people did not believe in the ideals of parliamentarians. It was important to understand what parliament could do to change the situation.

Two other global parliamentary reports had been published in previous years, namely the *Global Parliamentary Report 2012: The changing nature of parliamentary representation* and the *Global Parliamentary Report 2017—Parliamentary oversight: Parliament's power to hold government to account*. However, the aim of the 2022 report was to strengthen the relationship between people and parliaments. Parliaments must listen to the people when making new laws and holding the government to account. More than just informing people, parliaments must involve them in their work. The report provided practical guidance to support parliaments in becoming more responsive to public needs and expectations. He urged delegates to make use of the report.

Mr. A. Steiner (UNDP Administrator), via video message, said that the global parliamentary community was facing immense challenges. Recent reports by the UNDP on countries such as Afghanistan, Myanmar, Ukraine and Yemen pointed to a chilling trend: conflicts, especially protracted conflicts, could erase hard-won development gains. Without joint action, millions more people would fall into poverty. At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic had compounded a range of global crises,

including inequality and food insecurity. The world was increasingly confronted with the stark reality that existing governance processes and institutions were insufficient to address monumental challenges. A reimagining of governance institutions was needed. The Global Parliamentary Report 2022 set out the case for more open and representative institutions where accountability was ongoing rather than limited to certain events, such as elections. In particular, the report showed how digital solutions held the potential to extend vital State services to marginalized communities and empower more people to have their say. The IPU and UNDP would continue to provide tailored assistance to parliaments around the world, which represented the very foundation of peaceful and prosperous societies.

Mr. A. Richardson (IPU), accompanying his remarks with a digital slide presentation, said that the biggest challenge faced by parliaments today was the gap between parliaments and the people they represented. Public engagement in politics could not be limited to voting in elections once every four years. There was a growing demand for regular ongoing exchange with parliament. The IPU had held conversations with one hundred parliamentarians, staff and civil society organizations about what parliaments were doing to engage the public. The Global Parliamentary Report 2022 brought together what had been learnt from those conversations. The report was based on the experience of parliaments and on a series of in-depth case studies. The overall objective of the report was to encourage parliaments to go further into their practice of public engagement.

By empowering people to participate in law-making, policy formulation and oversight activities, parliament helped to counter distrust. By listening to the opinions of the people who were directly affected by new laws, parliaments not only maintained relevance in the eyes of the people, but they also made better laws and carried out more effective oversight. Parliamentarians themselves were the main interface between the institution and the citizens through their day-to-day contact with the people. However, they also helped to shape the institution. What was becoming increasingly more important was a growing political commitment to open, inclusive and participatory institutions.

The report analysed five main dimensions of public engagement: (1) to inform the public about what was happening in parliament; (2) to communicate with the public; (3) to educate citizens, particularly young people, about the work of parliament; (4) to consult with communities on policy issues; (5) to offer new ways in which people could participate directly in parliamentary work. Some examples of public engagement initiatives included petitions and citizen assemblies.

Mr. C. Chauvel (UNDP), accompanying his remarks with a digital slide presentation, said that the Global Parliamentary Report 2022 would help parliaments to improve the interface between parliamentarians and the people. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it had become evident that one of the ways to continue to engage effectively with constituents was through digital possibilities. Good public engagement was not a top-down initiative but a negotiated dialogue between parliamentarians and the public. There was no one-size-fits-all solution. What worked for one society might not work for another. Each society must therefore design its own means of public engagement.

Effective outreach required extra effort and investment. It must not be a part-time, ill-funded voluntary project but a project that had the proper, dedicated time and resources allocated to it. Parliaments needed to learn by doing. Putting a solution in place was often a good first step but was unlikely to be perfect from the get-go. It was important to receive systematic feedback from the people to improve the systems over time.

Parliaments should be future focused in their engagement. They must engage young people, including those already active in society. They must leave no one behind. They must make the most of technology. They must keep innovating and tweaking solutions. They must collaborate effectively to find the best practices.

The report recommended that parliamentarians choose an approach to public engagement that was strategic, inclusive, participatory, innovative and responsive.

Mr. A. Richardson (IPU) invited delegates to take part in a live survey on public engagement. Next, South Africa, Fiji, the United Kingdom and Ecuador would present a series of case studies about public engagement in their parliaments.

Ms. S. Lucas (South Africa) said that it was vital to institutionalize public engagement in parliamentary work. Public engagement in South Africa was not only a democratic necessity but a constitutional injunction. In 2013, the Parliament had adopted the Public Participation Framework for the South African Legislative Sector, which set out minimum standards and norms for public participation. The Parliament had then been required to align its public participation model with the framework. Its efforts had culminated in the adoption of the South African Parliament's public

participation model. Over the years, a number of public participation mechanisms had also been developed, such as the *Taking Parliament to the People* programme, Committee Oversight Weeks and Sectoral Parliaments. *Taking Parliament to the People* was a programme during which parliamentarians visited all the different constituencies in the country and organized a public meeting where citizens could give feedback to the Government. Committee Oversight Weeks allowed committees to keep in touch with developments in the provinces while Sectoral Parliaments gave parliamentarians the chance to meet with different sectors of society, such as women and youth. The mechanisms enhanced accountability and created opportunities to assess progress made towards key policy priorities. South Africa had also put in place a number of support structures, such as parliamentary constituency offices and parliamentary education offices. She highlighted the importance of allocating sufficient budgetary resources to public engagement and installing monitoring and evaluation tools to assess quality.

South Africa had learnt the following lessons from its own public engagement experiences: (1) the importance of being context-sensitive; (2) the importance of aligning practical actions with the cultural and historical context; (3) the importance of creating convergence between public engagement frameworks, periodic flagship programmes, regular initiatives, institutional mechanisms and support structures; (4) the centrality of budget, costing and resource allocation to public participation programmes; (5) the importance of linking oversight and accountability with public participation.

She welcomed the findings of the Global Parliamentary Report 2022, particularly the recommendation to be strategic, inclusive, participatory, innovative and responsive. Her Parliament would embed the key tenets of sustainable development into its work on public participation, including the need to take youth seriously, leave no one behind and work collaboratively.

Mr. R.E. Nailatikau (Fiji), speaking via video message, said that civic engagement was necessary so that parliaments could become more participatory, inclusive and responsive to the needs of citizens. The public engagement initiatives of the Parliament of Fiji were well narrated in the report but had been significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Indeed, the lockdown, isolation and social-distancing measures had compelled Fiji to cut back on its community outreach, parliament tours, school visits and educational programmes. Instead, all initiatives had been moved online. That said, the use of technology for those purposes had already been in place since 2017. Investment in information communication technology and broadcasting systems had ensured the continuation of some level of contact with Fijians during the pandemic, keeping them informed about parliamentary business and offering them an alternative form of engagement. The pandemic had highlighted the need to increase the array of tools available to engage with the community. Fiji was now in a position to restart its face-to-face community outreach, education and public engagement programmes. As the Speaker of Parliament, he would actively participate in that endeavour.

In recent years, misinformation and misconceptions about parliament and parliamentary processes had spread, particularly on social media. The Parliament of Fiji was committed to using its civic engagement and community outreach initiatives to address the issue. Fijians must have better knowledge of Parliament and its processes. It was particularly important to strengthen citizens' awareness of the Parliament's important law-making and oversight functions. Fijians must be encouraged to participate actively in parliamentary processes rather being a passive audience. Fiji's public engagement initiative as contained in the report was a work in progress which would be continuously updated.

Ms. H. Baldwin (United Kingdom) said that the UK Parliament was constantly conscious of the need to deepen its engagement with the public. The central lobby of the UK Parliament was a place where any member of the public could go and summon their Member of Parliament. However, the main focus of public engagement had been on reaching out to the people who were most disconnected from parliament: young people, women, people from minority backgrounds, people with disabilities and people with lower skills.

A number of public engagement initiatives had been put in place. There were 13 regional outreach officers who worked on tailored programmes. A big landmark event called UK Parliament Week took place every year which engaged one million people. Huge efforts had been made to communicate extensively with citizens using plain language, for instance, through live broadcasts or through the resources of the Houses of Commons Library. An education centre containing a replica parliament had been built where children were able to go and experiment with parliamentary work such as debating. There were also plans to further increase public engagement using technology, for instance, through online sessions, digital learning resources and virtual guided tours. However, the initiative that had been most effective in engaging the public was online petitions. The rule was that any online petition that reached 100,000 signatures was considered for a debate in Parliament.

Petitions had been a good way for the public to raise issues but had also created a database of email addresses which could be used for further engagement. She strongly endorsed the Global Parliamentary Report 2022.

Ms. W.P. Andrade Muñoz (Ecuador) said that the Parliament of Ecuador had been one of the first in the region to take its work online during the COVID-19 pandemic. The plenary as well as the committees had begun to use virtual platforms and an electronic voting system had been installed. However, a number of issues had arisen while working digitally. For instance, it had been necessary to use language that was easy to understand, provide impartial information and put in place plans to mitigate the impact of cyber attacks.

The Parliament of Ecuador was working in line with the principles of an open parliament, namely transparency, access to information, accountability, citizen participation, ethics and integrity. Under conflict-of-interest rules, parliamentarians must declare all economic activity carried out in the five years prior to taking up their post. All assets must also be declared at the beginning and end of a mandate. Parliament drafted an annual accountability report and had an application where it published legislative information in real time. It also had a legislative roadmap and plan of action on open parliament developed in conjunction with civil society as well as legislative chambers in every province where citizens could voice their concerns. All stakeholders affected by a law must be consulted before the law was adopted. Indigenous populations were always consulted on laws affecting their areas. Ecuador was part of the Open Government Partnership.

Mr. C. Chauvel (UNDP) wished to reveal the results of the survey. The majority of delegates had reported that public engagement had increased in recent years. He assumed that it was partly related to the pandemic but also part of a general trend towards a desire for greater engagement. Delegates had identified a number of groups with whom it was important to improve engagement: young people, women, members of minorities and rural communities.

The Secretary General of the IPU said that it was important for parliaments to inform citizens about their work but even more important to involve them. Involving citizens made sense since it improved upon democratic processes, reduced distrust and made policy outcomes more effective. The report was not just about abstract definitions but about feasible proposals. It was more than just a report but a call to action encouraging parliamentarians to do more to engage with citizens. He urged delegates to: (1) review their parliamentary strategies for public engagement; (2) consider joining the network of engagement champions and speak up for public engagement in parliament; (3) share good experiences and practices with other parliaments; (4) contribute to positive change. It was in the hands of parliamentarians to make parliament a more responsive and participatory institution.

The Global Parliamentary Report 2022 was launched.

Resumption of the General Debate

Ms. S. Parag (Guyana) took the Chair.

Mr. T. Kivimägi (Estonia) said that climate change was a challenge but also an opportunity to modernize economies and ensure sustainable growth. The Parliament of Estonia played a key role in coordinating multi-level cooperation on climate change, which should be built on mutual trust, accountability and equality. Young people must be seen as equal partners when making decisions on climate action.

Living at the expense of nature meant living at the expense of the next generations, which was not acceptable. Nature knew no borders. Environmental damage from thousands of kilometres away reached everyone sooner or later. The only way to create a better and more sustainable future was through joint efforts.

The Russian aggression in Ukraine was an illegal and brutal invasion. It was not only a war between the Russian Federation and Ukraine but a war between the authoritarian and the free world. The war concerned the entire world. No country could remain indifferent. A Russian victory could escalate into further aggression against other countries. Ukraine was fighting for world peace.

The invasion had set new challenges in environmental protection. The EU had approved ambitious objectives for achieving climate neutrality, which had been jeopardized by the war. It would now have to rethink its energy supply. The best way to overcome the problem was through cooperation.

Mr. E. Mundela Kanku (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that his Parliament had spared no effort in addressing climate change. It was currently considering a bill to protect the rights of indigenous people. The bill aimed to offer compensation to indigenous people and put in place mechanisms to combat environmental problems, such as pollution and desertification. A parliamentary committee would also be established to take care of issues related to the environment, sustainable development, tourism and natural resources.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo was a country with solutions. The country was home to the Congo Basin (with its high levels of biodiversity) and the second largest tropical forest in the world. The country could generate 100,000 megawatts of hydroelectric power and 90,000 megawatts of energy from renewable sources. It was also very rich in strategic minerals, notably cobalt, coltan and germanium, which were used in the car industry for energy storage. All of the above could help combat climate change.

He emphasized the urgent need to establish an IPU climate change task force made up of the three countries with the largest forest areas, namely the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Brazil and Indonesia. The international community should accelerate efforts towards the establishment of a world organization for the environment. There was also a need to strengthen the Green Climate Fund.

Ms. H. Järvinen (Finland) said that climate change, the loss of biodiversity and the overconsumption of natural resources were the most serious problems facing humanity today. It was important to act quickly and together.

Finland aimed to be carbon neutral by 2035 and was taking many measures to get there. It had abandoned the use of peat for energy and set out to get rid of fossil fuels completely. It was promoting climate-friendly housing, mobility, industry and agriculture. The Government had recently made the largest climate investment in history (EUR 1 billion) and was spending more money on nature conservation than ever before. Efforts were also being made to accelerate the circular economy through research, innovation, development and investment.

Since the Russian attack on Ukraine, the rapid green transition had become a security issue for Finland. Lasting solutions to the climate crisis must be found through cooperation, not conflict. Finland had managed to engage the whole of society in its work on climate change. For example, many businesses had now become advocates for clean solutions, creating opportunities from the transition. That said, not all businesses, employees and residents would benefit from the green transition in its first phase. It was important to ensure fairness.

She reminded delegates that low-income countries had the most at stake. With the right attitude, they could make great strides towards a green transition while avoiding the mistakes made by the developed world. Collective action was needed to make a difference.

Mr. Y. Abakanov (Kazakhstan) said that his country produced approximately 70 per cent of its electricity from coal but was doing its utmost to change course. Indeed, climate change was one of Kazakhstan's most important priorities. The country had ratified the Paris Agreement, agreeing to reduce emissions by 15 per cent by 2030 or 25 per cent with international support. A carbon neutrality strategy was currently being developed which would guide the process of decarbonizing the economy. The goal was to be carbon neutral by 2060. One of the main mechanisms for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the country was the national greenhouse gas emission trading system which involved major energy, industrial, chemical and mining companies. As requested in the Glasgow Climate Pact, Kazakhstan was currently updating its nationally determined contributions and working on a roadmap for their implementation. A green taxonomy had been introduced to assess projects on their environmental sustainability. The taxonomy would encourage the use and development of green technologies and ensure that financial support was allocated effectively. Climate change adaptation standards had also been drafted with a view to building local resilience. Over the next five years, the country hoped to plant two billion trees to increase the absorption of greenhouse gases.

Ms. M. Montemaggi (San Marino) said renewable energy was the only valid option for San Marino to achieve energy autonomy since it did not have its own energy resources. The Government had introduced an energy plan which would help the country transition towards renewable energy, in particular, photovoltaic and solar thermal energy. Due to its small size, San Marino could become one of the first countries in the world to reach net-zero or negative emissions. It was encouraging its citizens to engage in sustainable behaviour with a view to creating a "low carbon ecosystem".

Sustainability and inclusion were the basis for urban development in San Marino. Food security, sustainable agriculture and organic farming were also important. San Marino encouraged multifunctionality in agriculture and was raising awareness among the population about good eating habits and the need to combat food waste.

Parliaments and governments must listen to their young people when making decisions on climate change. Multilateralism and global cooperation were also necessary. Countries must find a common language and come together to pursue shared solutions.

Mr. A. Gajadien (Suriname) said that climate change remained the biggest challenge facing the world today. Some of its impacts included deadly flooding, widespread forest fires and huge rises in global temperature. Suriname was particularly vulnerable to climate change despite contributing little to the problem. The country was a carbon negative society that provided a key ecosystem service to the planet by storing 11 gigatons of carbon and absorbing more than 8 million tons every year. However, changes in rainfall patterns and rising temperatures in Suriname were leading to increased health risks, a decrease in hydropower production and reduced access to river pathways. Suriname was doing its utmost to prevent climate disasters. For example, it had passed a law to protect Surinamese forests which absorbed a large amount of carbon dioxide emissions. The law prohibited the felling of mangroves and regulated the use of land. In addition, in 2018, Suriname had hosted the Regional Seminar on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction for Parliaments of the Caribbean in conjunction with the IPU. Parliamentarians must take action on climate change, particularly by passing legislation. The world must change its behaviour. Countries should work together to deliver for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships.

Mr. V. Vojtko (Czech Republic) said that parliamentarians had a responsibility to hand the world over to future generations in the best possible condition. Therefore, the EU, of which the Czech Republic was a member, had been preparing the European Green Deal aiming to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. However, given that the Russian Federation had been an important supplier of gas and oil to Europe, those plans were being challenged by the war in Ukraine. The war itself might also be a threat to the climate. Indeed, many carbon dioxide emissions would be produced in rebuilding the damage caused or hosting refugees.

The Czech Republic would address the issue of climate change during its presidency of the Council of the EU in 2022. Solutions were needed not only for Europe but also for the whole world. As a result, the Czech Republic had organized a high-level dialogue on the protection of nature and sustainable agriculture to take place in Indonesia in September 2022. The objective of the dialogue was to foster greater cooperation between the EU and the Indo-Pacific region on environmental issues, such as conserving endangered species and combatting wildlife trafficking.

Mr. R. Lopatka (Austria) said that climate change was one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century. Governments had achieved very little since the 1992 Earth Summit and had little time left. Immediate action was needed locally, regionally, nationally and globally.

Barriers existed to effective climate action. Global agreements on the environment, such as the Paris Agreement, were non-binding, which meant that those who failed to deliver could not be punished. In addition, politicians fighting for climate change were not always successful in elections since citizens were sometimes reluctant to change their behaviours. There were no easy solutions, but parliaments must keep going.

Parliaments should not wait for the annual global climate summits to act. They must act immediately. They must make full use of their powers to ensure a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, including their legislative, oversight and budgetary powers. In light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, European countries, including Austria, must eliminate their dependence on Russian gas. Green policy was also a security policy. Countries should use other facilities available to them domestically. Austria, for example, was very rich in water and hoped to use hydroelectric power plants.

Austria was doing its best to involve citizens in climate change efforts. In 2020, thousands of people had signed a climate protection petition. A representative citizen assembly on climate change was also in place where citizens could support the Government directly.

Lastly, the Austrian Parliament building was currently under reconstruction, which was an opportunity to make the building climate neutral.

Mr. M.A. Al-Shadadi (Yemen) said that climate change was a threat to livelihoods, ecosystems, water resources, infrastructure and the global economy as a whole. Governments, companies and societies should work together to control greenhouse gas emissions, reduce the impacts of climate change and transition towards a greener world. It was particularly important to introduce laws and mechanisms that promoted renewable energy and considered the interests of all parties.

Yemen was facing an environmental crisis. An oil tanker carrying more than one million barrels of oil had been neglected for seven years due to the war and was at risk of leaking into the Red Sea. The Houthi militia had not fulfilled its pledge to allow the United Nations to maintain the tanker. They were also carrying out terrorist attacks, obstructing humanitarian assistance, promoting violence against women and recruiting children. Many members of the international community, including the Arab League and the EU, had blacklisted the Houthi militia and categorized them as a terrorist group. Democratization in Yemen was under threat because of the militia. Parliamentarians should do everything to mitigate the above dangers.

He drew attention to the suffering of the Palestinian people and called for the establishment of a Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. A.J. Da Luz (Cabo Verde) said that the consequences of climate change were getting increasingly worse. Floods, droughts, storms, forest fires, migration, soil destruction and water scarcity were among the most devastating impacts. People had no choice but to rethink the way they lived and to make sacrifices.

Cabo Verde was a small island developing State that had been feeling the impacts of climate change for a long time despite polluting very little. Drinking water shortages had been a particular problem. In response, the Government was building desalination plants to convert seawater into freshwater. Food production was also limited due to a lack of rain and insufficient arable land.

Cabo Verde wished to be part of the solution on climate change and was committed to taking action despite limited resources. It was working on reducing carbon emissions in the transport sector and had set a goal to generate more than 50 per cent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030. A national strategy was also being developed to reduce the risk of climate disasters.

Climate change was an urgent challenge that required immediate action. The world must be more ambitious in its climate change efforts and should use every opportunity possible to protect the planet. He stressed that the blue and green economy was the way forward.

Mr. E. Teirumnieks (Latvia) said that climate change had been compounded by the threat of war in Europe. It was likely that many climate neutrality plans would be harder to achieve as a result of the war in Ukraine. People must, however, continue to think positively.

His Government had approved a number of plans to combat climate change. Among them was a strategy for achieving climate neutrality by 2050 which would promote multifunctionality in agriculture, renewable energy projects and the circular economy, among other things. There was also a national energy and climate plan which aimed to improve energy security and public welfare in a sustainable, competitive and cost-efficient way. Lastly, a recovery and resilience plan was in place to encourage the use of renewable energy in the public and private sectors.

Technology and innovation were key to tackling climate change. The business sector should be more involved in efforts to achieve climate targets. There was a need for better integration between different financial instruments, public support mechanisms and private financial resources. Increasing carbon capture through forestry and peatlands was also important. Latvia was extracting peat to produce peat substrates which was the most effective soil material for tree seedlings. Cooperation was needed to make economies more sustainable, resilient and better prepared for the challenges posed by the green and digital transitions.

He strongly condemned the Russian aggression and called on the international community to continue providing political, economic and technical support to Ukraine.

Ms. R. Kavakçı Kan (Türkiye) said that no country was immune from the negative effects of climate change. Therefore, the only way to combat climate change was through close cooperation. Developed countries should support developing countries with adequate financial and technical support. It was vital to achieve the US\$ 100 billion climate finance target and step up the target in years to come. Technology transfer was also key.

The green transition should not constitute an impediment to the sustainable development of countries. It should be fair and affordable. Parliamentarians had a crucial role to play in establishing a fair legislative framework for achieving net zero. Partnerships among countries were needed so that parliamentarians could exchange experiences.

Türkiye had ratified the Paris Agreement and set a target to achieve net zero by 2053. The Parliament had adopted the Green Deal Action Plan, in line with the European Green Deal, which aimed to facilitate the transition to a greener and more sustainable economy. Türkiye had a strong agenda on renewables and generated 54 per cent of its electricity from renewable sources. It was 5th in Europe and 12th in the world in terms of its renewable installed capacity.

Forests were crucial for reaching the net-zero target. Türkiye attached utmost importance to increasing and preserving its forests. In the past 18 years, it had increased its forest areas from 20.8 million hectares to 23 million hectares. In 2019 alone, 13.5 million trees had been planted across the country. Türkiye was also in the Guinness Book of Records for planting the highest number of saplings in one hour.

Lastly, Türkiye had initiated the Zero Waste project under which it aimed to increase the recycling rate of waste to 60 per cent by 2035.

Mr. Vu Hai Ha (Viet Nam) said that climate change was a red alert for humanity. It threatened global food security and biodiversity, depleted natural resources, and exacerbated poverty, inequality and instability. Countries must urgently strengthen their commitments, reduce emissions and pursue a path of green, sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

Viet Nam remained committed to creating a green, circular and low-carbon economy. It was working to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels and to increase its share of renewable energy. The National Assembly had recently adopted a law on environmental protection and was conducting oversight to ensure that the national commitments made at COP26 were being implemented. People were always at the centre of national climate change efforts in Viet Nam. He called for further cooperation and assistance from international partners.

He wished to make a number of proposals. First, parliaments must urge governments to make strong and effective climate policies and to enhance oversight over SDG implementation, especially SDG 13 on climate action. Second, parliaments should promote further climate cooperation based on the principle of shared but differentiated responsibilities. Developed countries must fulfil their pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide financial and technological assistance to developing countries. Third, parliaments must step up their law-making efforts and strengthen their budgetary oversight and allocation capacities. Fourth, the IPU should cooperate with the UNFCCC Secretariat with a view to establishing a mechanism for oversight and exchange of experiences. Fifth, it was important to inform people and businesses of the long-term benefits of climate initiatives, encourage public-private partnerships, and foster business innovation.

A representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, speaking in exercise of the right of reply, reiterated Iran's full sovereignty over the islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs. The territorial integrity and sovereignty of Iran over the said islands was non-negotiable. Iran had always pursued a policy of friendship and good will with all neighbouring countries. It stood ready to interact bilaterally with the relevant officials in the United Arab Emirates with a view to strengthening relations and resolving any possible misunderstandings. Iran also wished to stress that the only historically and universally recognized name for the sea between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula was the Persian Gulf. Any use of fabricated or incomplete names for that body of water were groundless, unacceptable and of no legal, geographical or political value.

The sitting rose at 18:45.

Sitting of Wednesday 23 March

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 09:05 with Mr. D. Jositsch (Switzerland), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda (continued)

General Debate on the theme ***Getting to zero: mobilizing parliament to act on climate change*** (A/144/3-Inf.1)

Ms. B.O. Kjerstad (Norway) said that climate change and the ongoing loss of biodiversity were gravely worrying. Parliaments had a responsibility to work together to seek solutions to climate change, leaving no-one behind. While being a grandmother was one of her greatest pleasures in life, every day she worried about the future for her grandson and millions of children all over the world. Parliaments must make a difference. The COVID-19 pandemic had made the situation even more critical. Burden sharing for climate mitigation must be equitable. Cooperation, exchanges of knowledge and international solidarity were fundamental to creating the trust needed to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and implement the Paris Agreement.

Norway had one of the world's longest coastlines and as such was particularly affected by the health of the ocean and its ecosystems, which were indispensable for survival. Marine photosynthesis from phytoplankton and seaweed supplied 50 per cent of the oxygen in the atmosphere. The ocean also played a crucial role in carbon storage, holding 50 times more carbon dioxide than the atmosphere. A small change in its carbon pool could significantly affect its carbon storage capacity and impact atmospheric carbon dioxide levels. Plastic pollution was one of the world's most rapidly growing environmental issues, with global plastic waste forecast to double in the coming 20 years, while plastic leakage into the sea was expected to triple and the total plastic in the world's oceans would quadruple. Pollution of the world's oceans must stop. The recently concluded agreement to draft an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution and promote a circular economy of plastic was a positive step. Ocean health was fundamental to human survival.

Mr. J.I. Echániz (Spain) said that tackling climate change was a priority for the Government and Parliament of Spain, in line with ongoing efforts at the regional level through the European Union. Spain had enacted new legislation on climate change and the transition to green energy and a parliamentary committee had been set up to ensure its implementation. Awareness raising was crucial. Parliaments must consider their commitment to work for the common good of all people and the planet, and as such must legislate for climate change mitigation. In Spain, efforts were being made to harness natural energy sources and build new energy models, in particular solar energy. Consumption models must be revised; energy self-sufficiency was particularly important. Global conflicts were not only impacting social and economic growth, but were affecting basic consumption, including of water and fuel. Energy security must be a common goal. Through parliament, the voice of the people must be heard, and commitments at the regional and international levels must be upheld. The work of parliaments must go beyond national borders to ensure a secure future for future generations.

Ms. S. Matos (Portugal) said that decades of human activity had caused a global climate emergency. Adaptation and mitigation measures were crucial. The Portuguese Government had placed climate action at the top of its political agenda. Individual countries could not, however, tackle climate change alone; international cooperation was crucial. The IPU had a key role in that regard, as a platform for exchanges of experience and best practices between countries. The whole global community had a shared responsibility for meeting goals for carbon neutrality, taking care of the planet and passing it on to future generations. The Parliament of Portugal was committed to achieving carbon neutrality, with the involvement of the whole of society. Parliaments must hold their governments to account and engage all stakeholders for change.

The shameful Russian invasion of Ukraine had caused destruction and fear and constituted a denial of the principles defended by freely and democratically elected parliaments. The world's parliamentarians must stand together to restate the values of democracy and freedom, and bring an end to the conflict. Dependence on Russian oil and gas was being used as a weapon against

freedom. The time had therefore come to expedite the transition to renewables and change patterns of consumption. Portugal was rich in renewable energy sources and biodiversity, which could be harnessed to reduce fossil fuel dependence. The road to carbon neutrality was also the road to peace, democratic values and sustainable development. Renewables were the key to preventing large fossil fuel producers from exerting power by manipulating energy markets and thus to building a better, more sustainable, freer and happier future for all.

Mr. S. Rachkov (Belarus) said that he wished to underscore that Belarus was not participating in the military operation in Ukraine. Having lost 3 million people in the second world war, Belarus pursued a peaceful foreign policy and was an active participant in peace negotiations. With the direct participation of President Lukashenko, the work of the Normandy Contact Group had been organized, with a 17-hour negotiation in Minsk, as a result of which bloodshed in the east of Ukraine had ceased. In an effort to seek agreement following the launch of the Russian special military operation in Ukraine, three rounds of talks had taken place in Belarus. The organization of negotiations between Ukraine and the Russian Federation had been complex. President Lukashenko had launched the Helsinki 2 initiative, to ease geopolitical tensions and build trust at the subregional level, and in that context high-level events had been held in Minsk in 2018 and 2019 under the auspices of the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. A digital good neighbourliness network had also been mooted by President Lukashenko, to fight cybercrime in the region.

The Government of Belarus was firmly committed to the transition to a low carbon, sustainable economy, to halt global warming and mitigate climate change for the prosperity and security of future generations. It had pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 35 per cent by 2030 from the levels recorded in 1990, in line with the Paris Agreement. A solid legislative framework for climate change mitigation had been established at the national level, including laws on atmospheric protection, renewable energy sources and power management. Renewable energy and electric transport were being developed, and energy efficient buildings were being constructed. Conservation of forests, swamps and lakes was also a point of focus. The Parliament of Belarus was ready to strengthen cooperation with governmental and nongovernmental partners at all levels and international organizations to work together on the climate change response and share best practices in that regard.

Mr. S. Al Salloum (Syrian Arab Republic) said that while climate change was an urgent issue and parliaments must develop policies and laws to protect the environment, the Syrian Arab Republic had been undergoing protracted attacks and military aggression by the United States and separatist groups, who were occupying Syrian territory, as well as terrorist organizations supported by the Government of Türkiye, which were damaging the environment and draining Syria's natural resources. Syria was also facing repeated Israeli aggression. Those attacks constituted a violation of Syrian national sovereignty, the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The Turkish Government had facilitated the entry of terrorists into the Syrian Arab Republic; they had been given weapons, and had pillaged resources and killed Syrian citizens. Hospitals, electricity networks, schools, universities and heritage buildings had been destroyed and looted with the support of countries that claimed to be bastions of human rights, in a proxy war against Syria. The imposition of economic sanctions was depriving the Syrian people of resources, medical supplies and essential food and water. Assistance was being provided by some allies, who were working with the Government to bring an end to the occupation. The people of Syria were hoping for a better future, through a national solution to the crisis, with full sovereignty and without any foreign interference. The COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated Syria's plight. Parliament was making efforts to enact legislation to protect citizens and the environment, in particular by subsidizing the uptake of renewable energies.

Mr. M. Bouden (Algeria) said that the COVID-19 pandemic had pushed other pressing issues to the bottom of the political agenda. COP26 had brought the attention of the international community back to climate change. Despite the efforts and pledges made, seven years since the conclusion of the Paris Agreement, the world was still facing a climate crisis. Parliaments shouldered a great responsibility and faced a difficult task; climate change affected fundamental sectors and was therefore challenging sustainable development. Comprehensive policies were required to achieve sustainable development and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Legislators must revise legislation to incorporate climate change adaptation provisions. The geopolitical consequences of climate change must be taken into account.

The climate crisis was affecting developing countries disproportionately and exacerbating economic imbalances. It must therefore be addressed equitably. Algeria had ratified the Paris Agreement and all other relevant instruments. A slew of measures had been taken to reduce Algeria's carbon emissions, protect its natural resources and improve climate governance. The international

community must make every effort to uphold the provisions of the Paris Agreement and mitigate climate change. Specific attention must be paid to the particularly difficult conditions in Africa. Advanced nations had a historical responsibility to give financial and technological support to their partners in Africa. The 144th IPU Assembly afforded an opportunity for a realistic and honest discussion, which would give new impetus to efforts to prioritize climate action in parliamentary activity.

Ms. E. Nyirasafari (Rwanda) said that sustainable development and the welfare of the world's population could only be achieved if the environment was protected and climate change addressed. The Government of Rwanda was committed to building resilience to climate variability to optimize the quality of life of all Rwandan citizens. At the international level, Rwanda and Peru had jointly launched the call for an internationally binding agreement to end plastic pollution.

The Parliament of Rwanda ensured that the executive implemented appropriate legislation and strategies to address climate change. A national environment and climate change policy was in place, and a green growth approach was being taken to sustainable development. Parliament was ensuring the enactment of a range of laws on environment-related matters, including air quality and the prohibition of single-use plastics, and ratification of international treaties, including the Paris Agreement. A robust institutional framework had been set up, including a national environment fund to ensure financing for projects that provided solutions to environmental and climate change problems. Rwanda had been a pioneer of the Taskforce on Access to Climate Finance.

With the added challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, green growth and sustainable use of resources were particularly crucial. Parliaments' efforts to support governments in tackling climate change would contribute to building prosperity on a safe planet for resilient people. Successful implementation of the recommendations emanating from COP26 was vital. The time had come to move from words to action. The Parliament of Rwanda looked forward to hosting the 145th IPU Assembly.

Mr. M. Sulaiman (Malaysia) said that parliamentary collaboration and engagement should go beyond the adoption of resolutions; the global parliamentary community should work together to share legislative experience and work towards constructive approaches to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Carbon emissions had decreased significantly as a result of the lockdown measures imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Working from home and use of digital services were being encouraged in Malaysia to boost transformation to a digitally driven, high-income nation, with significant environmental benefits. Cooperation and knowledge-sharing at the international level were key to seeking new opportunities for the green transition. The Government of Malaysia was committed to sustainability, in particular green growth, and therefore prioritized the attainment of the net-zero greenhouse gas emissions target. Implementation of Malaysia's low emissions pathway required commitment and cooperation from all stakeholders.

Efforts had been made to support greener parliamentary practices by going paperless and adapting the parliament building, including by installing a rain harvesting system and solar panels. Global warming, if left uncontrolled, would impede food production, thereby increasing food prices and threatening food security. Particular attention must be paid to mitigating the impacts on vulnerable people whose livelihoods depended on natural resources. Parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, were uniquely placed to voice the needs of their constituents and to scrutinize government action. In Malaysia, a pilot study had been completed on localizing the SDGs in seven states, with a view to including the most vulnerable and marginalized in sustainable development and climate action, thereby ensuring that no-one would be left behind. A whole-of-society approach was needed to achieve emissions reduction targets and mitigate climate change.

Mr. S.A. Arbab (Pakistan) said that climate change was the most significant challenge to sustainable development, threatening to drag millions of people into abject poverty. Climate and sustainable development were inextricably linked. Global partnerships were essential; climate change was a collective responsibility that could not be tackled by any one nation alone. Constructive public debates were crucial to ensure that the voices of constituents were heard and taken into account in policymaking. Pakistan was ranked the fifth most vulnerable country to climate change, and its vulnerability was increasing. The Government, as party to the Paris Agreement, was supporting global efforts to combat climate change. National climate change and wildlife policies had been adopted, and a think tank had been established to coordinate the efforts of various ministries and seek innovative solutions to climate-related challenges.

At the international level, Pakistan had been actively involved in COP26 and would chair both the G77 and China group and the Asia-Pacific group at COP 27. Pakistan's nationally determined contributions had been updated and were representative of national consensus on accelerating the

transition to a climate-resilient economy. The Government had undertaken natural capital restoration efforts, including reforestation and conservation programmes, which also served to enhance economic opportunities for the most vulnerable. Various policy actions were being taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from high-emission sectors. An ambitious target had been set of reducing projected emissions by 50 per cent by 2030, which would require international financial support. To reach the target, the Government intended to shift to 60 per cent renewable energy and 30 per cent electric vehicles by 2030, and to prohibit the import of coal. Climate change was the single largest threat to humanity and must be tackled through a comprehensive, common approach, putting differences aside, to preserve the planet for future generations.

Mr. S. Simpson (New Zealand) said that New Zealand's bipartisan approach to climate action sent a clear message that no matter the outcome of elections in New Zealand, the direction of climate policy was set. Such an approach ensured that long-term decision-making could be done with confidence, and that businesses, individuals and others could invest effort, energy and capital into meaningful emissions reduction initiatives and adaptation programmes, safe in the knowledge that policy direction would not change even with a change of government.

An independent climate commission had been established to advise the Government on emissions reduction policies, budget and adaptation options. While the net-zero target had been set and measures were in place to meet it, parliamentarians must continue to discuss, debate and critique climate action options. In its final report, the commission had recommended quickening the pace of action; targets would not be met without strong, decisive measures to drive new technology and behavioural change. The focus for decarbonizing New Zealand's economy must be emissions reduction at source, rather than reliance on forest sequestration. Emissions trading alone would not suffice.

The Government was preparing an economy-wide emission reduction plan; New Zealand had relatively high levels of renewable energy generation, which would be increased. Agricultural emissions, in particular biogenic methane, would need to be reduced without reducing the production of already environmentally conscious farmers. Science, new technologies and improved practices would be key. Transport was another area for immediate focus; higher uptake of electric vehicles and other low emissions modes of transport would be critical. The price of electric vehicles was currently prohibitive. For the future of the planet and generations to come, all States must rise to the challenges and embrace the opportunities afforded by the climate crisis. The combined efforts of a united global community were essential.

Ms. F. Oektem (Denmark) said that, without immediate action, the consequences of climate change would be catastrophic. Multiparty politics was the key to seeking common solutions to the climate crisis that took account of all perspectives. Around the world, the climate crisis was uniting people for a common cause, with particular focus on the young generation. In Denmark, minority government was typical, which meant that cooperation between parties was essential. As a result, important agreements on the green transition and ambitious climate goals would remain in place even with a change of government. While national goals and agreements were positive, they were only as effective as their implementation. The global community must act together; climate change knew no borders. It was not sufficient to simply displace polluters. A green transition must be made through emissions reduction and innovation.

The COVID-19 pandemic had highlighted the possibility of adapting swiftly to a rapidly changing world. That capacity for flexibility, political will, leadership and change must be harnessed for the benefit of the climate. Danish companies were investing in green technologies and promoting the uptake of renewable energy sources. The green transition could not succeed without economic growth and responsible consumption to ensure the best possible quality of life for all. The global community must unite to create a sustainable, green future, taking the action and making the change demanded by younger generations.

Ms. G. Mohaba Messu (Equatorial Guinea) said that climate change was a global emergency requiring a coordinated response at all levels, focusing on the transition to low-carbon economies. Climate change was resulting in the loss of land and marine ecosystems, and the exhaustion of natural resources. An inclusive coordination mechanism was required, with concerted actions by States and other stakeholders to uphold international commitments, in particular those undertaken through the Paris Agreement. Parliaments could pass laws to encourage the implementation of those commitments.

Equatorial Guinea had already been affected by the devastating effects of global warming. Efforts were therefore being made to strengthen international cooperation and commitment to international agreements. While Equatorial Guinea produced low levels of greenhouse gas emissions, in a spirit of shared responsibility, steps were being taken to reduce emissions by 2050, in line with the Paris Agreement. Recent progress towards mitigating the consequences of climate change included the revision and updating of the national strategy and plan of action for biodiversity conservation and of national legislation on environment and use of woodland resources. An environment department had been opened at the State university and a national institute for environmental conservation had been established. A national investment plan for reducing carbon emissions resulting from deforestation had also been drawn up.

Mr. K. Tanaka (Japan) said that climate change required the attention of the whole global community. Parliamentarians had a key role to play. The Government of Japan had pledged to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and become carbon neutral by 2050. The upper and lower houses of the Japanese Parliament had each adopted resolutions declaring a climate emergency. Japan had made an ambitious pledge to reduce by 2040 its greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent compared with 2013. At COP26, the Prime Minister had announced new climate financing measures. Parliament would work together with the Government and civil society to address climate change.

The aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine had been condemned by both the upper and lower houses of the Japanese Parliament. While destruction could be instantaneous, reconstruction from conflict and disaster took years. The trauma felt by the victims would never be healed. Japan was the only country that had witnessed first-hand the consequences of an atomic bomb. Nuclear weapons should never be used. The IPU was a crucial forum for peacebuilding.

Ms. W. Andrade Muñoz (Ecuador) said that countries that contributed the least to the causes of climate change seemed most vulnerable to its consequences, while the greatest polluters suffered the least. Development continued to be associated with unlimited consumption, which was having catastrophic consequences for the environment. Instead of promoting economic development, the right to well-being should be prioritized, including access to nature. While that transition would be challenging, it was increasingly necessary. Developed countries should provide support and compensation to those less fortunate, in line with their commitments under the SDGs.

Climate change was not only an environmental crisis but also a humanitarian one. The COVID-19 pandemic and the military invasion of Ukraine, which was causing death and devastation, had highlighted the worst aspects of humanity. The conflict was a political chess game to manipulate the market for natural resources. In Ecuador, efforts to mitigate climate change focused on developing a circular economy. Consideration must be given to models of production, consumption and wealth restriction. Parliaments of developing countries were calling on those in developed nations to encourage a movement away from the extraction of fossil fuels. In the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic there was an opportunity to move towards specific action to combat climate change.

Mr. E. Mulembwe (Mozambique) said that urgent, coordinated action to mitigate climate change and promote the transition to a green economy was required from the global community, in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation, with a focus on ensuring the well-being of developing nations. Climate policies must take account of development challenges and developing countries must be supported. Climate action required a combination of mitigation and adaptation. The climate crisis was an opportunity to substantially and profoundly reassess development models, taking into account the importance of cooperation and solidarity within and between countries. A truly responsible ecological and sociological approach must include justice. Addressing climate change would have costs, which must be borne fairly between nations, communities and individuals. Inclusive and international dialogue was needed.

Mozambique was suffering the impacts of climate change, having experienced multiple cyclones over recent years, resulting in loss of lives and livelihoods and the destruction of essential infrastructure. Cyclical drought across the region was also a significant problem. The Parliament of Mozambique had ratified international agreements and enacted national legislation to ensure their implementation. Education was particularly crucial: efforts to curb climate change must be driven by knowledge and an ethical sense of the relationship between humankind and the environment.

Mr. J.F. Fridriksson (Iceland) said that temperatures in the Arctic continued to rise at three times the global annual average. Snow and ice were melting at an increasing rate, which was affecting local ecosystems and the global climate, contributing to rising sea levels and likely to provoke extreme temperatures beyond the Arctic. The effects of a shifting Arctic climate would have global environmental, economic and social implications. Climate change was thus a critical challenge. All States must scale up their efforts to implement the Paris Agreement and attain the SDGs. The Government of Iceland had committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by more than half by 2030, reach carbon neutrality by 2040 and become fossil fuel-free by 2050. Iceland had an unusual emissions profile: almost all of its energy and heating were generated using hydro and geothermal energy. The Government had a longstanding policy of promoting the global uptake of geothermal energy, the potential of which was enormous and mostly untapped.

Climate change was not only an environmental challenge but also a matter of social justice and economy. It increased instability and inequality, causing poverty and displacement, and had disproportionate impacts on the most vulnerable. All countries were affected; the future would depend on global cooperation. A gender focus was crucial: the social and economic consequences of climate change for women were hampering progress towards the SDGs. Greater inclusivity and equality generated more resilient and adaptive societies. Climate-driven displacement was destabilizing peace and security and increasing the vulnerability of women and children to gender-based violence. The invasion of Ukraine was an additional challenge, which had forced more than 3 million people to leave their homes and seek refuge. The world was at a crossroads, facing challenges that could only be overcome through joint, concerted action to ensure security.

Ms. A. Habibou (Niger) said that extreme weather events in Niger were reducing crop production, while deforestation and flooding were causing significant destruction to lives, livelihoods and homes. Climate change was impacting livestock farming, in particular for Niger's nomadic farmers, lowering their income and reducing the contribution of farming to Niger's GDP. The President of Niger participated actively in regional-level climate control efforts and the Government did its utmost to uphold its commitments at the international level, in particular through the Paris Agreement. In that regard, Parliament was in the process of approving the document on nationally determined contributions.

Parliaments were uniquely placed to boost climate action through their legislative and budgeting functions. They must hold their governments to account with regard to international commitments and attaining the SDGs. The Parliament of Niger had taken a slew of strategic programming and budgeting measures. Sectoral plans had also been put in place for vulnerable sectors, including agriculture, forestry and energy, as priority areas for climate change mitigation, owing to their vulnerability and their contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. Efforts were being made to focus on building the resilience of communities and ecosystems.

Obstacles persisted, including low mobilization of resources, lack of coordination between stakeholders, and insufficient education and awareness raising. Capacity for climate change monitoring and evaluation must be enhanced, climate finance mobilized, and vulnerability assessments conducted. Post-pandemic recovery could be used to boost the transition to the green economy; parliaments must lobby for the effective implementation of nationally determined contributions, the greening of existing enterprises and the creation of new green business. The Parliament of Niger was taking steps to reduce its carbon footprint, make its consumption more efficient and support green initiatives.

Mr. O. Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu (Ghana) said that climate change, caused by human activity, was a threat to human survival. While States had continually pledged to mitigate climate change, decisive practical action had been lacking, with financial constraints often cited. Without immediate action, however, the subsequent costs of recovery would be significantly greater. Parliamentarians had the potential to effect changes to secure equality of opportunity and prosperity, and to pass laws consistent with national climate goals and international agreements. Climate policies should be reassessed and gaps identified and rectified. New legislation and policies on climate should be informed by environmental and socioeconomic evidence. Parliaments must take the lead in raising public awareness of climate change at the local level through consistent and persistent interaction with their constituents, civil society organizations, nongovernmental organizations, the media, elders and faith-based organizations. The observations, expertise and concerns shared through such interactions could assist parliament in its work.

Parliaments must hold their executive to account with regard to implementing national climate-related policies and honouring international commitments. To ensure transparency and accountability, ministers responsible for addressing climate change issues should report to parliament regularly on

progress and challenges. Amid the multiple challenges facing the world, climate change was a matter of human survival. The whole global community must work together to transition away from the use of fossil fuels to sustainable, renewable energy, and rectify deforestation and poor farming practices. Significant medium- and long-term planning were needed. Ignoring the urgency would simply increase the risk of extreme weather events, destruction, displacement and death.

Mr. S. Cogolati (Belgium) said that while the fight against COVID-19 and the military aggression in Ukraine were attracting global attention, for many, the climate emergency was already a matter of life and death. The most recent report issued by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change painted a bleak picture. States had not done enough to uphold their commitments under the Paris Agreement. Time was running out. All parliaments knew what legislative reforms were needed to cut carbon emissions. Subsidization of fossil fuels and biofuels that destroyed forests must stop. In Belgium, Parliament not only controlled the financial budgets of the executive; the Government was also obliged to submit to Parliament carbon budgets, with clear cuts to carbon dioxide emissions for every ministry. Stronger criminal sanctions must be put in place against those who damaged the environment. To that end, the Belgian Parliament had amended the Criminal Code to include the crime of ecocide. Parliamentarians of all parties and all countries must act together, in line with science, to save the planet.

Mr. M.F. Balde (Guinea) said that Guinea was rich in underground resources, in particular bauxite and gold, which had been subject to large-scale extraction by large mining companies, resulting in significant environmental degradation. For several decades, Guinea had been facing extreme weather events, caused by mining, unsustainable farming practices, deforestation and over-exploitation of land. The Government had acceded to international instruments, including the UNFCCC, and had adopted a host of national strategies for combating climate change and adapting to its consequences. Guinea had prepared conditional and unconditional nationally determined contributions, through which it had committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

To implement those contributions, a plan had been elaborated comprising commitments for mitigation and adaptation, including: promoting the generation of renewables; setting the mining sector on the path to net-zero emissions by 2040; improving public transport systems; collecting and recycling urban waste; ceasing deforestation; transferring to renewable energy supplies; moving agriculture towards carbon neutrality; conserving surface water resources; strengthening the resilience of coastal populations; and revitalizing conservation efforts. It was estimated that implementing the plan would require a budget of US\$ 15 billion for mitigation measures and US\$ 1 billion for adaptation, whereas the cost of inaction was predicted to reach US\$ 37 billion by 2050. Lack of support from the international community and difficulties in accessing the Green Climate Fund meant that leveraging the requisite funds was difficult.

Guinea was in a situation of transition, undergoing constitutional and institutional reform, and required the support of the international community to enable a return to normality and a resumption of constitutional order.

Mr. F. Notari (Monaco) said that Prince Albert II of Monaco had created a foundation that funded a variety of conservation projects around the world, and had established a cooperation service to finance equipment needed in countries such as Madagascar, Niger and South Africa. Monaco was upholding its commitments under the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. Monaco had a very small but very active population. Given the country's size and location, it was somewhat at the mercy of its surroundings. Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea and the threats of oil spills were a reality. While powerful local measures were being taken to reduce Monaco's carbon emissions, those were only a drop in the ocean given the country's size.

An energy transition service had been established for constructing energy efficient buildings, including by reducing emissions from heating systems. Waste was being recycled to provide heating and cooling for entire districts, supplemented by hydrothermal loops, a type of seawater heat exchange system used for heating homes. Efforts were being made to reduce traffic, in particular that caused by the more than 50,000 workers coming into Monaco daily, by providing more parking and public transport options. With a population of 37,000, there were some 30,000 vehicles registered in Monaco. Vehicle emissions were therefore the greatest impediment to meeting the commitments of the Kyoto Protocol. Each year, the Parliament of Monaco voted on the national budget intended to implement development projects to improve the quality of life of all residents. Parliaments must give their governments the means to implement strong environmental protection policies.

Mr. F. Zon (Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption – GOPAC) said that combating corruption was crucial to the success of the SDGs, including Goal 13 on climate action. Meeting the net-zero commitment made at COP26 would require enormous funding from both the public and private sectors. The joint pledge by developed countries to mobilize US\$ 100 billion should be realized as soon as possible, to expedite mitigation measures under the SDG 13 targets. Parliaments should monitor the implementation of the net-zero pledges. Greater transparency and accountability were required with regard to international climate action. Strong anti-corruption legislation was also needed to ensure a robust governance system for the net-zero transition. Green projects remained susceptible to corruption, and should therefore be subject to ongoing parliamentary oversight.

GOPAC, together with the Islamic Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme, had issued a handbook for parliaments, which was intended to equip parliaments with guidance, good practices and tools from around the world, which could be adapted as required by the national context, for successful attainment of the SDGs, including SDG 13 on climate action. GOPAC encouraged the world's parliaments to use that resource to ensure that the net-zero pledges were honoured. Choices made now would resonate for decades to come. Change must be made to secure the planet for future generations.

Ms. P. Maharani (Indonesia), President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. G. Silberschmidt (World Health Organization – WHO) said that the world was enduring a triple societal and health crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic was not over and the target of vaccinating 70 per cent of the population in all countries must be reached. The devastating war in Ukraine was also causing a major health crisis and climate change was the single biggest health threat facing humanity. Tackling those crises required political leadership, collaboration and solidarity. In 2020, at the height of the pandemic, WHO had launched a manifesto for a green and healthy recovery from COVID-19, providing policy recommendations to help guide short- and long-term recovery. While many governments had made significant changes to their economic systems and their approaches to energy and resource use, and were turning the green and healthy recovery into a reality, much remained to be done.

While mitigating climate change by getting to net zero, countries must also build climate-resilient, sustainable, low carbon health systems. At COP26, more than 50 countries had agreed to work together to make their health systems climate resilient and environmentally sustainable, as part of the COP26 Health Programme. WHO, the Government of the United Kingdom and other stakeholders would work together closely to help States implement their commitments, and to invite more to join the initiative.

Ms. L. Tanguy (Liberal International) said that Liberal International had established a committee for climate justice and a working group on environment and human rights. The working group had prepared a report for parliamentarians who wished to advance climate action and environmental protection around the world, which stated that, if States were guarantors of the quality of life of individuals on their territory, climate inaction constituted a violation of human rights. The report promoted the implementation of ambitious, non-discriminatory climate policies that were in line with human rights standards and took account of the needs of those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The report contained 10 recommendations for climate justice, including the appointment of a high commissioner for the environment at the international level.

At the initiative of its Liberal Party, in September 2021 the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe had devoted a day to climate debate. Strong recommendations had been adopted and parliamentarians had stressed the need to urgently adopt a legally binding instrument to protect the individual and collective human right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The Assembly had recommended the establishment of a European climate citizens' assembly, using the French Citizens' Convention on Climate as a model. That Convention had facilitated the adoption in 2021 of an ambitious law to tackle and strengthen resilience to climate deregulation. The European initiative could serve as an example to other regional parliamentary institutions.

Ms. A. Mulder (Netherlands) said that, while much had happened since the adoption of the Paris Agreement, much remained to be done. Climate change featured prominently in the IPU Strategy. Pressure brought to bear by European national parliaments had resulted in the European Union emissions reduction target being increased to 55 per cent by 2030. Europe was responsible for 8 per cent of global carbon dioxide emissions. Cooperation was needed to reach the commitments of

the Paris Agreement. In the Netherlands, a climate law had been enacted at the initiative of opposition parties, having gradually gained the support of the ruling coalition. The Parliament of the Netherlands had invited young people to join the climate dialogue. To protect the environment was to protect their future.

The Netherlands must step up its investment in clean energy, carbon emissions reduction and the transition to a circular economy. The Netherlands had committed to investing € 35 billion over the following years to implement the Paris Agreement. Five sectors would be involved: industry, energy, mobility, housing and construction, and agriculture. The transformation of those sectors would affect the lives of the whole population by reshaping the living environment. Regional energy strategies had been put in place to ensure local agreement on the installation of wind farms and solar fields. The possibility of holding public climate discussion panels was being explored, to leverage citizens' involvement and ensure that the burdens and benefits of climate-related activities were shared equally.

Value chains were global and corporate social responsibility crossed borders. Parliaments must be clear in expressing what they required from companies, and must not promote competition at the expense of workers. They must hold governments accountable and ensure that commitments were upheld. The Netherlands Parliament regularly debated mitigation and adaptation measures, which must be implemented jointly with industry. Standards must be set for industry compliance at the global level. By learning and taking action together, the global community would become stronger and more resilient. The crisis in Ukraine had underscored the dangers of dependency on fossil fuels. The transition to renewables was more urgent than ever.

Mr. D. Jositsch (Switzerland) said that climate change was a global problem that required international agreements based on a joint strategy that respected the broad range of development conditions and economic powers around the world. Since the first United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, progress had been uneven because States had a tendency to defend their own interests and a global view was therefore lacking. In that context, the IPU could play an important role, going beyond the national interest. That notwithstanding, IPU resolutions remained too theoretical. The IPU should adopt a targeted climate change strategy, including social and economic aspects. Solutions for protecting the environment could only garner public support if they enabled people to live in dignity. Adopting sterile resolutions was not sufficient; the IPU must take decisions that its Member Parliaments were obliged to implement. Member Parliaments should be obliged to translate IPU decisions into parliamentary decisions at the national level, and to report on implementation to the IPU. Continuing to adopt resolutions that carried no implementation obligations would not result in any progress.

Ms. G. Jourda (France) said that the world was at a crucial point, with unprecedented levels of air, soil and water pollution. Everyone was aware of the dramatic effects of climate change, which were affecting the countries of the Global South disproportionately. The most recent report issued by the IPCC painted an alarming picture. Rising temperatures were threatening the very existence of humanity. The effects of climate change were more serious than previously thought. France was committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. To that end, in 2021, a climate resilience law had been enacted and Parliament had adopted resolutions in follow up to the outcomes of COP26. The European Union had committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 per cent by 2030 and aiming for carbon neutrality by 2050. Under the Presidency of France, the Council of the European Union had approved a carbon tax. Yet, despite the commitments undertaken through the Paris Agreement, the world was not on track to meet the target of limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. France was stepping up its commitment to provide financial support to developing countries' decarbonization programmes. All States must act for the future of humanity and the planet's ecosystems. The plan to protect future generations must be implemented now.

Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia) said that the community of Oceania was acutely aware of the importance of the environment and was at the forefront of action. No nation would be immune to the pernicious effects of climate change. In a recent visit to a research station in New South Wales, she had been told that climate change would likely end sheep farming west of the Great Dividing Range in Australia. Sheep farming was fundamental to Australia's economy. Unprecedented rain and river levels in Queensland and northern New South Wales had recently resulted in devastating floods. The Australian Government had committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 and was doubling its climate finance for developing countries in the Indo-Pacific. Australia supported the introduction of international carbon market rules, and was championing the development of new technologies for cutting emissions through more efficient, green means. The response to climate change featured

heavily in policy options being presented ahead of forthcoming elections. Her party had bold ambitions to achieve net zero by upgrading the electricity grid, discounting the price of electric cars, building 400 community batteries across the country and making Australia a renewable energy superpower. More must be done around the world. Parliaments must work together to stop the disappearance of Pacific islands, prevent devastating wildfires and floods, and secure the future of the planet and of humanity.

Ms. M. Müntefering (Germany) said that global challenges required global cooperation and global solutions. Yet the multilateral system was under attack, most recently by the invasion of Ukraine. War knew no winners. In the post-COVID-19 recovery, the international community needed to build back better. At the end of 2020, the largest international Arctic expedition of all time had returned to Bremerhaven, Germany six days ahead of schedule, owing to the fact that previously difficult to navigate icefields had melted, leaving open sea. Over the past 100 years, temperatures in the Arctic had increased by 7°C, with significant implications for floods, tropical storms and droughts around the world. Climate policy and foreign policy were inextricably linked; climate change, population growth and involuntary displacement were also interconnected. Climate change threatened peace and stability and resulted in geopolitical changes. Germany was committed to implementing the Paris Agreement. Efforts were therefore being made to support sustainable development projects on the ground and empower civil society. Parliaments must base their policies on scientific evidence and act faster, stronger and together.

Mr. S. Nakanishi (Japan) said that that his delegation condemned the Russian attack on Ukraine in the strongest possible terms. Of all the issues faced by the global community, climate change was of the highest priority and urgency. In October 2020, the Government of Japan had pledged to work towards carbon neutrality by 2050. Decarbonization measures were therefore being taken at the central and local government levels. His municipality had brought forward the net-zero emissions target to 2040 in an ambitious programme. Such municipal initiatives, coupled with action at the national level, would be the key to tackling climate change. Parliamentarians must scrutinize government initiatives, while providing support to ensure that those initiatives were well coordinated. Climate change was a global crisis; the global parliamentary community must work together to achieve carbon neutrality.

Mr. M.A. Nandlall (Guyana) said that climate inaction was synonymous with destruction. Insufficient progress had been made towards slowing global warming. Climate change affected everyone, with a disproportionate impact on small island developing States and low-lying coastal States. Immediate action was needed to set ambitious emissions reduction goals, which must be honoured to the letter. While all States had an obligation to act, the world's foremost polluters had a responsibility to institute greater emissions cuts. The pledge of US\$ 100 billion per year to support climate action in developing countries must be met. Forests were powerful in the fight against climate change. Incentives should be given to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. In recognition of the ecosystem and climatic benefits provided by forests, the rules for carbon markets must be finalized.

Guyana was a significant net carbon sink. Its dense forests sequestered around 154 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year. It also had significant fresh water resources and a vast biodiversity. It was therefore playing its part in addressing climate change and would continue to do so, maintaining its forests as a global asset and working with local communities to conserve, protect and sustainably manage forest biodiversity and fresh water supplies. The Government was committed to transitioning to green energy and reducing carbon emissions by 70 per cent by 2030. An expanded low carbon development strategy would be implemented to boost low carbon investment and create opportunities for jobs, services and social inclusion. Tackling climate change was a matter of survival.

Ms. M. Gomez Del Campo (Mexico) said that she wished to express solidarity with the Ukrainian people and called for an immediate ceasefire. The COVID-19 pandemic had caused global challenges, coupled with extreme weather phenomena, which had increased the spread of disease in some countries, significantly affecting public health. The Parliament of Mexico had enacted legislation on sustainable lifestyles and the transition to a circular economy. An energy law was also under consideration, to pave the way for the transition to renewables. Parliament had a key role to play in setting the conditions for climate change mitigation and adaptation, enabling the State to meet its international commitments. Parliamentarians the world over were doing crucial work to fight climate change and promote clean and renewable energy. More than 50 million people in Latin America lived in regions that were drastically affected by climate change. Much remained to be done.

Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium) said that the importance of working together at all levels of government to achieve climate goals could not be overstated. Local authorities in regions, municipalities and rural areas must have a place in the climate debate. Legislation must be implementable at all levels. To build partnerships for a healthy, sustainable environment, five key conditions should guide policies, legislation and action. The first was subsidiarity: proposed measures must take account of the diversity of territories, their potential and their challenges. A bottom-up approach was essential; there must be room for local action within legislative frameworks. Policies and legislation should facilitate innovation. Efficiency was particularly important, both from the perspectives of costs and resources. Circular models must be promoted as much as possible to avoid the further depletion of scarce resources and reduce waste. All new measures must also be inclusive, without favouring a particular target group, and must be accessible to all. All available technologies should compete equally if proven to contribute to greenhouse gas emission reductions.

Mr. S. Zafar Islam (India) said that climate change was adversely affecting human development. The global community must act fast to secure a sustainable future. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities must be taken into account, whereby in developing countries climate action must go hand-in-hand with capacity building and the requisite technical and financial support. India was discharging its climate obligations honestly and responsibly, meeting 40 per cent of its energy requirements through non-fossil fuel sources. It was ranked fifth globally for solar power development, and fourth in wind power capacity. Despite being a developing nation with less historical responsibility for climate change than industrialized countries, the Indian Government had announced increased climate action targets at COP26, along with the goal to meet net-zero carbon emissions by 2070. India was also leading several international resilience initiatives. The national action plan for climate change was an overarching framework of measures, with a focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy, agriculture, water resources, the Himalayan ecosystem, sustainable habitat, greening India and strategic knowledge on climate change. Parliament was enacting legislation and adopting policies to mitigate climate change, as well as taking measures towards greener parliamentary practices. The world's parliaments must work together for successful climate action.

Mr. U. Lechte (Germany) said that he strongly condemned the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine, which was causing untold suffering and mass displacement, and was having an immediate and serious impact on climate protection. Every conflict absorbed enormous financial resources. Owing to attacks on the Ukrainian economy, it would be much more difficult for Europe to meet its climate protection goals. Nevertheless, the conflict also afforded an opportunity to end dependency on Russian oil, gas and coal and to invest in climate-friendly, sustainable energy.

To mitigate climate change, effective and targeted measures were required to consistently reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Government of Germany was committed to setting a good example at the national level and to supporting developing countries. Reducing emissions and meeting the targets of the Paris Agreement required cooperation. Germany had pledged to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 65 per cent by 2030, compared with 1990. For 2040, Germany had a reduction target of at least 88 per cent, with the intention of reaching carbon neutrality by 2045. At the international level, reforestation and the conservation of existing forest ecosystems and peatlands were an affordable way to win the race against global warming. Future generations must inherit a healthy planet.

Ms. E. Ernst-Dziedzic (Austria) said that the war in Ukraine was a war of aggression led by one individual, forcing young people to attack and kill their neighbours. Countries in Europe that had been living in peace were now living in fear. The war had implications for the global economy and people's livelihoods: both the Russian Federation and Ukraine were important wheat and fruit producers for markets all over the world, including some particularly vulnerable countries. The ongoing war would likely result in failed harvests, driving up prices and leaving many people unable to afford food. Such crimes should not go unpunished. International law must be enforced and President Putin must be shown the consequences of his actions. Without peace, the planet would die.

Mr. R.H. Langhoff (Denmark) said that the COVID-19 pandemic had set back progress towards meeting several of the SDGs. Lockdowns and restrictions had disproportionately affected the poor and vulnerable, and inequalities had widened. Poor children were most likely to have missed out on education. The pandemic had shown that political decision-makers were able to take resolute steps

and decisive action to deal swiftly with a crisis. The pandemic response had also illustrated the cooperation needed to tackle all global threats. A significant amount of data and information existed on the threats of climate change; there could be no excuses for inaction. In January 2020, the announcement by WHO of a global health emergency had attracted the world's attention; a global call for the climate emergency was also necessary, to make it clear to all that action was needed urgently.

He expressed his deepest solidarity and support to the people of Ukraine who were fighting for freedom, democracy and their lives. The Russian Federation must cease its aggression against Ukraine.

Ms. S. Hjemdal (Norway) said that for Norway, the ocean was the most important source of income. Care must be taken to harvest from it in a sustainable manner. In 2017, a whale had become stranded in her constituency. A post mortem had revealed that the whale's stomach had been filled with more than 40 plastic bags, which had completely blocked its digestive system. According to a study by the World Economic Forum, at current rates of pollution, by 2050 there would be, by weight, more plastic than fish in the ocean.

New, sustainable energy sources were crucial to tackle global warming. Extensive scientific cooperation and knowledge sharing were essential. While much of its domestic energy supplies were renewable, Norway was a great producer of oil and gas. Extraction was performed in a well-regulated manner, without affecting important fish stocks. Given the current security situation, production and exploration of fossil fuels in Norway should continue; it was preferable to have a supply from a stable, democratic country that adhered to international law than to rely on a dictatorship and an aggressor, that used its energy supplies to hold other countries hostage.

Mr. K.A. Shuvo (Bangladesh) said that despite their active involvement in major political changes and catalysing role in transitions to democracy throughout history, young people were often excluded and overlooked as political candidates and as voters. Efforts were being made to overcome that challenge in Bangladesh, by promoting young people's participation in politics and encouraging them to stand for election. Young people were fundamental to democracy, lasting peace and sustainable prosperity. All societies should leverage the power of young people to achieve a better future for all. Education was key to encouraging youth participation in politics.

Mr. C. Jones (Guyana) said that the devastating effects of climate change and rising sea levels were evident. In Guyana, 80 per cent of the population lived in low-lying coastal areas. The capital city, Georgetown, relied on sea walls for its protection, and according to the most recent report of the IPCC, was due to be submerged by 2030. Guyana's coastal plane was flat and below sea level, making it prone to sea defence breaches, flooding and intrusion of saltwater into residential and agricultural communities. Guyana's sea defence was fragile and required extensive repairs. With the world's second largest rainforest cover, Guyana's forests contained important carbon stock and provided economic and environmental services to humanity. Through the pursuit of a green economy, Guyana had pledged to spare no effort in seeking a sustainable future and contributing to the global response to climate change. Guyana was fully committed to reducing global temperatures. To that end, the Government had adopted an environmental strategy to guide public investment in environmentally sustainable practices for the coming 20 years.

Mr. D. Carden (United Kingdom) said that to achieve freedom, justice and peace in the world, the promises enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights must be honoured for all people, everywhere. In a rapidly changing world, where climate catastrophe, food insecurity, poverty, inequality, conflict and war imperilled the future of the planet and displaced millions from their homes, greater efforts must be made to reaffirm the roots of human rights and the inherent dignity of every human being. The brutal war in Ukraine had already created 4 million refugees. A rise in sea level of only one metre would displace 40 million people in Bangladesh alone. Globally, there were 281 million displaced people already. The challenge was not only how parliamentarians could represent the voice of their constituents, but how they represented those who had no voice. Parliaments must guarantee the rights and dignity of every displaced person. The resolve of international institutions must be strengthened, and anti-migrant, racist rhetoric eliminated. The root causes of mass displacement could only be addressed through cooperation and solidarity.

Mr. J. Hultberg (Sweden) said that everything had a cost that someone, sooner or later, must pay. Greenhouse gas emissions were no exception. Polluters must pay for the damage they caused. Thus far, only around a fifth of global carbon emissions were covered by emissions trading schemes. Emissions trading was the only way to meet the targets set in the Paris Agreement. Carbon pricing

drove innovation and technological development, creating incentives for change. Millions of people were already deeply affected by the consequences of climate change. For future generations those consequences would be catastrophic if emissions were not reduced and the transition to renewable energy not expedited. Parliamentarians should act to put a price on emissions. Maintaining zero cost on emissions would maintain the status quo and the targets of the Paris Agreement would not be met. The principle of “the polluter pays” must be implemented globally.

Ms. Z. Yildiz (Türkiye) said that no country was immune to climate change. The global community must act immediately. While close international cooperation was essential, not all States were able to address the climate crisis on equal terms. Support must be provided for adaptation and building resilience in less developed, more vulnerable countries. Sharing technology, best practices and knowledge was essential. Financial and technical support should be provided to ensure that no-one was left behind. Türkiye was contributing actively to efforts to tackle climate change, and had recently signed the Paris Agreement, setting a national goal of reaching net-zero emissions by 2053. A new green development reform plan had been put in place, and long-term strategies and action plans would be adopted in line with Türkiye's 2053 net-zero commitment. A green deal action plan had been adopted to foster implementation of a sustainable land management model for the agriculture sector and a circular economy model for industry, and to direct funding to climate-related projects at the municipal level. Efforts would be made to give young people priority in employment in green development projects. Türkiye would cooperate actively in global climate action efforts.

Mr. K. Ait Mik (Morocco) said that that young people were more exposed to climate damage than older generations, which was why they were actively engaging with climate science and policy, and participating in climate action. Young parliamentarians called for an urgent and inclusive energy transition by 2030, which prioritized energy efficiency and sustainable energy, keeping in reach the target of maintaining global warming below 1.5°C. Adequate support must be provided for all vulnerable communities. Governments and the private sector should work together to abolish the fossil fuel industry, with a total phase out by 2030, and should secure a just transition, planned in cooperation with workers, local communities and those most affected by the climate crisis. Efforts should be made to ensure meaningful youth involvement in all decision-making on climate policy planning, implementation and evaluation at the multilateral, national and local levels. The IPU should create a network of young parliamentarians for climate action, to serve as a link between national parliaments, encourage national authorities to honour their commitments and facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences. The Moroccan Parliament was committed to greening its practices, and had installed solar energy panels to aid the transition to renewables in the Parliament building.

Ms. E. Azad (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the negative impacts of climate change were being felt in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Climate change was therefore at the top of the national political agenda. Adaptation and resilience plans were in place and greenhouse gas emission reduction measures were being taken. The Islamic Republic of Iran had signed the Paris Agreement, and ratification was under way. The global parliamentary community should work together to identify ways to overcome the greatest challenges to implementing international commitments and meeting international targets. For developing countries, support was required in the form of finance, technology transfer and capacity building. Political factors, in particular unilateral coercive sanctions and embargoes, such as those imposed against the Islamic Republic of Iran, constituted a major obstacle to upholding the commitments of the Paris Agreement. The IPU should put together a set of proposals to resolve those challenges and obstacles and ensure sufficient support for developing countries. Urgent action was needed by the whole global community to ensure that a healthy planet was inherited by future generations. Young people were particularly engaged in the climate debate and required policy-makers to take urgent action.

Ms. F. Furaha Muyumba (Democratic Republic of Congo) said that the Democratic Republic of the Congo, classified as one of the world's “mega-diverse” countries, was a carbon sink and a veritable lung for the planet. For a country that contributed so little to the world's carbon emissions, it was paying a high price for climate change. In the spirit of climate justice, financial compensation should be granted to the Democratic Republic of the Congo for its role in combating climate change. The IPU should establish a climate task force to guide parliamentarians in taking climate action and translating international agreements into domestic legislation. The combination of international and national actions was mutually reinforcing. Budget allocations must be properly adapted to support government climate action, and strong monitoring mechanisms must be put in place. Parliaments were

ideally placed to oversee government action and hold the executive to account. The stakes were high. Individual actions had consequences for the whole of humanity. The countries of the Global South should not be required to pay for the problems created by those of the Global North. The principle of “polluter pays” must be implemented. Action must be taken immediately to save the planet. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, along with the world’s other forestry giants, remained the greatest solution to the problem.

Ms. C.I. López Castro (Mexico) said that parliamentarians approved laws, voted State budgets and imposed taxes. They oversaw the operations of governments and had direct access to high-level ministers. They could influence national policy. The Government of Mexico had scaled back investment in renewable energy, favouring the prioritization of fossil fuel projects. In December 2020, Mexico had submitted an updated nationally determined contribution, retaining the same targets as submitted in 2015, although containing more measures for adaptation and natural climate solutions. The national goals included commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 22 per cent by 2030, reach net-zero deforestation by 2030, prevent and manage the negative impacts of climate change among communities facing the most significant social inequalities, and promote sustainable food production. Parliaments must step up their efforts to tackle climate change, holding the executive to account. Transportation and energy were the two main emitters of pollutants and were largely responsible for global warming. To avoid irreparable damage to the world’s ecosystems, action must be taken immediately. Renewable energy and technological innovations must be incentivized. With the inclusion of climate change in public policy, living standards could be improved.

Mr. S. Tynkkynen (Finland) said that while there was clear agreement that climate change required a transition away from fossil fuels, consensus had been lacking on the timeframe and burden sharing required. Finland was currently pushing to achieve carbon neutrality 15 years ahead of the European Union. Big polluters must step up their efforts. The events of recent weeks had shown that if fossil fuels were not replaced by renewables, the climate would not be the only victim. Current energy dependency meant dependency on countries exporting fossil fuels. It should be indisputable, when hearing news of children killed by Russian forces in Ukraine, that energy supplies should not rely on a regime responsible for war crimes. Lack of energy self-sufficiency limited countries’ capacity to react, and the price was being paid by the innocent people being massacred. Without reducing fuel dependency, more people around the world would face persecution by oil-funded regimes. By phasing out fossil fuel imports, countries were not only investing in the future of the climate, but also in the future of democracy. The transition to renewables would mean removing the strongest tool of extortion from those who wished to use it against democracy and peace.

Mr. N. Bako-Arifari (Benin), closing the General Debate, said that climate change was placing an ultimatum on humanity, which, more than ever, required the international community to think globally and act locally. Rising sea levels were threatening Africa’s coastlines, in particular in the west of the continent, causing significant concern for people in the West African coastal corridor, a 500 km conurbation stretching between Benin, Ghana, Togo and Nigeria, which had more than 50 million inhabitants. Benin had ratified the major international climate instruments and adopted a range of laws at the national level to tackle climate change. In 2018, the National Assembly had enacted a general law on addressing climate change, as well as specific laws on the protection of coastal areas and on the use of plastics. Benin reaffirmed its commitment to working with the international community both on stopping climate change and on adapting to and mitigating its effects.

The sitting rose at 13:20.

Sitting of Wednesday, 23 March (Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 14:45 with the President of the IPU in the Chair.

The President drew attention to the emergency item resolution entitled *Peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, respecting international law, the Charter of the United Nations and territorial integrity*.

The Secretary General of the IPU said that the results of the vote on the emergency item had been put into a table that was available to delegates and to the public. However, due to a technical glitch, the votes of Kazakhstan and the United Arab Emirates had initially not been properly recorded. The table had now been corrected accordingly. The glitch had not affected the overall outcome of the vote.

The President said that the drafting committee responsible for the emergency item had engaged in a long and difficult discussion but had managed to come up with a text for the resolution. He invited the rapporteur to present the outcome of the deliberations.

Ms. J. Mahmood (Maldives), rapporteur, said that the drafting committee had met on 22 March 2022 to draft the emergency item resolution. The resolution was based on the proposal submitted by the delegation of New Zealand and titled as follows: *Peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, respecting international law, the Charter of the United Nations and territorial integrity*. The plenary had held a debate on the resolution on the morning of 22 March 2022 where participants had expressed genuine alarm at the situation. Delegates had agreed that the war in Ukraine was a human tragedy and a matter of great concern for the whole world. They had called on parliaments and parliamentarians to act immediately. Delegates had stressed that, to preserve world peace, it was critical to live up to the commitments enshrined in international law, look forward constructively, and find avenues for de-escalation and peaceful resolution. The IPU, in particular, should play a key role in mediation efforts.

The delegations represented on the drafting committee were: Belarus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, the Maldives, Mexico, Poland, South Africa, the United Kingdom and Uruguay. Members of the committee had had the opportunity to exchange and build consensus during the drafting session. The end objective for all had been to contribute to a peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine. Although most gaps and differences had been bridged, South Africa had expressed reservations on some items. The result of the deliberations was a resolution that reflected the genuine alarm of the world parliamentary community at the crisis in Ukraine and offered avenues on the way forward.

The resolution deplored the use of force and the violation of the basic principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including the need to respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all UN Member States. It called for full compliance with international humanitarian law and the provision of humanitarian aid. It also called for the establishment of humanitarian corridors for the safe passage of civilians as well as respect for the human rights of refugees. The resolution placed a particular emphasis on the situation of women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities and pushed for the active participation of women in conflict resolution efforts. It encouraged parliaments to support peaceful efforts to de-escalate the situation and to engage in sincere parliamentary dialogue. It also proposed mechanisms within the IPU to facilitate a peaceful resolution of the crisis. She recommended the resolution to the Assembly for adoption.

The resolution on the emergency item was adopted.

A representative of the United Arab Emirates wished to express reservations to operative paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 8.

Mr. N.F. Shivambu (South Africa) wished to give context to the disagreements that had arisen among members of the drafting committee. The disagreements centred around two parts of the resolution: (1) the IPU's willingness to impartially mediate for a peaceful resolution and listen to all parties; and (2) the commitment to establish an IPU Task Force on the situation in Ukraine. The resolution, as it was currently phrased, would not create an impartial platform for the IPU to mediate

the conflict in Ukraine. Indeed, the resolution made conclusive and objectionable remarks about the parties involved. It stated, for instance, that “the use of missiles and artillery by the Russian Federation” were “targeting civilian objects and populations”. The Russian Federation could interpret such remarks as a judgment on their activities. He reminded the IPU that a resolution on the war in Iraq had been passed at 111th IPU Assembly in 2004 which did not make any accusatory or conclusive statements against the United States of America. The IPU should not give the illusion of unanimity on the issue of Ukraine. South Africa did not wish to be part of a master narrative that reinforced the position of certain countries in the West.

The President said that the resolution had already been adopted by majority. It referred to facts and not imagination.

A representative of Bahrain said that the IPU should take a more neutral stance on the war in Ukraine. He wished to express reservations to operative paragraphs 2, 3 and 4.

A representative of the Syrian Arab Republic said that the resolution was biased since it gave responsibility to one side only. The IPU should maintain a neutral stance and foster dialogue between the parties. He expressed a reservation to the entire resolution.

A representative of Belarus said that Belarus had participated in the drafting committee but rejected the resolution.

Mr. Chen Guomin (China) wished to express a reservation to the entire resolution since it failed to reflect the views of many countries. Whatever the circumstances, it was always important to create space for peace and political settlement. The parties involved must demonstrate political will and find a solution through equal-footed dialogue and negotiation. Other parties must create conditions to that end and not add fuel to the fire.

The sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries must be respected. The principles of the UN Charter must be fully observed. The legitimate security concerns of all countries must be taken seriously. All efforts that were conducive to the peaceful settlement of the crisis must be supported. There was also a need to take a long-term perspective and promote a security architecture that was comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable.

A representative of Viet Nam said that the draft resolution was in line with international law, the UN Charter and parliamentary diplomacy. Nevertheless, Viet Nam wished to abstain from the resolution.

Mr. J.F.N. Mudenda (Zimbabwe) expressed reservations to operative paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 8 and 9. It was not possible to begin peace talks while condemning one party. The IPU must be seen to carry the principles of dialogue and arbitration or its efforts to mediate the conflict would not be taken seriously. He reminded delegates that the IPU had not condemned the Western forces that had attacked Iraq or Libya. It was important to remember that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) had contributed to the crisis through its attempts to expand into Ukraine.

Ms. L. Wall (New Zealand) said that the attacker (the Russian Federation) must stop its attacks for peaceful dialogue to begin. Only once the attacks had stopped could the defender (Ukraine) meet them in good faith at the negotiation table. The resolution was based on the principles of a rules-based international system which had been designed to ensure global peace and security. Staying committed to those principles would help everyone be good global citizens.

A representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran supported the position of China and agreed that the conflict should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy. The IPU must remain neutral in its stance. It was not possible to talk about peace while biasedly taking one side of the conflict. He questioned why such strong reactions were reserved only for certain countries.

The President said that the resolution had been adopted by consensus and all reservations had been noted. The President of the IPU would contact the geopolitical groups with a view to organizing the Task Force described in operative paragraph 14. All geopolitical groups would be represented in the Task Force.

Special session on accountability in the implementation of IPU decisions

The President said that the special session on accountability was a chance for the IPU and its Members to hold each other accountable on the commitments they had made at previous Assemblies. At the 143rd IPU Assembly, participants had adopted the Madrid Declaration – *Contemporary challenges to democracy: Overcoming division and building community*, a resolution entitled *Legislation worldwide to combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse*, a resolution entitled *Harnessing global parliamentary support for vaccine equity in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic*, and a number of decisions of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians. He invited delegates to share what they had done to implement the above outcomes or any other IPU objectives.

Mr. G. Dhielafararez (Indonesia) said that, in the spirit of the Madrid Declaration, the House of Representatives of Indonesia was doing its utmost to uphold a system of democratic governance. It allowed citizens unrestricted access to the work of Parliament, for instance, through in-person audiences and livestreaming channels. The Parliament promoted the use of evidence in policy making and was strengthening its expert support system. The views of the public were taken into account when introducing new legislation and policies. On vaccine equity, the Parliament was relentlessly supporting the Government in its efforts to ensure access to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines and vaccines.

In other Assemblies, Indonesia had sponsored emergency items on Myanmar and Palestine. It continued to encourage feasible solutions to the crisis in Myanmar and remained resolute to safeguard a two-State solution in Palestine.

Mr. B. Llano (Paraguay) said that, over the past decade, the IPU had been working to empower young politicians. The idea was to rejuvenate democracy and make parliament more representative. Young politicians could create a link between parliament and the younger generations in society as a whole. In recent months, the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) had been working to promote the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign. Among the actions taken in Paraguay was a national camp to promote the participation of young people in parliament. Approximately 5,000 young people from all over the country had participated in the camp, where they had had the chance to take part in debates, work together in teams and exchange experiences. Young people were a force to be reckoned with. Parliamentarians had a duty to ensure that young people were able to participate fully as equals. Measures must be taken to respond to the concerns of young people and meet their expectations. The future of democracy depended on youth.

Ms. C. Widegren (Sweden), speaking in her capacity as a Vice-President of the IPU, said that the governing bodies had set up a new working group on transparency, accountability and openness made up of all geopolitical groups. The working group had been tasked with developing a roadmap to promote even more transparency within the IPU. Discussions were already under way with some proposals having already been made, including one on monitoring and evaluation.

Mr. G.P. Timislina (Nepal) said that the Parliament of Nepal had taken a number of steps to boost the flow of trusted information during the COVID-19 pandemic. A series of briefings had been organized in conjunction with the World Health Organization (WHO) to keep the public informed about the virus. The briefings had brought together elected officials from across the political spectrum with many women parliamentarians having taken part.

Nepal had received assistance from international partners to maximize vaccine coverage. A number of workshops had been held to educate parliamentarians on the topic of vaccines, risk communication and community engagement. Parliamentarians had also signed a declaration of commitment for the equal distribution of vaccines.

Overall, the Parliament of Nepal had promoted inclusive and democratic solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic through legislation, stimulus packages and monitoring of government.

Ms. H. Baldwin (United Kingdom) said that the UK's IPU Group maintained accountability by electing its chair and its executive every year. The Group was also obliged to submit an annual report on its activities.

Her Parliament had held many debates on the topic of the emergency item about universal access to vaccines. It had also arranged for an expert on the UK's upcoming Online Harms Bill to contribute to discussions at the IPU. The UK delegation reported the outcomes of every Assembly to the Foreign Secretary, paying particular attention to the work of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians.

She emphasized that differing views were normal in a democracy. Parliamentarians should feel free to express their views without fear of sanctions or reprisal from other countries.

Mr. A. Salman (Bahrain) said that the Madrid Declaration called on parliaments to engage people, including youth, in their work in order to preserve democracy, build trust and respond to people's needs. The Parliament of Bahrain had taken many measures to implement the Madrid Declaration. For example, it had organized a youth parliament where young people had gathered to discuss important issues, including a youth development plan. An intensive programme had been organized for the participants in the form of lectures. Participants had also had the chance to take part in a simulation of parliamentary committee meetings.

The Parliament of Bahrain had supported different efforts to protect the rights of children. It had introduced legal reforms to improve protection, established children's courts and set up a centre to support child victims of abuse.

Mr. V.D. Ram (India) said that India had always believed that a collective response to the pandemic was needed. As a result, it had done its best to ramp up production of essential medicines, personal protective equipment kits, ventilators and masks to not only meet its domestic requirements but also those of other countries. The Prime Minister had vowed to use India's vaccine production capacity to help the rest of humanity. Indeed, within a few days of starting its domestic vaccination programme, India had started supplying its neighbours with vaccines and had now sent more than 167 million doses to 98 countries. The COVID-19 vaccine was available free of charge to all citizens aged 18 years and above irrespective of their socioeconomic status. India had also organized COVID-19 training programmes for several countries and was producing other COVID-19 technologies, solutions and products.

Ms. W.P. Andrade Muñoz (Ecuador) wished to share the progress her country had made on increasing the participation of women and youth in parliament. The participation of women in her Parliament had increased from 7 per cent to 38 per cent between 1978 and 2021 thanks to quotas. In 2020, women parliamentarians from all political parties had helped to introduce gender-responsive reforms to the Democracy Code. The reforms included compulsory gender and youth requirements in elections. Women candidates were now required to comprise 15 per cent of party lists by 2021, 30 per cent by 2023 and 50 per cent by 2025. A total of 25 per cent of party lists must also be young people. Ecuador was hopeful that the reforms would also encourage greater participation of people from indigenous or Afro-descendant communities.

Other measures included sanctions to curb violence against women in politics, including fines of up to US\$ 20 million and suspension of the right to participate in political life. Efforts were also being made to ensure parity in all decision-making bodies and committees. True democracy was only possible in an equal society.

Ms. K. Slassi (Morocco) said that the Parliament of Morocco had organized a session to present the IPU study entitled *Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Africa*. The session had been attended by the two Speakers of Parliament, the Head of the National Human Rights Council, and the Minister of Solidarity, Women, Family and Social Development. Women parliamentarians as well as women from political parties and civil society organizations had been invited to attend. It was an opportunity to review relevant public policies and identify gaps in the Constitution. In addition, Morocco had been able to improve women's rights in the areas of family law and citizenship as well as to increase the political representation of women in decision-making positions. Gender equality was not a luxury but a basic requirement for any democratic society. She called on parliaments to intensify their efforts to advance gender equality. Women must be part of the solution to all global problems.

Ms. J.C. Ng'andwe (Zambia) said that the Parliament of Zambia had established a youth caucus since the previous Assembly. The new caucus aimed to provide young people in the population with a platform to engage with parliamentarians on youth issues. It would focus on four key areas: (1) enhancing the capacity of young parliamentarians so that they could effectively promote youth issues in parliament; (2) engaging in advocacy with a view to encouraging the Government to introduce youth responsive policies and programmes, such as youth quotas; (3) promoting dialogue

among political parties and communities on youth issues; and (4) organizing visits to other parliaments for the purposes of learning and sharing best practices. The caucus was set to conduct an induction for its members in the coming weeks where its constitution and plan of action would be adopted. It was also making efforts to collaborate with other youth organizations in the country.

Mr. A.C. Bundu (Sierra Leone) said that, as President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for Africa, he had encouraged Member States in the region to take stock of what had and had not been achieved on women's empowerment. He had also encouraged them to implement all existing international obligations on gender equality. He had recently been a guest speaker at the national conference on women where he had urged women to take advantage of the Government's decision to conduct the next parliamentary election using a system of proportional representation. The system would make it possible for more women to be elected. A gender empowerment bill was currently being considered to increase women's representation in the executive branch of government and in the private sector.

The National COVID-19 Emergency Response Centre (NACOVERC) had intensified COVID-19 vaccination efforts across the country and introduced a house-to-house vaccination programme. The Government hoped to vaccinate 70 per cent of the population by the end of 2022.

The Ukrainians were victims of a senseless war between the Russian Federation and the West which violated the UN Charter and many principles of international law. The war must stop immediately. He called on the parties to find a peaceful settlement through negotiation. The UN Security Council was grossly inadequate to end wars and needed urgent reform.

Mr. K. Tontisirin (Thailand) wished to report on the action taken by Thailand to promote human rights. The Thai IPU Group held a general assembly at least once a year to review IPU activities, including the decisions of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians. In addition, the Speaker of the National Assembly had recently reaffirmed his commitment to the principles of non-refoulement and called on the Government not to push back refugees from Myanmar. Thailand had a long history of providing international protection and humanitarian assistance to displaced civilians.

Ms. H. Martins (Portugal) said that Portugal had made major efforts to vaccinate its entire population, starting with the most vulnerable. At present, 93 per cent of the population had received one dose, 81 per cent were fully vaccinated and 60 per cent had received a booster shot. That said, the world would not be safe until everybody had been vaccinated. Portugal had a policy to share vaccines with other countries and had already donated 7.5 million doses. However, she stressed that unequal distribution of vaccines between rich and poor countries remained a problem. There was a vital need to strengthen solidarity. Refugees, including those from Ukraine, were entitled to vaccination upon arrival in their host country.

The President said that a questionnaire would be sent to all parliaments in April with a view to preparing the annual Impact Report for 2022. He encouraged delegates to participate. The special session on accountability would be repeated at the 145th IPU Assembly in Kigali where parliaments would be asked what they had done to implement the outcomes of the 144th IPU Assembly. A presentation would be given containing the names of countries that had responded to enquiries and the names of those that had not. The idea was to ensure transparency at all levels of the Organization.

The sitting rose at 16:30.

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

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

SITTING OF MONDAY, 21 MARCH

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 09:40 with Mr. M.B.M. Al-Ahbab (Qatar), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda (C-I/144/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held at the 143rd IPU Assembly in Madrid (November 2021)

The summary record was approved.

Briefing by the President of the Standing Committee

The President said that the new Global Parliamentary Report on public engagement in the work of parliament would be presented in a special segment of the Assembly. In addition to the findings and recommendations of the report, high-level representatives from South Africa, Ecuador, Fiji and the United Kingdom would share good practices in strengthening public engagement with their parliaments.

The new IPU Strategy required stronger accountability from the Organization to ensure that progress towards all strategic objectives was sustained, transparent and democratic. For the Members to actively engage in that accountability exercise, all delegations were invited to report directly on good practices and activities undertaken in follow-up to the decisions adopted by the 143rd Assembly, and to provide recommendations to further enhance implementation.

Some IPU Members had still not endorsed the *Common Principles for Support to Parliament*. Based on more than four decades of experience on parliamentary development, the *Common Principles* offered clear guidance for those receiving or providing support to parliaments and aimed to improve the quality of support available to parliaments by making it tailored and context-specific. All parliaments were encouraged to endorse the *Common Principles*.

Disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation were high on the Standing Committee's agenda; the IPU had established good relationships with several organizations working in that field. In that regard, a delegation from the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), was attending the 144th Assembly and had expressed its willingness to interact with Standing Committee members. At the end of 2020, the IPU, together with several other organizations, had published a handbook entitled *Assuring our common future* to share parliamentary experiences in implementing the United Nations Secretary-General's disarmament agenda. A series of webinars on the matter had subsequently been organized, the last of which on small arms and light weapons, had been launched recently.

With regard to other aspects of the Standing Committee's work, cybercrime constituted a new threat at both the domestic and international levels. The United Nations was preparing an international convention on countering the use of information communication technology (ICT) for criminal purposes. Parliaments would be able to share their experiences in the drafting process.

Ms. B. Brenner (Head of the Office of the Permanent Observer of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Vienna) said that cybercrime and cyberattacks constituted a serious threat to peace and security in general, and to individuals in particular, including parliamentarians. In some instances, hacks of the personal data of members of parliament had caused enormous personal cost and constituted a threat to public security. Three weeks previously, the United Nations had begun negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on the drafting of a new international convention on cybercrime. To ensure that a parliamentary perspective would be included in the convention, the IPU was interested in obtaining parliamentary input for those negotiations through its operations against

corruption. The second sitting of the negotiating group would take place at the end of May 2022. In preparation for a special parliamentary meeting with the Chair of the negotiating group in the autumn of 2022, the IPU was ready to support national parliamentary discussions on the new convention. The meeting would afford an opportunity to share views on the points parliaments wished to see included in the draft convention and formally submit any specific drafting proposals. The IPU Member Parliaments would be regularly informed and updated about developments in the negotiations.

Mr. J. Cepeda (Spain) said that one of the main aspects of deliberations during the 144th IPU Assembly would doubtless be the conflict in Ukraine. Every new conflict and war was bringing new forms of attack and different methods and techniques of warfare. Parliamentary experience must be included in the preparation of the new United Nations convention on cybercrime. While modern technological developments brought great opportunity, they also brought great risk. The IPU had much to offer in bringing together the experiences of the global parliamentary community in contributing to greater peace and security for all.

Mr. M.A. Sera (Indonesia) said that an international mechanism was needed to counter cybercrime affecting parliaments. The IPU Members could share their experiences and lessons learned. Guidelines for action should be compiled for all IPU Members. He asked whether the work being done by the United Nations on cybercrime would be publicly available.

Ms. M. Guerra (Mexico) said that cybercrime was a particularly serious threat to security that knew no borders. The Government of Mexico had established an intelligence office to detect such crimes and investigate their financing. An opportunity to hear about the successful experiences of other governments and parliaments would be particularly useful, so that lessons learned and best practices could be exchanged on how to counter cybercrime, which was being used increasingly to finance terrorism and instability.

Ms. B. Brenner (Head of the Office of the Permanent Observer of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Vienna) said that a roadmap and mode of work was in place for the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes. A virtual consultation could be set up, in which she would update the IPU Member Parliaments on the proceedings to negotiate the new convention, and participants could share experiences and best practices in tackling cybercrime. An in-person meeting would subsequently be held to hear parliamentary views on points for inclusion in the new convention.

Introducing the draft resolution entitled *Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace*

Mr. S. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), Honorary IPU President, said that the impacts of conflict were felt most acutely by the ordinary people who parliamentarians represented. Conflict anywhere was a threat to peace everywhere. Military action represented a failure of peace processes. Failed peace fuelled war. The longer a conflict continued, the more entrenched the situation became and the more complex it would be to solve. Conflict prevention was therefore crucial. Parliamentarians were uniquely positioned to play a role in that regard. They must therefore have independence of thought and should under no circumstances become merely a mouthpiece for their government. The IPU had been established to promote parliamentary diplomacy and dialogue, by bringing parties together to seek common positions. When governments stopped talking, parliaments must increase their engagement. In that spirit, in October 2017, the IPU had made a point of holding its 137th Assembly in Saint Petersburg, the Russian Federation, and of ensuring that those under sanctions would be allowed to travel to the meeting and participate in the dialogue.

The duty of parliamentarians was to give a voice to their constituents; communication between parliament and the public was essential. When conflict erupted, the first priority was naturally to find a way to cease hostilities, yet subsequent reconciliation and rebuilding were often neglected. Parliaments must therefore bridge the gap between their constituents and the international protocols and processes that took place to resolve conflict. The resolution to be adopted by the Standing Committee would only be as effective as the extent to which it was implemented. Parliamentarians were uniquely positioned to bring a human face to peace processes, to ensure full respect for the basic human rights to be free from fear and to live in peace and dignity. Causes of conflict were broadening; climate change would give rise to new types of conflict. The resolution must therefore be overarching, rather than being limited to specific conflicts, and must be aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were centred

around people, the planet, peace, prosperity and partnership, all of which were threatened by conflict. The resolution would make a real difference to people on the ground. The co-Rapporteurs had produced a balanced draft, which was both insightful and analytical.

**(a) Presentation of the draft resolution and explanatory memorandum
prepared by the co-Rapporteurs
(C-I/144/DR and C-I/144/M)**

The President commended the co-Rapporteurs on having produced the draft resolution in a particularly short timeframe.

Ms. C. Widegren (Sweden), co-Rapporteur, said that the preparation and adoption of the resolution was a key aspect of the 144th IPU Assembly. The world's parliaments had a global leadership role to play. All those present must take the discussions and ideas presented at the Assembly back to their home parliaments for implementation. The world was in a state of shock watching the unfolding invasion of Ukraine. That shock must be reflected in the strength of the documents adopted by the 144th IPU Assembly. Parliamentarians were the representatives of the people and as such, now more than ever before, had a responsibility to build peace. Parliaments of 150 countries were present in Nusa Dua, Bali, all of whom would take home a toolkit for working better together on peace processes, seeking local solutions, engaging women and men from both sides of a conflict. The adoption of such a resolution in the current context of conflict would be a key moment in the political lives of all participants. The world's parliaments had a duty to share lessons learned and positive experiences, to contribute to a peaceful world for future generations. Every participant in the 144th IPU Assembly had a duty to return home and make a difference.

The world had shifted since the co-Rapporteurs had begun work on the draft resolution. Parliaments had a key role to play in reducing grievances and fostering understanding, and to do so must join forces in genuine cooperation and dialogue. The resolution should be prepared in that spirit; the co-Rapporteurs had made every effort to ensure a concise, comprehensive draft. The United Nations was due to put the revision of peacekeeping processes on the agenda of the Security Council in 2025. With a strong and clear resolution, the IPU would be well placed to share its experiences and views in that regard. The co-Rapporteurs had engaged with a wide variety of stakeholders in preparing the draft resolution, including numerous international and civil society organizations and initiatives. The IPU had a long history of peacebuilding having always taken a unique stance that all parties to conflict were welcome to participate in its meetings. The resolution was an opportunity to renew that spirit of solidarity, openness and understanding.

Ms. A.D. Gomashie (Ghana), co-Rapporteur, said that she had been grief-stricken to watch Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, addressing the Assembly from a bunker in Ukraine as her country remained under heavy bombardment, in a situation of war that the world had not thought possible in 2022. The fact that the conflict had not been quelled from the outset and had degenerated into a full-scale war in a peaceful country with a robust democracy demonstrated the ineffectiveness of existing peace processes. The adoption of the resolution was therefore particularly important; it was an opportunity to right the wrongs of the past and put in place a crucial mechanism for securing peace for the future, and help rid the world of conflict in all its forms. She was optimistic that the world's parliamentarians would live up to the task and that, through the resolution, their voices would be heard. She thanked all those who had participated in the drafting process and submitted amendments.

(b) Debate

Mr. A. Suwanmongkol (Thailand) said that the draft resolution presented an important opportunity for parliaments to consider options to reframe the approach to peace processes. The resolution was timely; challenges to the longstanding principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, namely the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, required urgent attention. Parliaments must work together to ensure a more peaceful world for younger generations. While the COVID-19 pandemic had caused setbacks, the global parliamentary community must rise to the challenge ahead. One of the key concepts included in the draft resolution was the human security approach, which constituted a pathway to a sustainable future, taking localization as the basis for promoting local solutions and bringing local agendas to the attention of the international community. Parliaments were facilitators of peaceful dialogue; as such they must uphold the principles of parliamentary diplomacy.

Mr. H. Iddrisu (Ghana) said he wished to thank the co-Rapporteurs for their diligent work. His delegation wished to propose amendments to the draft resolution to broaden its scope in various paragraphs, in particular to refer to “violent conflict” as well as war, to make reference to promoting “accountability” as well as transparency, and to promote peace “through dialogue”. There could be no development without peace. Reference to “military spending” should also be broadened by including defence and security spending. Every effort must be made to bring an end to all violent conflict, the consequences of which were adding to the already heavy burden of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had ravaged many economies.

Ms. L. Wall (New Zealand), speaking on behalf of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, said she wished to express the Forum’s overwhelming support for the draft resolution and to underscore that there could be no peace without the voices of women and their participation in parliament, in peacekeeping and in negotiations for peace. Women were disproportionately affected by war and conflict and must therefore be involved in peace efforts. The Forum had been briefed by the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, and had taken heed of the importance she placed on hearing the voices of victims. The Forum therefore wished to submit five proposed amendments to give greater emphasis to a victim-led approach to peacebuilding.

Mr. A. Al Aifan (Arab Parliament) said that he wished to thank the two co-Rapporteurs for their work on a particularly important draft resolution, which had come at a time of significant global tension. Parliaments should be leaders among institutions for peace. To foster sustainable peacebuilding, the resolution must pay due attention to international and regional interventions that fuelled, exacerbated and prolonged conflicts, and the important role of parliaments in their prevention. The occupation of territories by force was one of the greatest threats to international peace and security. The Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories was a significant example in that regard. Hate speech, in particular Islamophobia, must also be addressed. Parliaments had a role to play in addressing the root causes of conflict both within and between States. The draft resolution requested that the IPU should develop “an inventory of tools for parliaments and parliamentarians for engaging in dialogue, legislation, oversight and prevention in the pursuit of peace”. Such an inventory should be further used to elaborate a handbook for parliamentarians on peacebuilding and conflict prevention. Experiences and best practices should be shared and incorporated into such a handbook.

Mr. M.V. Morteza (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that war in all its forms was inhuman and reprehensible. The most important and unforgivable aspect of any conflict was the targeting of women and children. Parliamentarians, as representatives of all nations, must make every effort to stop all forms of conflict and prevent oppression. All individuals were part of humanity as a whole; if one person suffered, the whole of society would suffer.

Mr. A.U.H. Kakar (Pakistan) said that when looking at conflict resolution, it was particularly important to consider all parties involved; it was often no longer simply governments that were engaged in conflict, rather an increasing number of non-State actors, which rendered peacekeeping an increasingly complex matter. While parliaments’ constituents were predominantly peaceful, unarmed people, in some cases they turned to violence. Consideration must be given to how to disincentivize the uptake of violence as a means of voicing discontent. In some instances, violence was romanticized. That trend must be countered along with the root causes of dissatisfaction, including inequitable distribution of economic resources, questions of identity, the idea of the nation State, and society’s tolerance of violence. The challenges posed by violence, conflict and war could only be overcome with candid and honest discussion between parliaments and the executive.

Mr. S. Kondo (Japan) said that, following the First World War, the General Treaty for Renunciation of War as an Instrument of National Policy had been concluded, resulting in the establishment of the League of Nations. Despite such a statement of commitment to peace, the Second World War had followed, leading to the creation of the United Nations. The opening line of the Charter of the United Nations was a common statement of determination to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war”.

In the past, Japan had attempted to build an empire. It had invaded and conquered countries in Asia and inflicted pain on people by spreading war. In regretting that act, the Government of Japan had vowed to cease such activity and had revised the Constitution of Japan. There should be no bloodshed anywhere in the world.

The use of force should be prohibited in conflict resolution, and the limitations of the principle of self-defence should be recognized. In that regard, the efforts of the international community to preserve peace should be centred around the United Nations. A specific regional security system should be established in north-east Asia, based on the principles of pacifism and international cooperation. The preamble to the Constitution of Japan stated that all people had the right to live in peace, free from fear and want. The laws of political morality were universal and should be upheld by all sovereign States, in cooperation with other nations. The Standing Committee's resolution should give further impetus to commitments in that regard. His delegation prayed for peace to be expedited, in particular in Myanmar and Ukraine, and fully supported the draft resolution.

Mr. M.A. Sera (Indonesia) said that foreign policy must begin at home. Democracy required respect for differing views. The promotion and protection of democracy must remain at the forefront of any effort by the IPU to seek an approach to conflict resolution that was acceptable to all. The principle of multilateralism must be strengthened. Peacekeeping was a long-term process of encouraging dialogue, ending censorship, ensuring freedom of expression and reforming institutions. Parliament should be as involved in such processes as much as possible. There could be no development without peace.

Mr. A. Touizi (Morocco) thanked the co-Rapporteurs for the thorough analysis undertaken to draft the resolution. The world was witnessing an unprecedented number of international conflicts. International organizations and peacekeepers were seeking a new approach to ending conflict. New methods were required, based on dialogue. Parliaments had an important role in that regard, through the promulgation of legislation, to build equality, combat climate change and reduce the root causes of recourse to violence. Prevention was key; future climate-related crises, such as food and water shortages, would inevitably lead to conflict. The IPU must play a guiding role in seeking solutions to conflicts and ending recourse to violence. The war that had erupted in Europe must be stopped; the diplomatic efforts made previously to curb the rise of that conflict had clearly been insufficient.

Mr. M.H. Alfazy (Afghanistan) said that the Afghan peace process had failed. After seven months of Taliban rule, there were no signs of peace or stability. The people of Afghanistan had fallen victim to terrorism and had lost all their rights and fundamental freedoms. According to United Nations statistics, 98 per cent of the population of Afghanistan was living in poverty. Women had lost even their most basic rights. Some 600,000 people had fled the country. Although the international community was providing humanitarian assistance, it remained silent on the events in Afghanistan. Afghanistan had been forgotten. The people of Afghanistan wanted action from the international community. The IPU must stand by the people of Afghanistan, make their voice heard and demand respect for their human rights, freedom of expression and the rights of minorities. Afghanistan must be clearly included in the resolution and every effort must be made to work together with the people of Afghanistan to implement it.

Ms. S.M. Falaknaz (United Arab Emirates) said she wished to thank the co-Rapporteurs for having prepared the draft resolution. She called for dialogue to build bridges between nations and a better future for all, in particular women and young people, and for every effort to be made to build peace for all. Parliamentarians had a central role to play in seeking solutions to conflict.

Mr. B. Mahtab (India) said that peace was the highest ambition of everyone in the world. Yet despite the multitude of international institutions and treaties committed to peace, the world remained ravaged by violence and war. The approach to peace processes must therefore be revised and reframed for lasting peace. As the world's largest democracy, non-violence was deeply rooted in India's ethos, and India's approach to peacebuilding was inclusive, based on a strong commitment to multilateralism and the rule of law. India stood united and bound by the ethos of democracy, pluralism and commitment to fundamental rights. The concept of peaceful coexistence had always been a cornerstone of India's foreign policy. The principles of mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual nonaggression, non-interference, equality and peaceful coexistence guided India's relations with other nations. As a founder member of the United Nations, India had always responded promptly to calls for peacekeeping troops and had thus contributed to numerous peacekeeping operations around the world.

The Indian delegation agreed broadly with the draft resolution, but wished to submit significant amendments with regard to references to climate change. Climate and security should not be linked. India was committed to reframing peace processes and fostering lasting peace.

Mr. K. Mandandi (Zambia) said that he welcomed the draft resolution. Although many initiatives had been undertaken to solve the various ongoing conflicts around the world, peace processes had not been successful and the same mistakes were being repeated, without examining and addressing the specific root causes of each conflict. Every effort must be made to ensure lasting peace which meant redirecting efforts to pre-emptive and preventive measures. Multilateralism must be the cornerstone of international relations. People must be placed at the centre of decision-making. Geopolitical and economic interests were too often put before human well-being. People must be at the centre of decision-making to ensure that development and peace were realistic goals. Silent conflicts must be identified and addressed as they occurred.

Mr. A. Dicter (Israel) said that the IPU must launch a wake-up call: peace must be built on actions, not words. At the 143rd IPU Assembly, the Yemeni representative had described the Iranian authorities' activation of Hezbollah in Yemen, while the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran talked about peace.

Respect for women's rights was being decimated in Afghanistan. A change in approach was long overdue. Israel had signed and upheld numerous bilateral peace agreements, while others had failed to respect or renew them. While words were important, they were clearly not enough; they must be backed with action. Peace agreements and warm relations were possible and could be achieved; Israel was ready to shake hands with its neighbours in the Arab region.

Mr. F. Undurraga (Chile) said that he wished to thank the two co-Rapporteurs for their efforts to draft the resolution. The resolution and discussions on peacebuilding in general should place greater emphasis on the value of education for promoting democratic principles and dialogue; education policies that promoted cooperation were needed for future generations to realize forward-looking statements. The global parliamentary community must express its profound concern about the consequences of war, in particular the degradation of democracy and the increase in forced migration. Conflicts, whether within or between States, gave rise to mass displacement. Every effort must be made to support those forced into migration, the world over. The Government and Parliament of Chile remained committed to peace and democracy.

Ms. M. Guerra (Mexico) said that the Government of Mexico was committed to peaceful conflict resolution. Despite global commitments to fostering peaceful societies, such as the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, conflicts continued to rage the world over. Multilateralism must therefore be encouraged. Global governance was becoming increasingly fragmented and global institutions must face new challenges. The highest level of political commitment was required to resolve conflicts; local stakeholders must be defended by the international community. Climate change posed an ever-increasing threat. The resolution before the Standing Committee warned that future peacebuilding challenges must be overcome by including all of society. New threats were emerging; parliaments must use all the tools at their disposal to face those challenges. Change could only be made through political will and real commitment to action.

Mr. G.M. Zonzini (San Marino) said that the escalation of war and conflict around the world, including most recently in Europe with the invasion of Ukraine, was cause for deep concern. That aggression was the pinnacle of a crisis that had been ongoing for eight years. Bombs were falling and action must be taken to stop the situation immediately. San Marino was a peaceful and neutral State which sought the peaceful and diplomatic resolution of conflicts around the world. International relations must not simply be based on the rule of the strongest. His delegation supported the draft resolution.

Ms. E.S. Carvalho (Timor-Leste) said that her delegation welcomed the draft resolution and wished to express support for the draft resolution and the five amendments proposed by the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. The participation of women in peacebuilding and conflict resolution was critical. Lasting peace could not be achieved if the rights of women and young people were not respected.

Mr. H. Khashogghi (Saudi Arabia) said that the Government of Saudi Arabia had announced a complete ceasefire in the war with Yemen. Under the auspices of the United Nations, arrangements had been made to open Sana'a airport and cease all military actions. The time had come to start building a safe and peaceful Yemen.

Mr. S. Rachkov (Belarus) said that he welcomed the draft resolution. The need to reframe peace processes was urgent; peace negotiations often reached a dead end, and even when successfully concluded tended to fail over time. The COVID-19 pandemic had triggered new crises.

The international security architecture was collapsing, and major political agreements were not being fulfilled. A policy of force, aggression and open interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign States dominated. Belarus had experienced such interference in the international attempts to discredit the results of its most recent election. Belarus was not involved in the military operation in Ukraine. The Government had initiated three rounds of peace talks between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. In conducting peace processes, international organizations and States should be guided in their policies by human security and addressing the root causes of poverty, illhealth and environmental degradation. Human security should not be considered an alternative to traditional security. State and society were inextricably linked; the weakening and decline of a State would result in social instability and an inability to protect the interests of citizens and their individual security. The COVID-19 pandemic had clearly shown that only sovereign States had the capacity to ensure a decent standard of living, security and individual freedoms.

Mr. T.M. Mnangagwa (Zimbabwe) said that he welcomed the draft resolution and the amendments proposed. Despite their words, the IPU Members seemed to lack the shared determination and political will to stop the conflicts that were ongoing around the world. The situation in Ukraine must be approached carefully and all parties must be brought to the table for dialogue without judgment. Achieving peace was a process, not an event. The causes of the war in Ukraine must be examined; it had been clear that the war was coming. There were 56 conflicts currently ongoing around the world; certain nations were present in them all. Problems were made by, and must therefore be solved by, people. Peace could be achieved in a spirit of cooperation and solidarity.

Mr. M.A. Bouchouit (Algeria) said that to achieve peace, violence must cease. The representative of Israel had spoken of bilateral peace agreements; no such agreement was in place with Algeria. No State should interfere in the affairs of another. All must come to the table for dialogue. The people of Algeria wanted a peaceful world, and a peaceful Arab region, with an independent State of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. V. Musowa (Malawi) said that the profound effects of conflict on least developed countries must be taken into account in the draft resolution. In Malawi, the Parliamentary Committee on Defence and the Ministry of Homeland Security had submitted a bill on peace and reconciliation to Parliament, which was due to be passed the following week. Peace must begin at home. He welcomed the draft resolution and thanked the co-Rapporteurs for their work.

Mr. M.T.A. Masadeh (Jordan) said that he wished to thank the co-Rapporteurs for an excellent draft resolution. In Jordan, constitutional reforms had been conducted, focusing on empowering women and young people and giving them a more prominent role in society, including through the introduction of quotas to boost their representation in political parties. The draft resolution should include clear mention of cooperation between the IPU and the United Nations. Attention should also be paid to the role of culture in peace processes. The Government and people of Jordan were focusing on peace through actions, rather than just words, and wished to see an end to the conflict between Israel and Palestine at both the political and diplomatic levels, in a clear and tangible progress that would meet the needs of all people in the Arab region.

Ms. G. Weber (Ecuador) said that war was inhumane, dangerous and could not be forgiven. When considering how to foster peace, the war on organized crime, including drugs trafficking, must also be taken into account, since organized crime brought violence. A more intelligent approach must be taken, focusing on tackling the root causes of violence, fostering economic progress and bolstering people's rights and freedoms. The COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated the causes of conflict and discontent, and had resulted in an increase in drug taking, violence and organized crime. A culture of peace and bridge building must be fostered.

Ms. M. Müntefering (Germany) said that all participants in the 144th IPU Assembly were seeking peace and freedom. Bombs had returned to Europe; President Putin had breached international law brutally. The world's parliamentarians must stand up for freedom and democracy, for international order, and for the power of the law rather than the law of power. Her delegation therefore welcomed the draft resolution and thanked the co-Rapporteurs for their work.

Mr. E. Blanc (France), commending the work done to prepare the draft resolution, said that discussions on peace were often narrow, viewing conflict as being between two armies. The fact that the draft resolution broadened the concept to take account of a variety of causes of violence was particularly commendable. The whole world was traumatized by the situation in Europe, a region in which war was thought to be a mere memory and a part of history. Young Europeans had believed

themselves safe from conflict. President Putin was not alone in his actions; Belorussian troops were also involved. The actions of that partnership ran counter to the fundamental principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Peace could only be built on acknowledgement of the truth. There should be no opportunity for absolution of responsibility.

Mr. M. Alsalihi (Yemen) said that conflict resolution should be approached in the manner that a doctor approached a patient: by treating the causes as well as the symptoms. Parliaments had a responsibility, as legislators, to put an end to conflict. Injustice and grievances, which were rife the world over, must be rectified before they led to conflict. While the representative of Israel spoke of peace, Israeli forces were occupying Gaza and destroying the lives of the Palestinian people who were seeking to assert their rights. While the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran spoke of peace, his government sought to destroy neighbouring countries including Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and now Yemen. The lives of Yemeni parliamentarians were being threatened, while their homes were being ransacked and their possessions confiscated. The Islamic Republic of Iran did not believe in partnership, democracy or elections. To achieve sustainable peace, parliaments must strive to fight the scourge of conflict and pledge to put an end to its many root causes.

Ms. C. Widegren (Sweden), co-Rapporteur, thanked all participants for their contributions to an interesting and fruitful discussion. It was clear that with regard to peace, parliaments must be part of the solution. It was indeed particularly important to include women in peace processes. There were currently no women involved in the negotiations between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. That situation must change. Members of the Standing Committee must take home the lessons learned and experiences shared during the present discussion as a toolkit for peacebuilding; parliaments must bring stakeholders to the table at the local level to address the root causes of discontent. She looked forward to discussing the proposed amendments to the draft resolution and revising the text to make it as effective as possible.

The President announced that the Standing Committee would discuss the proposed amendments to the draft resolution during the upcoming drafting session.

The sitting rose at 12:15.

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 23 MARCH

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 14:40 with Mr. M.B.M. Al-Ahbab (Qatar), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

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

(continued)

(c) Drafting and adoption of the draft resolution in plenary (C-I/144/DR-cr)

The President said that the draft resolution had been revised in the light of the amendments discussed in the plenary drafting meeting. The revised document was presented to the Standing Committee for adoption and subsequent submission to the 144th IPU Assembly.

The draft resolution was adopted by consensus.

Reservations to preambular paragraphs 5 and 13, and to operative paragraph 17 were submitted in writing to the Secretariat by the delegation of India.

The Standing Committee took note of the explanatory memorandum prepared by the co-Rapporteurs.

(d) Appointment of a rapporteur to the 144th Assembly

At the suggestion of the President, the Standing Committee agreed that Ms. A.D. Gomashie (Ghana) would serve as rapporteur to present the resolution to the 144th IPU Assembly.

Preparations for future Assemblies

(a) Proposals for a subject item for the next resolution to be considered by the Committee

The President said that the Bureau of the Standing Committee had considered two proposed topics for the next resolution to be considered by the Standing Committee:

- *Ending child military recruitment by 2025: The role of the IPU and national parliaments (Morocco)*
- *Cyberattacks and cybercrimes: The new risks to global security (Spain).*

The Bureau had decided to recommend to the Committee to take up the item on cybercrime proposed by the delegation of Spain. In the absence of any comments or objections, he would take it that the Standing Committee agreed to that proposal.

It was so agreed.

(b) Proposals for the choice of two co-Rapporteurs

The President informed the Standing Committee that Mr. J. Cepeda (Spain) and Ms. S.M. Falaknaz (United Arab Emirates) had expressed an interest in serving as the two co-Rapporteurs for the draft resolution. In the absence of any comments or objections he would take it that the Standing Committee wished to approve the nomination of the two co-Rapporteurs.

It was so agreed.

(c) Proposals for other items for the Committee's agenda

The President said that the Bureau of the Standing Committee had proposed that, as per its usual practice, the Standing Committee would hold an expert hearing on the chosen subject of the next resolution during the 145th Assembly. It would also have four further hours of scheduled meeting time. Owing to lack of time during the present Assembly, the Standing Committee had been unable to consider and select topics for discussion. A virtual meeting would therefore be held in May or June 2022 to take decisions on the matter after which the Secretariat would distribute the agreed workplan to all IPU Member Parliaments.

Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee

The President announced that the Standing Committee had before it the candidatures of two new Bureau members: for the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, Ms. L. Crexell (Argentina) to complete the mandate of Mr. J.E. Taiana (Argentina); and for the African group, Mr. M.A. Bouchouit (Algeria) to complete the mandate of Mr. A. Kharchi (Algeria). He took it that the Standing Committee wished to approve those candidatures.

It was so agreed.

The sitting rose at 14:55.

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development

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

SITTING OF MONDAY, 21 MARCH

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 9:30 with Ms. A. Mulder (Netherlands), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held at the 143rd IPU Assembly in Madrid (November 2021)

The summary record was approved.

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

(a) Presentation of the draft resolution and explanatory memorandum prepared by the co-Rapporteurs (C-II/144/DR and C-II/144/M)

The President said that the draft resolution entitled *Leveraging Information and Communication Technology as an enabler for the education sector, including in times of pandemic* had already been distributed to Members. A total of 63 amendments from 13 parliaments had been submitted. The Committee would first hold a debate on the draft resolution followed by a final drafting session.

Ms. H. Järvinen (Finland), co-Rapporteur, said that she had collected opinions from colleagues in Finland working at all levels of the education system and had considered all amendments from Members. It was clear that digital learning would not be possible without enough devices or connections. However, even more important was the need for educated teachers with adequate teaching skills. Teachers must also have sufficient assistance personnel working alongside them to help resolve problems such as technical malfunctions. It was her hope that the resolution would improve digital learning across the world.

(b) Debate

Mr. K. Kandodo (Malawi) said that it was paramount to make use of information communication technology (ICT) to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Education enabled pupils from poor families to move from poverty to prosperity. Unfortunately, however, many countries had constrained budgets and found it very challenging to deliver quality education. Challenges included inadequate classrooms, high student-teacher ratios, lack of teacher motivation due to low remuneration and high poverty levels in rural areas. Malawi had adopted several preventative measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as social distancing. It had meant that education establishments, including primary and secondary schools, had been closed for several months. Many students in Malawi had been unable to access online learning due to a lack of ICT resources and an inadequate electricity supply. Parliaments must develop legislation that promoted equitable and inclusive access to education and ICT solutions, especially in rural areas. Governments and development partners should help with the provision of ICT equipment in schools and introduce policies to reduce the high cost of data.

Mr. Y. Hachiro (Japan) said that the Japanese Diet had passed a resolution condemning the Russian aggression against Ukraine. Japan, as a country that had experienced the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombing and the Fukushima nuclear disaster, strongly appealed for nuclear weapons to never be used and for nuclear facilities to never be attacked.

It was important to support teachers in their efforts to use ICT in education. ICT was key to expanding children's potential and ensuring that their learning did not stop even in times of emergency. In response to the pandemic, Japan was developing hybrid classes combining classroom teaching with remote learning. ICT was a useful tool to provide learning opportunities for children but could also bring problems, such as an increased workload, poor ICT infrastructure and inadequate training for teachers. The use of ICT should not increase the burden on teachers or lead to long working hours. Teachers should receive the necessary support. It was also important to monitor government efforts to improve children's learning and make sure the voices of experts in the field were heard. Parliaments must act and not just talk.

Mr. M. Fathi (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the pandemic had the potential to wreak economic, social and political havoc on societies. As a result, governments had been obliged to apply restrictive measures that could negatively affect social freedoms and sideline democracy. Parliaments could play a crucial role in protecting human rights in such situations. They should enact legislation that took into account lessons learned to reduce the impact of any future emergencies.

Mr. V. Dayal Ram (India) said that his country supported the draft resolution since it was consistent with its own policies and programmes. School closures during the pandemic had caused an extensive loss of learning among children across the world, including in India. Schools in India had begun to work remotely to mitigate the impact. The Parliament of India was conscious of its responsibilities of managing the pandemic while also taking care of the learning needs of children. India had sponsored a scheme to provide hot cooked meals in government schools and was developing innovative ICT infrastructure. Switching over to digital modes of education had been a tough task. However, India had risen to the challenge with timely policy interventions.

Ms. M. García Segura (Mexico) said that school closures during the pandemic had had enormous consequences on the education system. Many teachers had had no choice but to move their classrooms online which had in turn exacerbated inequalities. Indeed, it was estimated that 1.5 billion children worldwide had been impacted by the pandemic. Among them, half did not have access to computers and more than 40 per cent did not have internet access at home. Many children had lost a whole year of education, 60 per cent of whom lived in Latin America or the Caribbean.

Parliaments must revise their budgets to give priority to children who did not have access to digital education with a view to reducing inequalities. Public policies should be introduced to reintegrate students into the education system. It was important to report on the progress made towards achieving SDG 4 on quality education during the pandemic and identify specific measures for developing countries. ICT was fundamental to achieving quality education and everyone must have access to it. Education allowed for socioeconomic mobility and was key to getting out of poverty.

Mr. W. William (Seychelles) said that the Seychelles was working towards a more adaptable and resilient education system inclusive of ICT. It aimed to move away from the traditional model of education towards instructional technology. The education sector was planning to upgrade its mobile networks, strengthen its workforce, move to fibre optics and ensure affordable internet access. However, much work remained to be done. Multisectoral efforts would be taken to modernize the education system and train teachers in the use of technology.

Mr. N. Alalou (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the education sector was among the most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with billions of students being forced out of school. Countries had therefore been looking into alternative measures to ensure continuity of learning, including virtual platforms and technology. The move had required a rethinking of the educational process. Attaining sustainable development in developing countries, especially those affected by war, started with education. The war had greatly affected access to education in Syria. The infrastructure had been bombed and the Government had been incapable of providing the necessary resources. He called on the international community to ensure that the education process in Syria could continue uninterrupted.

A representative of the Arab Parliament said that the draft resolution had identified a huge gap between countries in terms of digital infrastructure but had not set out how to bridge that gap. Parliaments must consider ways to provide quality education to the largest number of students possible. Approximately one billion children worldwide did not have access to the internet which was having a detrimental effect on their education. Most of those children lived in developing countries.

The resolution should provide for students living in conflict areas and for children with special needs, particularly with regard to remote learning. It was important to develop the use of technology and to end digital illiteracy. There was a need for modern infrastructure, better laws and efforts at all levels.

Mr. A.K. Althawadi (Bahrain) said that remote learning was not an objective but a means to achieving sustainable education. In 2005, Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa had introduced a national project called “Schools of the Future” which aimed to integrate technology into education and develop digital literacy. Under the project, Bahrain had equipped schools with technical devices such as computers and electronic boards and trained teachers to incorporate ICT into their lessons.

Mr. T. Raven (Netherlands) said that his country had had the possibility to make use of digital learning from the beginning of the pandemic. However, it had soon become clear that certain conditions needed to be put in place to ensure quality. It was important that every country had not only enough devices and connections but also enough educated teachers. Parliaments should address loneliness among young people and create playgrounds where children could play in times of pandemic.

Mr. M. Karakaya (Türkiye) said that the digital transformation was having a vital impact on many aspects of society, including education, and was central to global efforts against the pandemic. By providing educational programmes through ICT, countries would create more stable and resilient societies and give people more opportunities to fulfil their potential. ICT could improve teaching-learning processes and was thus beneficial for both teachers and learners. Although digitalization could enhance equality, accessibility and inclusivity, it could also widen the digital divide within and among countries. Research-based knowledge, innovation and technology were of fundamental importance for achieving the SDGs. Türkiye was in favour of strengthening the science, technology and innovation capacities of the least developed countries (LDCs) and would therefore be home to the UN Technology Bank for the LDCs.

Ms. S. Parag (Guyana) said that her country had been leveraging ICT as an enabler for the education sector but had found that many vulnerable populations remained disadvantaged. The Government was fully cognizant of what needed to be done to level the academic playing field and had already started taking action. For example, it was currently in the process of establishing dozens of ICT hubs across every administrative region in the country. Developed countries must provide assistance to developing countries, particularly funding, which was crucial to bridging the digital gap and achieving the SDGs. Indigenous people were most affected by ICT inequality in Guyana. If teachers were expected to deliver online education, countries must first equip and train them not only in the use of digital tools but also in the art of content creation for an online environment. Whatever system that was implemented must be effective and sustainable. She was pleased to note that the training of teachers had been captured in the draft resolution.

Mr. K. Tontisirin (Thailand) said that ICT was fundamental for human and socioeconomic development. A multi-stakeholder, multilevel and multi-strategy approach was required to address the complex issue of ICT in education. Countries should invest in infrastructure, equipment and teacher capabilities. There was a need for collective action internationally.

Mr. H. Al Matar (Kuwait) said that the pandemic had had a hugely negative impact on the education system. Large numbers of students did not have access to learning. The resolution should emphasize the role of educators and support their work.

Mr. C. Hoffmann (Germany) said the COVID-19 pandemic had accelerated the development of ICT. It was a great opportunity to improve the quality of education. ICT allowed everyone everywhere to learn at any time and at less cost with no difference between rich and poor, girls and boys, or urban and rural populations. It was also conducive to life-long learning, giving people of all ages the chance to learn. ICT could therefore promote greater justice and equality. It was for those reasons that Germany strongly supported the use of ICT in education. Education was crucial for the development of peace around the world.

Ms. Dyah Roro Esti Widya Putri (Indonesia) said that the education sector had been one of the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Technology had played a vital role in getting classes back up and running after schools had closed. It also had several other benefits, including the power to

increase productivity and efficiency, save costs and track progress of students. Education was a human right. Therefore, countries should help each other to improve education through technology. Her Parliament had proposed several amendments to the draft resolution which highlighted three points in particular. First, parliaments must ensure that technology was available, accessible and affordable for all. Second, they should encourage governments to create a safe, secure and non-discriminatory online environment suitable for teaching and learning. Third, they should encourage governments to develop partnerships not only with UN bodies but also with the private sector in line with SDG 17.

Ms. M. Montemaggi (San Marino) said that the COVID-19 pandemic had forced San Marino to rethink its teaching methods and introduce a distance learning approach. However, problems had arisen since not everyone had access to technological tools. Thanks to public funds and private donations, a considerable number of new devices had been purchased and lent to students in need. Similarly, a local cooperative had donated technological equipment which had then been allocated to schools according to specific educational needs. The resolution should encourage countries to address inequalities between students. Technology must reduce inequalities rather than increase them.

Ms. M. Kyllonen (Finland) said that, even with the best technology, the education system would not function properly unless there were passionate and well-educated teachers and staff. ICT was a good tool but should not replace skilled teachers. That said, it was also necessary to address digital poverty. Equal learning started with access to school. Access to learning materials and teaching equipment was also important.

Mr. A. Fadil (Saudi Arabia) said that his country believed in the importance of e-learning and was therefore taking measures to promote digitalization in the education system. For example, it had established virtual platforms to provide digital education to its six million students, including those with disabilities, and had trained 526 teachers in the use of ICT in education.

The debate on the draft resolution ended at 10:30.

The President announced that the Standing Committee would proceed to the final drafting session in which it would discuss the proposed amendments to the draft resolution.

The sitting rose at 12:15.

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 23 MARCH

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 16:50 with Ms. A. Mulder (Netherlands), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

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

(c) Drafting and adoption of the draft resolution in plenary (C-II/144/DR-cr)

The President said that the draft resolution had been revised in the light of the amendments discussed in the plenary drafting meeting. The revised document was presented to the Standing Committee for adoption and subsequent submission to the 144th IPU Assembly.

The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation.

(d) Appointment of a rapporteur to the 144th Assembly

The Standing Committee agreed that the President would serve as rapporteur to present the resolution to the 144th IPU Assembly.

Preparations for future Assemblies

(a) Proposals for a subject item for the next resolution to be considered by the Committee

The President said that the Bureau of the Standing Committee had considered proposed topics for the next resolution to be considered by the Standing Committee and had decided to recommend to the Committee to take up the item proposed by Germany entitled *Parliamentary efforts in achieving negative carbon balances of forests*. In the absence of any comments or objections, she would take it that the Standing Committee approved that proposal.

It was so agreed.

(b) Proposals for the choice of co-Rapporteurs

The President informed the Standing Committee that Mr. C. Hoffman (Germany) had agreed to serve as the first co-Rapporteur for the preparation of the draft resolution. Expressions of interest were being sought from delegates wishing to serve as the second co-Rapporteur. She took it that there were no objections.

It was so agreed.

(c) Proposals for other items for the Committee's agenda

The President said that the Bureau of the Standing Committee had proposed that, as per its usual practice, the Standing Committee would hold an expert hearing on the chosen subject of the next resolution during the 145th Assembly. It would also hold 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.

It was so agreed.

Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee

The President announced that there was one vacancy on the Bureau of the Standing Committee. The candidature of Mr. R. Lozano (Uruguay) had been received to represent the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean. In the absence of any comments and objections she would take it that the Standing Committee approved that candidature.

It was so agreed.

The sitting rose at 17:05.

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

SITTING OF TUESDAY, 22 MARCH

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 10:15 with Mr. A. Gajadien (Suriname), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Briefing by the President

The President said that he wished to draw the Standing Committee's attention to a special segment of the 144th IPU Assembly, which would take place that afternoon, at which the new *Global Parliamentary Report 2022: Public engagement in the work of parliament* would be launched. The main findings and recommendations of the report would be introduced and case studies from national parliaments would be presented. The report was intended to be a source of ideas for all parliaments to help build strong connections between them and the people they represented.

Adoption of the agenda (C-III/144/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held at the 143rd IPU Assembly in Madrid (November 2021)

The summary record was approved.

Preparatory debate on the next resolution of the Standing Committee: *Parliamentary impetus to local and regional development of countries with high levels of international migration and to stopping all forms, including state-sponsored, of human trafficking and human rights abuses* (C-III/144/3-Inf.1)

The President recalled that, at its previous meeting in November 2021, the Standing Committee had decided on the theme of its next resolution and had appointed three co-Rapporteurs: Mr. J. Wadephul (Germany), Mr. F. Zon (Indonesia) and Ms. S. Nane (Uruguay) tasked with drafting the resolution. Members of the Standing Committee were requested to submit any written suggestions for inclusion in the draft by the statutory deadline of 24 April 2022.

Mr. F. Zon (Indonesia), co-Rapporteur, said that, according to the 2022 edition of the *World Migration Report*, published by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), international migration had increased significantly over the past 50 years; in 2020, the total number of migrants worldwide had reached 281 million with nearly two-thirds being labour migrants seeking a decent income and higher standard of living. Poverty and inequality were major drivers of migration. Furthermore, there had been more than 82.4 million irregular migrants, forcibly displaced by war, conflict and political tensions. Over the decades to come, natural disaster would be a further cause of displacement, with climate change predicted to give rise to a further 216 million migrants worldwide by 2050.

Migrants were particularly vulnerable to human trafficking, intimidation, violence, persecution and other human rights abuses. Such crimes constituted a serious challenge everywhere in the world. The migration crisis was having a multitude of impacts on societies worldwide. Parliamentarians had a key role to play in tackling the situation, yet that role was not being fulfilled. Parliaments were representative institutions, which were responsible for giving a voice to all citizens, including migrants. The time had therefore come to increase the efforts of the global parliamentary community to uphold the principles to protect migrants and their families and guarantee their basic human rights, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

At the 139th IPU Assembly, Member Parliaments had adopted a resolution entitled *Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*. It was time to reiterate that

commitment to better migration governance. Efforts must be made to strengthen parliamentary cooperation with governments and other stakeholders to tackle the adverse drivers of migration, seek sustainable solutions and successfully tackle smuggling and trafficking in persons. The resolution to be adopted at the 145th Assembly would strengthen the role of parliaments in that regard. The ensuing debate would guide the co-Rapporteurs on the elaboration of a strong resolution.

Mr. U. Lechte (Germany), representing the co-Rapporteur Mr. J. Wadehul, said that the title of the draft resolution had initially been presented as a proposed emergency item for inclusion on the agenda of the 143rd IPU Assembly in November 2021 which his delegation had subsequently withdrawn in light of the Assembly's unanimous agreement to discuss vaccine inequity in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The inclusion of "state-sponsored" human rights abuses in the title of the draft resolution was particularly important; the abuse of refugees for political purposes, as had been done by the Government of Belarus – a matter of a few months previously – when it had sent thousands of migrants to the border with Poland in an attack against the European Union, was utterly unacceptable and States must be held accountable.

While the draft resolution would be informed by the *World Migration Report 2022*, for the sake of neutrality, individual countries would not be named in examples of cases of human trafficking. The draft would be prepared in the spirit of the GCM and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), the adoption of which had signified a notable moment of international solidarity. While migration was a natural element of human activity, the number of refugees in the world currently totalled more than 80 million and was rising rapidly, as a result of climate change, extreme poverty and conflict. They deserved protection.

Ms. P. Patten (United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict) said that the Standing Committee's discussion was particularly timely: the conflict in Ukraine was triggering humanitarian and displacement crises, unprecedented in speed and scale. Women, children and the elderly were being forced to leave their homes, taking a challenging and perilous path to reach the western borders of Ukraine and cross in hope of help and safety. Human trafficking of Ukrainian women and children would be a dangerous by-product of the conflict-fuelled refugee crisis, as criminal groups or individuals took advantage of large flows of people to exploit the most vulnerable in countries of transit and destination. Trafficking in persons was a serious crime. Most detected victims were international migrants. In its deliberations, the Standing Committee should focus on the situation in Ukraine and preventing the humanitarian crisis from becoming one of trafficking by addressing the vulnerabilities of those seeking refuge.

Despite a plethora of legal and policy frameworks to combat trafficking, women and girls continued to constitute the majority of detected victims, the exploitation of whom was manifold. The root causes lay in sex-based discrimination, including the failure to address prevailing economic and patriarchal structures and the adverse and gender-differentiated impact of States' labour, migration and asylum regimes. The Standing Committee's resolution must therefore encourage the identification and elimination of root causes of vulnerability to trafficking, including through the mobilization of public resources and strengthening of public services in support of gender equality, the promotion of the rights of women and girls, and sustainable development. The full attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was particularly crucial.

Treaty obligations that addressed trafficking, including for sexual exploitation, did not cease in the context of states of emergency resulting from conflict, political events, health crises or natural disasters. During conflict, many factors causing individual and group vulnerability to trafficking were exacerbated. During displacement, as community and family support networks were weakened or destroyed, vulnerability to trafficking increased considerably. Many armed groups used sexual violence, including trafficking in persons and slave trading, to advance core ideological, military, and financial objectives. United Nations Security Council resolution 2467 called for a survivor-centred approach to addressing sexual violence, including trafficking in persons for the purposes of sexual exploitation, violence, and slavery. The resolution underscored the critical role of domestic investigation and judicial systems in preventing and eliminating sexual violence in conflict and called on national authorities to strengthen legislation to foster accountability.

Laws influenced behaviour. Criminal penalties not only punished violators, but also deterred others from committing similar offenses. Law thus constituted an expression of society's disapproval. Yet significant gaps in legal frameworks to address trafficking in persons persisted. Comprehensive victim-centred, human-rights focused, child-sensitive and gender-sensitive anti-trafficking legislation, taking a harmonized approach to criminalizing trafficking at all levels of jurisdiction, was therefore essential. Victims of trafficking had a right to special assistance and protection measures provided by the State. Victims of trafficking required high-quality support services with immediate availability, which

must be inclusive and accessible and must include access to information on their rights. They also required easy-to-access medical, psychological, social and legal services, as well as safe and appropriate accommodation.

Enhanced cross-border collaboration, coordination and knowledge exchange among border control, law enforcement, child protection and social protection authorities and nongovernmental organizations were essential to provide displaced and migrant women and girls with appropriate and adequate reception facilities and services, incorporating gender and trauma sensitivity into arrangements for arrivals at land, air and sea borders. The Standing Committee's resolution should also urge all States to ratify or accede to all relevant instruments, in particular the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the two protocols supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) – the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.

As it deliberated the resolution, the Standing Committee should keep in mind the heart-wrenching images of families being separated in Ukraine, fleeing the relentless Russian military action. A recommendation should be included to ensure that all borders remained open to those fleeing conflict, irrespective of their nationality, race or religion. Parliaments had a crucial role to play in preventing and countering trafficking in persons. That role would be affirmed by the adoption of a resolution that focused both on prevention and response, which was gender-sensitive, survivor-centred, and human rights-based, and which took into account all forms of trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation, violence and slavery.

Mr. S. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), IPU Honorary President, said that, in preparing the draft resolution, consideration should be given to where parliamentarians could add value to an issue that would become increasingly critical in years to come. The world was changing rapidly; climate change alone was having a significant impact. In Bangladesh, a one metre rise in sea level would displace around 14 million people. With temperatures set to increase by 1.5 degrees by 2030, forced migration and displacement would inevitably increase significantly. The resolution must take a holistic approach: it must be inclusive, adaptable and comprehensive, while not repeating existing agreements. Parliaments could and should take a long-term perspective. They must consider not only methods of adapting to climate change, but also mitigation, and should focus on addressing the root causes of the problem, building carbon-neutral economies and reaching net zero carbon emissions.

Migration was a politically charged issue, which required a level-headed, calm approach. Host communities could feel undercurrents of resentment with regard to distribution of resources. Parliaments should look at migration from a human perspective, rather than as a means of gaining political traction. Migration must not be weaponized; it must be addressed in a cooperative manner to ensure that the rights of migrants were not compromised. Parliaments must take measures to raise the standard of living of the most disadvantaged and marginalized in society, to raise society as a whole, in the spirit of the SDGs, leaving no-one behind. The human rights of the most vulnerable and marginalized must always be taken into account, to ensure respect for the human rights of all. Migration governance was a challenge; parliaments must find policies that were applicable to all. The Standing Committee's resolution must therefore not be biased. There were 56 ongoing State conflicts around the world; while it was natural to focus attention on the most recent, the resolution must be fit for purpose, relevant to and applicable in all situations.

Debate

Mr. A. Rezaee (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that globalization had resulted in an increase in migration. Trafficking in persons was a global phenomenon, which could only be addressed through a concerted, collaborative effort at the international level. The Islamic Republic of Iran had ratified all relevant international agreements and had enacted domestic legislation to implement them, including criminalizing trafficking in persons. Despite those efforts, trafficking was on the rise and gave cause for concern to the whole international community. Global efforts and close cooperation were required to tackle the problem. At the national level, cooperation between government and parliament was the key to fostering higher standards of living, employment, social and economic progress and development. Education, healthcare and universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction, were essential.

Ms. A. Al Shaman (Saudi Arabia) said that trafficking in persons was often combined with extortion and sexual exploitation. Criminal networks involved in such practices could only be tackled through close cooperation, across borders. Saudi Arabia had ratified numerous international

agreements to that end. The Government of Saudi Arabia was also involved in regional efforts and had integrated regional laws and agreements into domestic legislation. Cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was ongoing and a national plan of action to combat trafficking in persons had been elaborated. Legislation had been enacted to prevent harassment. Marriage under the age of 18 years without legal authorization had been prohibited, and the Shura Council was working on identifying and bridging any further gaps in national law. Efforts were being made to raise public awareness of human trafficking and to strengthen the legal support afforded to victims.

The resolution should give due account to the impact of technological development on trafficking through the increase in cybercrime and cyberprostitution in particular. Communities in crisis must be supported, to ensure that they did not become vulnerable to traffickers. Children in particular must be protected. Migrants accounted for around five per cent of the population of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Refugees were considered as “visitors” and an integral part of the community. They were guaranteed freedom of movement and provided with medical care. The resolution should take account of Saudi Arabia’s positive experiences. It should, in particular, encourage ratification of the relevant international instruments, measures for their implementation, contributions to the donor community and the provision of social protection for refugees.

Ms. A. Nassif (Egypt) said that many countries around the world were experiencing increased migration flows owing to war and climate change. Measures must be taken to address the crisis in countries of origin, transit and destination. The COVID-19 pandemic had revealed problems of access to and continuity of medical care, in particular vaccination, for migrants. The international community had struggled to cope with the situation. In Egypt, asylum seekers were free to live among the community, rather than being held in refugee camps, and were given access to health care on an equal footing to the local population. Parliaments had a key role to play in ending the suffering of migrants by ensuring the full implementation of the GCM and the attainment of the SDGs. Parliaments should ensure that national legislation was in line with those frameworks, and should budget for the provision of safe accommodation for migrants to guarantee their human rights and encourage their integration into the local community. Efforts must be made to ensure social and cultural integration and promote cultural understanding between host communities and migrant populations. A comprehensive, people-centred approach must be taken to tackling the root causes of mass migration flows.

Ms. M.M. Alameri (United Arab Emirates) said that the world was witnessing a daily surge in conflicts, terrorist attacks, political and economic challenges, social unrest and environmental disasters, all of which were resulting in an increase in the number of migrants and refugees. The number of displaced around the world had reached 281 million. Safety and stability must be guaranteed for all, with full respect for human rights, without exception. In the United Arab Emirates, legislation had been enacted to ensure respect for human rights and protect victims of trafficking. The COVID-19 pandemic had disrupted the lives of communities in all countries. The United Arab Emirates had received a large number of migrants, and in 2021 had provided financial support to the value of US\$ 60 million. Parliament played a key role in ensuring that legislation and international agreements on human rights protection were implemented effectively. International cooperation and exchanges of experience and best practice among the global parliamentary community was crucial; the IPU had a vital role to play in facilitating those exchanges.

Mr. O. Mahmoud Hamdo (Syrian Arab Republic) said that while the eyes of the world had turned to the situation in Ukraine, the ongoing conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic had been raging for a decade. Under the Syrian Constitution, all citizens were equal without discrimination, and freedom for all was a sacred right. Since 2011, the Syrian Arab Republic had been subject to organized terrorism by international and regional armed organizations, which had impacted the population’s rights to security, education, health care, food and a decent standard of living, among others, with catastrophic repercussions. The measures imposed unilaterally against the Syrian Arab Republic, its Government and people, had exacerbated the humanitarian crisis and prevented the basic needs of the people from being met. Mass displacement had ensued, depriving people of their right to a decent life. The situation was the result of terrorism supported by political powers. The situation in refugee camps was particularly dire; UNHCR and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) had reported on the deterioration of the socioeconomic and health situations in refugee camps, including an increase in forced marriage and forced labour. Syrians were being stripped of their identity documents and prevented from voluntarily returning. The conflict had pushed many Syrians into the hands of human traffickers.

Mr. H. Al-Saleh (Kuwait) said that the attainment of the SDGs required a continuous effort with a human rights-based approach. Migration had become a fact of daily life the world over; it was gaining pace and had economic and democratic consequences, in particular on countries of destination. Full implementation of the GCM was essential to bring an end to unsafe migration. Hate speech and populist rhetoric were resulting in unwelcoming and unfavourable conditions for migrants who, when they had no legal means of migrating, were falling into the hands of traffickers to reach their desired destination. Countries of destination should be helped to find mechanisms for integration, to ensure that host communities were not overburdened and that migrants were not viewed as a threat. Obstacles to implementing the GCM clearly persisted, and humanitarian disaster would ensue if those were not overcome as a matter of urgency. Parliamentarians must enact laws to curb the human and material losses associated with mass migration and trafficking in persons.

Ms. H. Vijaykumar Gavit (India) said that migration was a universal, age-old phenomenon, the manifestations of which had changed over time as the world had become more globalized. India had the world's largest diaspora, amounting to 32 million people. The Government of India was implementing a comprehensive agenda for migration and mobility to strengthen migration governance, and had recently concluded bilateral agreements with several other countries. India's migration policy was fully in line with both the GCM and the SDGs. An e-Migration portal had been established to ensure safe and regulated migration and to implement a well-managed migration policy. To prepare Indian economic migrants, a technical and soft skills training programme for young people had been developed. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Indian Government had repatriated 110,000 foreign nationals from different parts of India to 123 countries, and more than 3 million Indian citizens had returned by air, sea and land, in line with the GCM.

A portal had been launched to provide a database of arrivals of repatriated skilled migrant workers with a view to providing them with employment support. All stakeholders had an important role to play in the fight against human trafficking. India had ratified the relevant international conventions and had domesticated their provisions, including by ensuring stringent punishment for anyone found guilty of trafficking. Recognizing that law enforcement was only a partial step towards addressing human rights violations suffered by trafficked persons, schemes had been put in place for the rehabilitation and protection of survivors. Measures were also in place to ensure that children and young people could not be exploited for forced labour.

Ms. J. Salman (Bahrain) said that the number of migrants and refugees around the world was increasing owing to increasing poverty rates, conflicts, wars and other violence. The current crisis in Ukraine was the most recent but would not be the last. Migrants often suffered severe violations of their human rights in transit and in their countries of destination, in particular crimes of hatred, discrimination and sexual exploitation. The COVID-19 pandemic had shed light on the dire situation of many migrants. Sexual exploitation of migrants was a particularly serious issue, as was the exploitation of migrants for the purpose of trafficking in human organs. Those matters should be reflected in the draft resolution. Along with measures to prevent trafficking, it was important to empower victims and ensure they had easy access to justice. If obstacles to justice persisted and perpetrators avoided accountability, trafficking would continue unabated. Measures should be taken to ensure equity and equality for migrants in countries of destination, particularly on the labour market, to integrate them into society and empower them to support themselves financially. Countries of destination should be supported in their efforts to provide opportunities for social, cultural and economic integration for migrants.

Ms. F. Masiko (South Africa) said that trafficking in persons remained a serious crime that made significant illegal profit. Child labour was also affecting 160 million children worldwide. Women and girls were the prevailing victims of trafficking, the persistence of which was facilitated by gaps in legislation and impunity for perpetrators. Trafficking knew no borders. Cooperation must therefore be strengthened between national law enforcement agencies to prevent, investigate and prosecute such crimes, and to share information relating to victims and perpetrators. Strong extradition treaties were required; South Africa had entered into bilateral extradition treaties with 18 other countries. Social and labour protection frameworks must be strengthened by eliminating barriers that increased people's vulnerability to slavery and exploitation and by providing protection to victims by ensuring access to secure shelters, health services, including reproductive health services, psychosocial counselling and legal assistance. Policies in that regard must decrease the risk of further traumatization and of being re-trafficked. Nongovernmental organizations should be included in efforts to educate and inform the public about trafficking in persons.

South Africa remained a destination country for several categories of migrants and faced numerous challenges in that regard, including those posed by transnational criminal syndicates that smuggled and trafficked drugs and people. Traffickers increasingly used social media to lure their victims to urban centres in South Africa, including by posting fake job advertisements. Legislation had therefore been enacted to prevent trafficking in persons by, among others, domesticating the provisions of the relevant international instruments to which South Africa was party. Annual reports were submitted to Parliament on implementation of legislation and on the number of cases of trafficking. Legislative enactments included provisions on the modalities for arresting and prosecuting perpetrators of trafficking and providing support services for victims. Every effort was required to end human suffering caused by trafficking, assist survivors and bring those responsible to account.

Ms. J. Mahmood (Maldives) said that human trafficking and human rights abuses arising from migration could only be tackled with political will and genuine intentions to collaborate at the international level. In host countries, national legal frameworks must reflect the international commitments undertaken by governments to combat trafficking in persons. Parliamentarians had an important role in that regard, in particular by encouraging the ratification of the relevant international instruments, through implementation of which governments would be subject to appropriate monitoring by international organizations. The oversight role of parliaments must be enhanced, in particular by establishing new parliamentary committees, or strengthening existing ones to address human trafficking. Budget analysis to assess how the State spent to address human trafficking and to tackle the root causes of mass migration was essential. Parliaments also had a role in facilitating dialogue between the State and rights holders. Climate change-related migration and asylum seeking must be reflected in international law. The relationship between corruption and good governance must also be addressed to combat trafficking. Parliaments had a role in ensuring that mechanisms to prevent trafficking were rooted in good governance and were corruption-free.

Ms. K. Hajjoubi (Arab Parliament) said that migration was a significant humanitarian concern. People were fleeing conflict and seeking safe and decent living and working conditions. In 2020, the world's migrants had totalled some 281 million, many of whom were subjected to a slew of human rights violations. The COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated the situation by increasing poverty and depleting the resources of host countries many of which were developing countries struggling to shoulder the burden of migration flows. Trafficking was controlled by organized crime networks, and victims often died in transit. Tackling the issue was a complex challenge with political, social, economic and legal aspects. The preparation of the draft resolution was timely and welcome. It should pay due attention to: addressing the root causes of migration, in particular economic migration; mobilizing international efforts to support sending countries' sustainable development efforts; and underlining the need to achieve political, compromise solutions to conflict.

Mr. A. Savinykh (Belarus) said that the paragraph of the concept note referring to the "standoff witnessed at the Belarus–Polish border in 2021" presented the situation with bias and distortion and was considered by the Belarusian delegation to constitute defamation. In the summer of 2021, Belarus had been hit by an unprecedented wave of immigration. To control the influx of migrants, Belarus had stopped issuing tourist visas in six countries. Measures had been taken to target trafficking; 16 individuals had been arrested, none of whom were Belarusian citizens. The migration policy of Belarus with regard to the European Union had been governed by the readmission agreement which had entered into force in 2020. However, some six months prior to the migrant influx, the European Union had stopped cooperating and communicating with the Government of Belarus on the implementation of that agreement. The aim of the action taken by the Government of Belarus had therefore been to signal to organizers of trafficking that they must find a new route to cross into the European Union. The causes of the increase in migration should be considered, in particular the various military operations conducted by NATO member countries in developing countries, which had increased migration flows.

Mr. M.H. Alfazy (Afghanistan) said that, in collaboration with the international community, over the previous 20 years significant strides had been made in development, freedom of expression and respect for human rights in Afghanistan, with women playing an active role in a variety of sectors and girls accounting for 38 per cent of students. Yet those victories had been lost overnight and the people of Afghanistan had been abandoned. The gates of schools and universities had been closed to women and girls indefinitely. Women had lost access to their most basic rights. Poverty rates had reached 98 per cent. Around 100,000 people had been evacuated by various States, some of whom were still in transit. More than 500,000 had fled, and hundreds of thousands more were waiting to

leave. Extreme poverty had forced families to sell their young children or force them into early marriage. Trafficking in persons had increased. The situation as described in the international media was only a fraction of the extent to which the Afghan people were suffering. The situation was unacceptable. Measures must be taken as a matter of urgency; the international community had thus far only issued statements, rather than taking affirmative action. Lack of response to the rise of the Taliban would lead to extremism in the future. The IPU should recognize the situation of Afghanistan and include it explicitly in the draft resolution. The Taliban should not be recognized as the leaders of Afghanistan; they did not represent the Afghan people.

Mr. I. Mouzalas (Greece) said that war was a complex humanitarian crisis. The war in Ukraine had given rise to the largest refugee crisis in Europe since the Second World War. Yet war was only one cause of humanitarian crisis. In 2015, the rise of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) had led to a significant refugee crisis. To respond to the crisis in Ukraine, European borders had been opened, humanitarian visas were being granted and transportation and relocation were being organized, unlike in 2015, when refugees had been obliged to remain in the first country of reception, of which Greece had been one, and transport to Europe had been limited to deadly boat trips. The countries that had, at that time, insisted on refugees staying in countries of first reception had now become first reception countries in the Ukraine crisis. A refugee was a refugee, irrespective of country of origin. The IPU must spread that message. Responding to refugee crises was a worldwide responsibility. A combination of humanitarian visas and relocation arrangements was crucial. The lack of a generally accepted legal definition of “climate refugee” was particularly worrying; without it, climate refugees were considered irregular or illegal migrants. That must be rectified as a matter of urgency, in a collaborative approach at the international level; the IPU should work with the United Nations, in particular the IOM and UNHCR to that end. The rule of law must be respected.

Mr. K. Jayawardena (Sri Lanka) said that on Easter Sunday 2019, three Catholic churches and three hotels had been attacked; the Government had failed to conduct transparent investigations and had not brought the perpetrators to justice. The international community should call for justice for the victims of those attacks.

Mr. S.R. Rasamanickam (Sri Lanka) said that, with regard to democracy and human rights in general, human rights were not respected in Sri Lanka and violations were not discussed. The Tamil people, in particular, had long been subjected to discrimination and violations of their rights. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they had been prohibited from burying their dead and had been forced to cremate the bodies of Tamil victims of COVID-19. Many Tamil activists had been arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, a draconian law that had been used to persecute people who were opposed to the Government; it allowed people to be remanded in custody for many years, without any charges being brought against them. The political opposition, with public support, had called for the Act to be repealed. The IPU should pay close attention to democracy and human rights in South-East Asia.

Mr. K. Ait Mik (Morocco) said that four years had passed since the adoption, in Marrakech, of the GCM, the implementation of which was crucial to the international community's approach to migrants and migration. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and increasing armed conflict were deeply worrying and were having a significant impact on migration. The vulnerability of women and children to the worst types of discrimination was increasing. An efficient and effective, human rights-based approach to the migration crisis, in line with the SDGs, must therefore be taken as a matter of urgency. Governments and parliaments must work in partnership to report on progress in implementing the Marrakech Compact under the universal periodic review process before the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) and thereby consider the progress made. Morocco was a country of destination for migrants from Africa and Asia. The African Union had recognized King Mohammed VI of Morocco as a pioneer for migration in the African region.

Ms. J. Sabao (Zambia) said that given the complex nature of mass migration, reaching a global consensus on how to tackle the cross-cutting issues surrounding it remained a difficult and daunting task. While the GCM was not legally binding, it presented a significant opportunity to improve migration governance. Parliaments had a key role in ensuring implementation of the GCM through a multistakeholder approach, and in overseeing appropriate implementation of relevant laws and international agreements for the protection of migrants. Parliaments should also lobby the executive to include the needs of migrants, refugees and forcibly displaced persons in their planning with respect to legislating and budgeting. Migration could have a negative impact on countries of origin and

destination alike. Migrants who were forcibly displaced by conflicts, economic crises, natural disasters, fear of persecution and the search for a higher standard of living, could fall prey to trafficking and other human rights abuses. Parliaments had a central role to play in ensuring that migration was contained and that citizens' rights were safeguarded.

Ms. A. Gerkens (Netherlands) said that migration would continue as long as people needed to flee war and conflict. Many women and children were taken into the hands of traffickers who subjected them to terrible crimes, in particular sexual abuse and exploitation. Parliaments must step up to fight the scourge. Climate change would indeed displace vast numbers of people which would impact not only their lives but also the lives of the host communities in which they sought refuge. Climate change must be stabilized. Efforts must also be made to prepare for large influxes of migrants, in particular to ensure that they were afforded an opportunity to access education and employment, and were able to integrate into the host society. The root causes of mass migration must be addressed; refugees, wherever they went, placed a financial strain on countries of destination. That burden must be shared by the whole world.

Mr. D. Carden (United Kingdom) said that he was member of parliament for Liverpool, a city that had a history of welcoming migrants from all over the world. Forced migration flows, which were already significant, would only grow as the risk of climate catastrophe increased, inequalities burgeoned and conflict raged. As legislators, parliamentarians must not only consider how they represented their own constituents but also how to address the challenges faced by migrants the world over. There were some 281 million displaced people in the world. The populist rhetoric that prevailed in politics must be challenged, and parliaments must make humanitarian and economic arguments in favour of migrants. Anyone who made their home somewhere other than their country of origin would be able to live a fulfilling life and contribute fully to society if given the tools and support to do so.

Mr. M. Karakaya (Türkiye) said that the global migration crisis could only be solved through international cooperation. The Government of Türkiye supported all international cooperation mechanisms for combating human trafficking and took active measures to ensure the full implementation of UNTOC. A continuous, progressive and comprehensive approach was being taken to combat human trafficking, focusing on prevention, protection, prosecution and cooperation. Trafficking in persons had been included in the Code of Criminal Procedure; 20,000 public officials, including judges, prosecutors, law enforcement personnel, academics, students and volunteers had been trained in matters related to trafficking in persons, largely in cooperation with international and civil society organizations, including the IOM, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development and UNHCR. Despite the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Turkish experts had interviewed 8,000 potential victims of human trafficking in 2021. Many traffickers had taken advantage of the pandemic to expand their criminal activities. Information- and experience-sharing between countries was essential.

Ms. S. Ezdi (Pakistan) said that migration was occurring all over the world and had diverse consequences for different nations, communities and economies. Despite the efforts made by parliaments the world over to take appropriate legislative and policy measures to tackle forced migration, human rights violations persisted and knew no borders. Partnerships and cooperation were therefore crucial. Parliaments around the world must address the root causes of displacement, strengthen institutions and promote good governance in countries of origin of forced displacement, and must work to promote international solidarity on migration- and asylum-related matters. The GCM covered all aspects of migration in a comprehensive and holistic manner. Public awareness and education in countries of destination were crucial for enhancing attitudes towards refugees and fostering their integration into host communities. The number of international migrants in the Asia-Pacific region had grown to 65 million in 2019, while almost 107 million people from the region lived outside their countries of birth in 2019, representing almost 40 per cent of the world's migrants. Pakistan was home to about 3 million Afghans, including more than 200,000 children aged under 5 years. Half of that number were registered as refugees with the United Nations. Legislation had been enacted in Pakistan to prevent the smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air, promote and facilitate international cooperation, and afford protection to victims.

Mr. M. Ilabaca (Chile) said that forced migration was a complex issue which must be addressed in a systematic and comprehensive manner through international cooperation. Chile had a population of 19 million, including 1.5 million migrants who had arrived over the course of the previous 10 years. Significant efforts had been required to adapt to the influx. The Constitution of Chile was currently

undergoing amendment, with due consideration being given to the issue of migration and guaranteeing universal respect for human rights. Human mobility was a global phenomenon which required a multilateral response. Wars continued to rage the world over, some, such as in Palestine, for decades. The climate crisis would also have a significant impact on mobility. Cooperation was crucial for tackling the related challenges. The GCM must be implemented for the benefit of all people, all over the world.

Mr. H.A. Al-Ahmar (Yemen) said that war had been raging for several years in Yemen. The United Nations had continually failed to sanction the countries involved, in particular the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Arab Emirates, thus increasing and prolonging the suffering of the Yemeni people. The humanitarian assistance and support from the international community intended for Yemeni refugees in camps in areas controlled by the Houthi terrorists was being diverted and not reaching those in need. Such aid should be increased and better directed to those in need and not sent into the hands of terrorists. The international community should offer its support to the Parliament of Yemen, which was working in dire circumstances, and to the people of Yemen, in particular women and children, whose suffering continued. Egypt had hosted the largest number of the displaced from Yemen. A small number of Yemenis had been granted “visitor” status in Saudi Arabia, but they required better access to medical care and improved living conditions.

Mr. K. Mandandi (Zambia) said that the Government of Zambia had taken measures to prohibit human trafficking through a 2005 amendment to the Criminal Code, which provided for at least 25 years’ imprisonment for perpetrators. Efforts to prevent trafficking focused on tackling its root causes; poverty in particular could drive people to become traffickers, and could drive families to sell their children into labour. Traffickers worked under the guise of offering money before enslaving their victims. To counter the temptation to be lured into trafficking, the Government of Zambia had launched a women and youth empowerment policy, providing start-up capital to create employment and lift people out of poverty. Education was also a priority; families were being encouraged to send their children school, with bursaries provided for vulnerable students. Conflict and natural disaster resulted in economic instability and violations of human rights; people’s vulnerability was increased and traffickers took advantage of the situation. The peaceful resolution of conflicts was crucial.

Ms. A. Al Shaman (Saudi Arabia) said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hosted more than two million Yemeni migrants. They were all considered visitors, and all enjoyed freedom of movement, access to education and employment, and access to health care, irrespective of whether they had been granted a residence permit. The cost of the support being provided to those migrants was significant; Saudi Arabia was shouldering a heavy burden.

Ms. M.M. Alameri (United Arab Emirates) said that she agreed that the people of Yemen were suffering. She disagreed, however, that the United Arab Emirates had increased that suffering. The United Arab Emirates had provided aid to the people of Yemen. It did not wish to be brought into any disagreement between the political factions in Yemen. The humanitarian suffering resulting from the situation in Yemen had been ongoing for several years and must be brought to an end.

Mr. F. Zon (Indonesia), co-Rapporteur, thanked all participants for their contributions and said that migration affected the whole world and was becoming increasingly complex. There were several key problems: trafficking, smuggling, gender-based discrimination, violence and sexual exploitation. Women and children were the main victims of those human rights abuses. Every country had a different experience of tackling the problems related to migration, but all were united in their commitment to ensuring respect for the human rights of the most vulnerable and marginalized. It had been particularly interesting to hear the different examples of initiatives taken at the national level to combat trafficking. The resolution to be adopted by the IPU would take a general, inclusive and holistic approach, in line with the relevant international legal instruments, and would focus on international cooperation and the role of parliaments in improving migration governance, taking account of the perspective of countries of origin, transit and destination.

Mr. U. Lechte (Germany), co-Rapporteur, said that every effort would be made to integrate all of the aspects raised during the discussion into the draft resolution.

All politicians had their own interpretation of the truth and facts, but blatant lying was not acceptable. The Belarusian representative’s explanation of the motivation his country’s authorities for transporting 70,000 refugees to the forest on the Polish border was simply not believable. The passage in the concept note had been specifically drafted to address that situation.

The burden on host countries, which were often developing countries, with respect to providing the requisite services for refugees and migrants was significant. The G20 should mobilize the budget and financing for the humanitarian aid required throughout the world.

The sitting rose at 13:05.

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 23 MARCH

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 9:45 with Mr. A. Gajadien (Suriname), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

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

Ms. G. Jourda (France), panellist, said that the COVID-19 health crisis had put parliaments to the test. The social distancing measures imposed could have brought parliamentary debate to a halt thus impeding the functioning of national assemblies. However, parliament was the guardian of fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of movement, freedom to trade and freedom of assembly. It must therefore continue to exercise its powers even in such urgent and serious circumstances.

The powers of the French Parliament had been limited during the crisis. For instance, the decision to close public places and put restrictions on travel had been made by executive ordinance without involvement of the Parliament. Nevertheless, the Parliament had quickly realized the need to take back the lead. It had set limits on the Prime Minister by restricting the scope and duration of his powers. It had continued to exercise its budgetary powers as well as its power to hold the government to account in parliamentary sessions. Both chambers had set up commissions of inquiry to identify failures and gaps in public policy during the crisis.

Governments could not be allowed to act alone without checks or balances. In France, technology had been very helpful in maintaining parliamentary debate during the pandemic with many meetings held by videoconference. That said, parliamentarians had been obliged to vote in person since distance voting had not been provided for in French legislation. In those cases, the number of staff present had been reduced in accordance with the health measures in place.

Authoritarian regimes were posing an increasingly significant threat to democracy. As a result, parliaments must be able to fully exercise their functions both in the legislative arena and in the control of government. In times of crisis, it was better to convince populations through free and transparent debate rather than through force or intimidation.

Mr. Y. Leterme (former Prime Minister of Belgium and Chair of the Global Commission on Democracy and Emergencies), panellist, speaking via video message, said that health was a crucial value which must be protected by public authorities. It must, however, be protected in accordance with democracy, democratic scrutiny and civil liberties. Unfortunately, democracy and human rights had been directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. States must make the necessary legal, institutional and operational reforms to ensure a steadier response to future emergencies. Resilient democracies with a capacity for development, self-correction and innovation were essential in times of emergency. It was particularly important to protect checks and balances, civil liberties and the rule of law.

Parliaments were key to the healthy functioning of democratic systems but had suffered greatly during the pandemic. The introduction of a state of emergency in many countries had shifted power to the executive, which, in combination with the disruption of parliamentary activities, had weakened parliamentary powers. Nevertheless, parliaments had also shown strong adaptability and resilience, leading in some cases to increased efficiency, transparency, inclusion and innovation.

Parliaments must keep functioning in times of emergency. He encouraged parliaments to conduct an in-depth post-hoc evaluation of their government's COVID-19 response as well as a review of the legal and constitutional framework for emergencies. The framework must adequately reflect the risks of the twenty-first century and provide sufficient safeguards to mitigate the risk of abuse of emergency powers. Parliaments should ensure that their emergency preparedness plans allowed for effective legislative oversight during emergencies with flexible rules of procedure, swift structures for legislative work and a ready capacity to embrace digital technologies. There was also a need to build upon the digital tools developed during the pandemic, thus creating new and wider channels for engagement with civil society and citizens, including with underrepresented groups such as women

and young people. Political institutions and policy-making processes should be redesigned to facilitate citizens' inputs during emergencies, particularly when there were rights dilemmas or when new concepts of rights emerged. Lastly, state institutions, including parliaments, should comply with international legal obligations and human rights standards at all times in their emergency response. Any measures restricting human rights must be proportionate, temporary, rooted in law and applied equitably.

Mr. L.O. Gostin (Professor of Global Health Law at Georgetown University), panellist, said that an unprecedented degree of restrictions and mandates had been imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic. They included lockdowns, school closures and travel bans as well as mandates for masks, social distancing and vaccination. Many countries, particularly in Asia, had introduced very intrusive surveillance, such as tracking applications. In that context, it was important to identify the appropriate balance between individual liberties and the common good. It was clear that both were necessary. The question was how to balance them. The pandemic had seen some authoritarian leaders grab power in the name of emergency with no justification. He encouraged politicians to uphold the rule of law, protect human rights and defend the common good all at the same time.

There was a need to follow five principles in balancing individual liberties with the common good. First, States must not interfere with individual liberties unless absolutely necessary to prevent significant risk of harm to the public. Second, any intervention used must be based on data and evidence. Politicians should use their best judgment in the event of scientific uncertainty. Third, cultivating public trust in science and in scientific agencies was also important. Fourth, States must always choose the least restrictive alternative. Fifth, fairness and equity were key. Sadly, the COVID-19 pandemic had only amplified existing inequities with rich countries hoarding scarce medical resources, for instance. Overall, leaders must lead in ways that were wise, fair, impartial, evidence-based, attentive to the public good but ever vigilant of human rights and justice.

Ms. M.M. Alameri (United Arab Emirates) said that the world had been caught off-guard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Conflicting medical information had decreased public trust in governments. Yet, more trust was needed to ensure a smoother recovery. The pandemic had posed a challenge to the basic rights and needs of individuals, including health, food and education. The United Arab Emirates had therefore taken measures to preserve those rights and needs. It had, for example, enacted a new public health law in 2020. Parliaments had a key role to play in preserving individual rights during a crisis. It was important for parliaments, governments, international organizations and civil society to exchange experiences globally.

Ms. A. Nassif Ayyoub (Egypt) said that the COVID-19 pandemic had revealed a tension between protecting the public good and maintaining individual rights and freedoms. Many citizens had rejected the restrictions in place leading to a divide between governments and the people. It was the role of parliaments to act as intermediaries and build trust.

Governments must strike the right balance between the public good and individual freedoms in emergency circumstances. Countries should remedy any gaps in legislation on emergencies and determine the powers of the executive during a crisis. Plans should be in place to provide for essential needs such as food and medical care. Parliamentarians should work with civil society and media organizations to raise awareness among individuals about their rights and obligations in times of emergency.

Ms. A. Al Shaman (Saudi Arabia) said that governments must evaluate whether their COVID-19 pandemic responses had found the right balance between individual freedoms and the common good. International law allowed for some restrictions to be imposed on rights in light of the threat to health during a pandemic. However, those restrictions must be evidence-based, non-discriminatory, temporary and proportionate. Parliament should help maintain the abovementioned balance through its legislative and oversight capacities.

It was important to apply a number of principles when introducing restrictive measures. First, transparency was key so that citizens could be kept up to date with all relevant information, including the timeframe for the measures. Second, life must go back to normal as soon as possible. Third, all citizens must have access to the necessary services without discrimination, including treatment and decent accommodation. It was particularly important to support marginalized groups, such as prisoners. Finding alternatives to imprisonment could help curb the spread of a virus. For instance, parliamentarians might wish to release those prisoners whose sentences were about to expire or who had committed small crimes. Fourth, countries should do their utmost to alleviate the economic impact

of the restrictions, for instance, by issuing economic support or incentives. It was estimated that 38 per cent of the global work force would lose their job as a result of the pandemic and were therefore in need of protection. Fifth, collecting reliable data about a pandemic was also important.

Saudi Arabia had overcome the pandemic by enacting a series of laws on health and finance and by vaccinating a large proportion of its population (95%).

Mr. A.K. Althawadi (Bahrain) said that Bahrain had managed to curb the pandemic without prejudice to human rights. It had taken measures not only to reduce the economic impact of the crisis but also to provide medical and educational services. Citizens had received the necessary support and treatment without discrimination and vaccinations were available to all free of charge. The Government had paid particular attention to women, children and the elderly in its pandemic response while also maintaining the rights of workers and preserving food security. Regular consultations had taken place between the executive and legislative authorities with meetings held on a weekly basis. Parliament had contributed to the response by enacting legislation related to human rights, economic support, social security and education. It was thanks to the above measures that Bahrain had been able to overcome the pandemic.

Mr. A. Abdaljalil (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the Constitution of Syria guaranteed human rights and public freedoms alike. It underlined that all Syrians were equal in terms of their rights and obligations.

The Syrian people had suffered greatly as a result of the war and the pandemic had only added to that suffering. The Government was doing everything possible to address the situation with the support of some friendly countries and international organizations. A government task force had been set up to ensure that the right health care measures were in place while also working towards a swift return to economic activity. It was vital to put an end to the embargo against Syria which had exacerbated the suffering of the Syrian people during the pandemic.

Mr. F. Zon (Indonesia) said that the impact of restrictive health measures should be assessed on a case-by-case basis since the situation differed from country to country. Some countries had preferred stricter measures, such as full lockdowns, while others were less restrictive, putting in place optional health protocols.

Health protection and civil liberties should not be seen as contradictory and governments had a responsibility to ensure both. It was true that restrictive health measures could undermine human rights, including freedom of movement and freedom of assembly. However, such measures were justified when they intended to protect the greater good.

The role of parliaments was critical in the COVID-19 pandemic response. Parliaments should conduct oversight over government policies to ensure they were in line with democratic principles and good governance. Parliamentary oversight was particularly important in times of pandemic when governments were often forced to take measures quickly, without legislative consultation, which could weaken democracy. Restrictive measures were, nevertheless, acceptable as long as they were rational, effective, accountable, temporary and based on justice and equality.

The House of Representatives of Indonesia had maintained intensive communication with the Government during the pandemic. Meetings had been conducted in a hybrid way, both in person and in virtual format. He encouraged parliaments to make use of information and communication technologies (ICT) to fulfil their oversight and legislative functions. In doing so, they would preserve the freedom to communicate and build more innovative channels to interact with citizens.

Mr. S. Zafar Islam (India) said that the COVID-19 pandemic posed a challenge not only to public health systems but also to the values on which many countries were built. It was important to consider how to balance public health and civil liberties. Restrictive measures such as mandatory quarantine and physical distancing must be subject to rigorous safeguards, such as parliamentary and judicial oversight. They must also be based on a scientific assessment of risk and effectiveness. It was the duty of lawmakers to foster trust among the population and convince people that any decisions made were in their best interests.

India had taken protective measures in the interests of the community while continuing to promote the attainment of liberty and development for all. The country had had many developmental successes, including initiatives for sustainable, inclusive and green development, which had contributed immensely to the ability of its citizens to enjoy basic human rights during the pandemic. India had also helped the world as a whole by providing medicine and vaccines to more than 150 countries. The right to live with dignity as well as the right to health were both guaranteed under article 21 of the Constitution.

Parliaments must ensure the full participation of all stakeholders in decision-making, particularly during the pandemic. Parliamentary oversight powers were more important than ever. Parliaments should review their COVID-19 pandemic responses and plan further actions in the areas of governance, economics, development, healthcare and education.

Mr. A. Rezaee (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the spread of COVID-19 pandemic had wreaked economic, social and political havoc on societies around the world. Governments had been forced to apply restrictive measures that often limited social freedoms and sidelined democracy. Parliaments could play a crucial role in protecting human rights in such situations. They should enact legislation that took into account lessons learned to reduce the impact of any future emergencies. Developing countries tended to be more adversely affected by pandemics and were thus more likely to apply harsher restrictions. International cooperation and support were needed to provide those countries with better health care infrastructure. They would thus be able to balance health protections with fundamental freedoms more effectively.

Ms. G. Jourda (France), panellist, said that parliamentarians should identify the role they wished to play in future pandemics since many had felt marginalized during the COVID-19 crisis. It was clear that parliamentarians should be involved in the decision-making processes and work together on the response. Indeed, it was only when parliamentarians from across France and even across Europe had started working together that it had been possible to address shortages of vaccines, masks and medicines.

It was important to learn lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic. Many countries had failed to achieve the right balance between health measures and civil liberties and should therefore rethink the way things were done. For example, it had been harrowing to see many families denied access to their older relatives. There was also a need to listen to health professionals. The problem during the COVID-19 pandemic had been that the health professionals had not been unanimous, making it difficult for parliamentarians to draw conclusions. Parliamentarians must have the power to hold their governments to account and propose changes to legislation. They must be wary of imposing any kind of “health dictatorship” on their citizens. Laws should be reviewed to make sure they were in harmony with reality. Better equality was also needed with regard to access to care, vaccines and support.

Ms. J. Mahmood (Maldives) said that the Maldives Parliament was one of the first in the world to go virtual when the pandemic had struck. By going virtual, Parliament had managed to conduct close oversight of the national COVID-19 response and monitor the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic, particularly on vulnerable groups. As a result, it had been able to strongly influence policy decisions and support the executive through budgetary and legislative interventions.

The Human Rights and Gender Committee of the Maldives Parliament had been tasked with monitoring the response through a human rights and gender lens. However, it had been difficult to arrive at a formula that maintained utmost respect for human rights at risk of restriction. The committee had decided that any restrictions imposed on civil liberties must pass the tests of legality, proportionality, necessity and accountability. The COVID-19 emergency law had been scrutinized under those criteria. The law had been subject to periodic revision and required monitoring mechanisms to be put in place. Parliament had also provided space for civil society organizations and human rights defenders to conduct duties of monitoring and reporting.

A number of points should be considered to ensure utmost respect for civil liberties. First, parliaments, including the oversight committees, must function. Part of their role was to debate extensively before restricting a civil liberty. Second, participation of citizens should be ensured through digital connectivity, including through affordable or free access to internet. Third, the measures imposed must pass the tests of legality, proportionality, necessity and accountability as described above.

Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia) highlighted the sense of risk involved in restricting civil liberties. There were, for example, mental health challenges that must be considered. In addition to the health crisis, countries had been forced to confront a crisis of misinformation. Contradictory ideas circulating in the media had led to mixed views amongst Australians about what was an appropriate response. The challenge of balancing safety with civil liberties had been a very contested issue in Australia and remained subject to considerable reconsideration even after the fact. The challenge had been particularly acute in aged care settings. Parliamentarians must do everything in their power to ensure fair and equitable access to vaccines and medical treatments. They must also pay more attention to education. Education was a fundamental civil liberty that had come under threat during the pandemic, particularly among young women.

Ms. J. Sabao (Zambia) said that pandemics posed a challenge not only to public health systems but also to the basic values on which many countries were built, bringing about an enormous spectrum of legal, ethical and public health dilemmas. The COVID-19 pandemic was a case in point. Some of the measures aimed at curbing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, such as quarantine, isolation and social distancing, had had a negative impact on civil liberties. Parliaments had a responsibility to balance health measures with civil liberties and should do so using their core functions, namely legislation, oversight, representation and budgeting. Above all, they should make sure that government actions were in line with agreed health guidelines and that citizens were affected fairly and justly in the given circumstances.

Mr. A. Suwanmongkol (Thailand) said that the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic had spread concern around the world about civil rights violations made by executive powers. In some cases, governments had enforced excessive, disproportionate, unjustified and prolonged emergency measures, such as lockdowns, quarantine and border shutdowns, which had curbed civil and political rights and weakened the rule of law. The situation could have long-term impacts with the potential to undermine social cohesion, trust in governments and solidarity between citizens. Young people had played a leading role in mass protests globally, fighting for change in governance structures and for improvements in economic equality and democratic inclusion.

Parliaments could be a beacon of hope in the current climate by helping to maintain a balance between health measures and civil liberties. They should hold the government to account and ensure transparency of all emergency measures. They should protect democracy and human rights by guaranteeing freedom of expression, including freedom of press, so that information could be disseminated without suppression. Together with media and technology companies, parliaments should counter fake news with accurate, clear, evidence-based information. They must also make sure that emergency powers were not used to curb dissent, silence human rights defenders or implement any measures that were not strictly necessary.

Ms. A. Gerken (Netherlands) expressed her concern at the way that health measures were being executed. At the beginning of the pandemic, many people in the Netherlands had stood with the Government in light of uncertainty but had later withdrawn their support due to the way the measures had been executed. For instance, the health care workers advising the Government had been influenced by the Government itself which had resulted in an unobjective policy. Certain measures had even increased the rate of infections.

During the pandemic, the Parliament of the Netherlands had seen many of its rights taken away. For example, the Senate's role in conducting checks and balances had been completely cut out for fear that emergency laws would not pass. There was also a very obvious divide in opinion among the public and among politicians. Those who supported the Government were considered to be in favour of fighting the COVID-19 pandemic while those who did not support the Government were seen to be denying the existence of a pandemic. Such divisions made it difficult for politicians to question government actions. That said, an inquiry would be conducted into how the pandemic had been handled. The COVID-19 pandemic had not been the first pandemic and it would not be the last. It was important to identify mistakes and take lessons learned into the future.

The pandemic was not over yet. It was shameful that developed countries were hoarding vaccines and leaving many developing countries in the lurch. The developed world must do more to accelerate vaccination programmes around the globe and not just in their own countries.

The sitting rose at 11:35.

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 23 MARCH

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 14:45, with Ms. S.A. Noor (Kenya), President of the Bureau of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

(C-IV/144/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held at the 143rd IPU Assembly in Madrid (November 2021)

The summary record was approved.

The UN field presence in support of national development: the case of Indonesia

The President, introducing the item, said that the UN System was present in most developing countries in the form of a UN Country Team (UNCT), headed by a Resident Coordinator. The UNCT managed a portfolio of development projects agreed with the Government of the country concerned and funded through a combination of budgetary and extrabudgetary resources. The Resident Coordinator represented the UN Secretary-General in each country and was responsible, among other things, for relations with that country's Government and with, where possible, the national parliament.

Over the years, the IPU had advocated for a closer relationship between UNCTs and parliaments in host countries as a way of building stronger accountability and buy-in for UN development work. Building an organic relationship between the two was not always easy owing to such factors as lack of resources and fears of political interference. In the discussion to follow, the case of Indonesia would be presented to illustrate the key institutional processes involved and the fieldwork carried out by the United Nations.

A video outlining the priorities of the development programmes and initiatives encompassed by the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) in Indonesia was played.

Mr. J.M. Kazi (Representative and Liaison to the Association of Southeastern Nations (ASEAN), UN Women Indonesia), presenter, speaking on behalf of the Resident Coordinator in Indonesia, Ms. Valerie Julliard, and accompanying his remarks with a series of digital slides, said that, as in most countries with a UN field presence, Indonesia had a UNCT led by a full-time Resident Coordinator. By means of a five-year UNSDCF, the UNCT was supporting the country towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, following in that regard the approach of leaving no one behind. The UNCT also complemented the important legislative and oversight role of parliamentarians, whose feedback and input were always welcome.

Currently unique to Indonesia but eventually to be rolled out elsewhere, the new UN Indonesia Document Repository, or DOMES, was a knowledge management portal where documentation about the activities of the many UN agencies working in Indonesia could be accessed. The UN Indonesia Outreach Repository – commonly known as OURS – performed a similar function as a gateway for sharing information on all high-level events organized by UN agencies in Indonesia. Both repositories were accessible to the public.

Ms. T. Boonto (Country Director, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Indonesia), presenter, continuing her colleague's remarks, said that the UN agencies in Indonesia worked in their respective areas of expertise with the Indonesian Parliament and local counterparts, covering a diverse range of issues, including environment, immigration, women's leadership and representation, reproductive health, prevention of gender-based violence, and protection of people living with HIV and of key populations most at risk of HIV.

With respect to leaving no one behind, a joint inter-agency programme on adaptive social protection for all was being implemented to enhance the responsiveness of existing social protection systems to climate-related and other disasters to which Indonesia was vulnerable. Inter-agency cooperation in Indonesia was further exemplified by the Guyub project, which was aimed at tackling the threat of violent extremism in East Java by strengthening the capacity to promote inclusiveness and engender resilience against violent extremist narratives.

As to UNAIDS in Indonesia, where only 26 per cent of the half a million people living with HIV received life-saving antiretroviral treatment, it was working to address the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV, create an enabling environment for an effective HIV response, and support parliamentarians to replace harmful laws that criminalized marginalized groups with laws that were empowering. The UN in Indonesia was also engaged in joint advocacy and campaigns for inclusion, in which context it had pledged not to participate in any panels that were all male.

In sum, there were many lessons and opportunities for working with parliamentarians, among others, to shape policies and laws for SDG attainment. UNCTs brought rich and varied experiences upon which parliaments could draw to strengthen national policies, to which end closer engagement through the Resident Coordinator system and with individual UN agencies could only be beneficial.

Mr. M.A. Sera (Indonesia), presenter, accompanying his remarks on Indonesian parliamentary interaction with the UN System with a series of digital slides, said that his country's relationship with the United Nations had begun soon after Indonesia had officially become its 60th Member State in 1950. Indonesia continued to play an active role in working for global peace and order, including as a major contributor to UN peacekeeping troops. At the country level, the mutually beneficial donor relationship with the United Nations had evolved into a strategic partnership for accelerating the transformation of Indonesia to a high-income economy. Under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, the UNCT currently provided policy advice, technical support and knowledge-sharing in respect of the priorities outlined in the five-year UNSDCF for Indonesia.

The Indonesian Parliament engaged with the United Nations through a series of discussion forums on ways forward to a better and more sustainable future for all, to which end it was striving to strengthen its legislative, budgetary and oversight functions. In cooperation with UN partners, an SDG dashboard had been established to indicate local progress within the country towards the achievement of the SDGs. Collaboration with the United Nations continued to help parliamentarians in dealing with the impact of COVID-19 and the inequalities that it had exposed. Such support was essential to building forward better after the pandemic so as to achieve the SDGs. In that context, he cited the capacity development programmes offered by the SDG Academy Indonesia, which had been visited by UN representatives working in the country.

The President, inviting questions from the floor, said that it would be instructive to learn about the frequency of any meetings that had taken place between parliamentarians and the Resident Coordinator in their countries, as well as about the type of support or advice provided.

Mr. M. Fathi (Islamic Republic of Iran), confirming that he had met and received positive support from the Resident Coordinator in his country, said that national parliaments had a significant role to play in safeguarding multilateralism – vital to international peace and security, cooperation and development – and in countering unilateralism, which jeopardized UN achievements. The UN System supported development by creating platforms for dialogue, setting norms, conceptualizing needs and requirements, and facilitating, mobilizing and transferring resources and knowledge to developing countries. To further improve living standards, that system must be strengthened along with multilateralism more generally, which implied the expansion of South-South cooperation to include, among others, technical cooperation, technology transfer, trade and investment. Such expansion must also be coupled with North-South cooperation towards desirable global outcomes. Operating on the principles of respect for national sovereignty, non-conditionality and adequate and predictable funding, the UN development system could deliver its services in many important spheres.

Mr. P. Katjavivi (Namibia), citing the field visit conducted that morning to UN-funded projects in Bali as an example of the wonderful work under way in collaboration with the United Nations, said that it would be interesting to know how parliamentary bodies in Indonesia dealing with the SDGs were constituted.

Mr. C. Chauvel (Global Lead and Asia-Pacific Focal Point, Inclusive Processes and Institutions, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)), speaking from his standpoint as a former parliamentarian and current UN official, said that there was an opportunity to work with the UNCTs to highlight their importance as a bridge between their constituents and the United Nations. Resident

Coordinators may not be fully aware of the vital work of parliaments. Parliaments could benefit from UNCT knowledge. He encouraged parliamentarians to contact their respective UNCTs, Resident Coordinators and, with respect to specific issues, the relevant UN agency if represented in their country.

Mr. V. Tsvangirai (Zimbabwe) asked about the current status of global AIDS research and how soon there was likely to be an effective treatment for AIDS, as well as about the legalization of sex work in different countries.

Mr. A. Savinykh (Belarus) said that the inspiring presentations had provided food for thought about how to strengthen cooperation between UNCTs and parliaments. All Belarusian parliamentarians were keen to support development projects in their respective constituencies. Many such projects chimed with the development priorities of the United Nations, which often entailed multisectoral activities that could give rise to conflicts of interest – a possibility that could be averted if parliamentarians played a coordinating role between the relevant authorities and the UNCT. Parliamentarians could also benefit from UNCT advice and expertise when drafting laws to ensure that all aspects of the subject, including in relation to gender and other considerations, were appropriately reflected.

Mr. J. Fakhro (Bahrain) suggested that, for the sake of continuity in view of the fact that parliamentarians came and went, all parliaments would benefit from establishing a permanent body dedicated to building the parliamentary relationship with UN agencies present in their countries.

Ms. C.I. López Castro (Mexico) asked for suggestions about the specific areas on which parliamentarians should ideally focus in developing new HIV-related legislation and campaigns.

Mr. M.T.A. Masadeh (Jordan) said that the field visit conducted earlier that day had proved eye-opening about the benefits of close cooperation with UN agencies, the importance of which should be underlined in the parliamentary context. Jordan had a long-standing relationship with UN agencies, whose excellent work had helped to address the adverse impact of its hosting of refugees over decades but only to some extent. Such work would be more usefully carried out in partnership with the country's parliamentarians, none of whom, to his knowledge, had worked with the UNCT. UNCTs should be encouraged to coordinate and cooperate with parliamentarians – and vice versa – and to take into account in their work the challenges specific to each country. IPU Members should also be more closely involved in reviewing and providing input to the work of UN agencies by attending related UN meetings or organizing their own meetings under UN auspices with that aim in mind.

The President, speaking as a representative of Kenya, said that the United Nations had heavily invested in many countries, as in Kenya, where it had provided support for the country's hosting of refugees over the preceding 30 years. Parliamentarians should seek to strengthen their cooperation with UN agencies so that they could be involved from the outset in UN-supported initiatives and development projects, raise awareness of the UN role in that context, and establish appropriate accountability mechanisms.

Ms. T. Boonto (Country Director, UNAIDS, Indonesia), presenter, responding to the HIV-related questions and commending the Zimbabwean Parliament's recent enactment of a new marriage law decriminalizing HIV transmission, said that HIV research had come a long way since the start of the HIV epidemic in 1981. At that time, HIV was effectively a death sentence unless the expensive treatment then available was quickly accessed. Fast forwarding to 2022, antiretroviral pills were affordable and sometimes provided free of charge, as in Indonesia and Thailand. An anti-HIV condom was also available and a vaginal ring that continuously released an anti-HIV drug was currently in trials, as were a number of HIV vaccines. It had been a struggle to develop HIV medication, but the technology had been useful for the development of COVID-19 treatments and vaccines, which had posed fewer difficulties because COVID-19 mutated far less rapidly than HIV. The hope was that, through advocacy, adequate investment and intensive research, the pharmaceutical industry would be minded to increase its focus on bringing an HIV vaccine closer to fruition.

As with COVID-19, the sooner people knew that they were HIV-positive, the sooner they would access treatment and improve their chances of recovery. Six months of HIV treatment significantly decreased the viral load to the point where the virus was undetectable and non-transmissible. It also strengthened the immune system so that persons living with HIV could function normally without succumbing to any opportunistic infections. Against that backdrop, her suggestion was that parliamentarians should focus on legislation and policies aimed at eliminating stigmatization and discrimination against such persons, especially in health-care, education and employment settings.

Mr. J.M. Kazi (Representative and Liaison to ASEAN, UN Women Indonesia), presenter, addressing some of the points raised, said that it was important for UN interactions with parliamentarians to be seen as impartial and in no way politically biased. For that reason, he always made a point, in reaching out to parliamentarians, to meet with members of opposing political parties. He also endeavoured not to publicize such meetings via social media to avoid any potential issues. As to deepening cooperation, parliaments could take the initiative by seeking to provide input to the discussions conducted by governments with UN agencies when negotiating, for instance, the five-year UNSDCF for their country. As suggested by the Belarusian representative, it would also be useful if parliamentarians requested the Resident Coordinator to ask all UN agencies present in the country concerned to provide perspectives in their areas of expertise on laws that were being drafted.

Mr. M.A. Sera (Indonesia), presenter, said that the Indonesian Parliament benefited from regular reports produced on the progress achieved towards all 17 SDGs in each of the country's provinces and districts. In that context, parliamentarians had received a great deal of useful information and materials from UN agencies. A parliamentary task force had been established to monitor progress on the SDGs and to further promote any specific actions that had brought positive outcomes.

The President thanked all those who had contributed to the discussion.

The UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development: preparation for the 2022 review session

The President, introducing the item and recalling that the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development focused on the implementation of the SDGs, said that the theme for the HLPF in 2022 was *Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. The discussion to follow would be preceded by presentations on the subject and on the results of the IPU survey conducted in 2021 on parliamentary engagement in the voluntary national review (VNR) process.

Mr. C. Chauvel (Global Lead and Asia Pacific Focal Point, Inclusive Processes and Institutions, UNDP), presenter, accompanying his remarks with a series of digital slides, said first of all in an additional comment on the preceding agenda item that there was a huge opportunity to be seized for improving the level of interaction between parliaments and the UN System, including through the good offices of the IPU. If the majority of Resident Coordinators and UNCTs failed to reach out to parliaments, it was essentially because they lacked instructions to do so or misunderstood the role of parliamentarians as important stakeholders. Parliamentarians might therefore find it fruitful to be proactive in taking the initiative.

Concerning the HLPF, which was a voluntary reporting mechanism, it convened annually in July under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations to follow up and review progress in the implementation of the 17 SDGs. Each year, it had an overarching theme focused on specific SDGs, with some 50 States volunteering to engage in the peer-review exercise. The theme of building back better from COVID-19 had been chosen for 2022 in the light of the pandemic-induced reversal in human development gains. At its forthcoming July meeting, the HLPF would review progress towards SDG 4 on quality education, 5 on gender equality, 14 on life below water, 15 on life on land, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals. The 45 States participating in the VNRs on that occasion would be presenting their achievements for the first, second, third or even fourth time since the HLPF's first meeting in 2013.

Parliamentarians had an important role to play in monitoring the quality of government-led response and recovery efforts in relation to COVID-19. In that context, they would find examples of good international practice for parliaments in the UNDP guidance note entitled *Accountability and COVID-19*. The note also contained suggestions as to how parliamentarians could best pursue an open dialogue with governments about the latter's new visions for building back better to achieve a fairer and more sustainable future, which implied a need to enhance parliamentary interaction with the UN, including through such partners as the IPU, and a recommitment to peace and human development, with no one left behind.

Owing to lack of understanding about the important role of parliaments, the UN System had not especially facilitated their involvement in the HLPF process. Indeed, the IPU surveys conducted since 2015 on parliamentary engagement with the VNRs showed that such involvement had stalled or decreased, although the same was true for civil society, which was insufficiently consulted about the way in which governments reported on their SDG-related achievements. Even if that situation was linked to COVID-19 concerns, it indicated an unfortunate trend.

The UN Secretary-General was, however, aware of the problem and had a workstream for improving parliamentary interaction with the United Nations, including through the IPU, in the run-up to the SDG Summit in September 2023. For their part, parliaments and parliamentarians must take advantage of the entry points for stepping up their engagement, both nationally and internationally, in that agenda. Again, they would benefit from seeking a closer relationship with UNCTs and ensuring that the latter took them into account in their work with governments on vital processes.

Ms. P. Torsney (Head of the Office of the Permanent Observer of the IPU to the United Nations in New York), presenter, accompanying her remarks with a series of digital slides, said that, in their VNRs, governments reported on whether their plans for achieving the SDGs had remained on track during the preceding five years. The exercise served as a learning tool about stumbling blocks, unforeseen problems and areas in which more needed to be done – all factors likely to have been exacerbated by setbacks from the COVID-19 pandemic. Parliaments often remained unaware of such reporting, despite guidelines stating that they should be consulted as part of the process. Since 2016, therefore, the IPU had been conducting an annual survey to determine parliamentary involvement in the VNRs for each year. The hope was that receipt of the survey would prompt parliaments that had not yet done so to take steps to become involved.

In 2021, 42 countries had volunteered reports to the HLPF. Only 18 of the 42 parliaments contacted had completed the IPU survey, however, and a further 2 had been mentioned in the VNRs for that year. The figures corresponded to a participation rate of 43 per cent, whereas the aim was to achieve a rate of 100 per cent. On the basis of the information received, which was much more detailed and accurate in the case of parliaments, the overall conclusion drawn was that that one half of parliaments in the VNR countries had some kind of engagement – most of it low quality – in the process. The survey report showed that, since 2016, parliamentary involvement had increased and governments had grown more aware of the significance of that involvement to an inclusive and successful process. Of the participants in the survey, 16 had been directly informed of the VNR process by government and 11 had been provided with a consultation plan, representing a total of 61 per cent that could easily be bettered.

As to the stages of involvement, 7 parliaments had been consulted before the drafting of the report, 8 had been involved in the drafting, and 11 had reviewed the final report. Only 4 parliaments had been involved in all 3 stages, with 10 consulted in 1 stage, and 1 taking part in 2 stages. The rise in parliamentary input to the process by any means would hopefully continue, whereas the modalities of that input could be more substantial if parliaments relied on a broader and greater variety of information sources.

The preliminary conclusions from the findings of the survey were that, despite gradual improvements, parliamentary engagement remained limited – possibly owing to the difficult pandemic environment. The participation rate remained too low, which was difficult to explain. Another concern to be investigated further was the discrepancy sometimes found between narratives in the VNR reports and completed surveys.

Parliaments in the 41 countries set to present VNR reports to the HLPF in July 2022 could expect to receive a survey questionnaire in May and were encouraged to engage in the process. Members were also encouraged to include parliamentarians in their delegations to the HLPF and to attend the Parliamentary Forum to be held on that occasion. Looking forward to a higher participation rate, the IPU urged involvement by all Members and would gladly provide any further information requested.

Ms. C.I. López Castro (Mexico), presenter, outlining the Mexican experience and accompanying her remarks with a series of digital slides, said that, in July 2021, her country had presented its third VNR report, which had been prepared with the active participation of national stakeholders, including civil society, academia and the private sector, in addition to UN and international cooperation agencies. The report also contained nine voluntary local reviews prepared by the country's states and municipalities, where bodies and mechanisms had been established for follow-up and implementation of the SDGs, to which local government plans were aligned. A special parliamentary commission had also been established for the same purpose, together with a parliamentary working group, and a legislative strategy had been created to deliver on the SDGs. The business sector had likewise joined the overall endeavour.

In that regard, the many remaining challenges ahead for Mexico included lack of financial resources for sustainable development projects and lack of coordination among government entities. With climate change another urgent challenge, national and international efforts must be stepped up to promote a swift transition to clean energy in developing countries. In February 2022, participants in the Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations in New York had focused in one of the sessions

on climate change and its effects in Latin America, including Mexico, where the public and private sectors needed to work in closer partnership to tackle emissions from the country's existing infrastructure. In 2015, Mexico had been the first emerging economy to declare its Nationally Determined Contributions, since when it had constructed scores of solar and wind power plants, thanks to its clean energy auctions. In addition to those and other climate change mitigation measures, Mexico was working to protect its natural resources.

In conclusion, it was essential to build capacities at all levels to eliminate asymmetries and work towards a shared vision of sustainable development, which required commitment by all to continue working in cooperation. As the lessons from COVID-19 had taught, success towards the attainment of the SDGs depended on the ability to take actions conducive to sustainability and on the capacity to adapt constantly to new realities. Parliamentarians must therefore continue working – and with increasing ambition – towards the implementation of the SDGs.

The President thanked the presenters and invited comments from the floor.

Mr. M.V. Morteza (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the health and well-being of Iranian citizens had been gravely affected by the multidimensional crisis produced by the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with the inhumane and illegal coercive measures imposed on his country. Running counter to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, those measures had disrupted food security and access to medicines and affordable technology, with dire consequences for vulnerable groups above all. Despite those difficulties and unjust pressures, the country had made astonishing progress in the field of biotechnology and stem-cell research and was also manufacturing COVID-19 vaccines. Such benefits of science for human health must not be monopolized by any government. Although lacking in financial resources, Iran also continued to host millions of Afghan refugees, who enjoyed access to all the same facilities as Iranian citizens on the basis of justice, equality and the kindness ordained by all religions, especially towards children.

Mr. M. Almheri (United Arab Emirates) said that his country's post-COVID-19 recovery strategy, which focused on six key areas, had positively helped to lessen the impact of the pandemic. As part of that strategy, the Government had been restructured to become more flexible, responsive and adaptable to change, with a new emphasis in policymaking on gender balance and the youth perspective. National committees had been created to manage the recovery, assisted by a new ministry for industry and advanced technology, and an exceptional package of comprehensive economic support schemes was in place. The country had also launched its Net Zero 2050 strategic initiative for neutralizing carbon and would furthermore host the 28th session of the UN Conference on Climate Change. All parliamentarians must collectively engage in efforts to reverse the effects of the pandemic, in which context it was vital to monitor and assess progress towards attainment of the SDGs for the benefit of future generations.

Mr. M.T.A. Masadeh (Jordan) said that the low participation rate in the IPU survey could perhaps be improved by directly providing the necessary information to Members participating in IPU meetings. The IPU might also wish to encourage permanent missions to ensure that parliamentarians were included in their national delegations to the HLPF. Such parliamentarians should be selected on the basis of their knowledge of the subject matter to be covered and the same individuals should attend the HLPF, as required, in the interest of continuity.

Ms. H. Bint Hassan Alsulaiti (Qatar), underlining the importance of a strong relationship between the United Nations and the IPU, said that the SDGs were pivotal to all lives and that all countries had put in place measures for their achievement. In that context, it was important for parliamentarians to examine their respective national progress reports on the implementation of the SDGs and to engage in the VNR process. Qatar had participated in three VNRs, which served as a valuable guide concerning its SDG-related work trajectory. In addition to more proactively exchanging experiences with their counterparts from elsewhere, parliamentarians should step up their contacts with the UN bodies associated with the SDGs, with which they had many interests in common. The Parliament of Qatar had engaged with the regional offices of such bodies, including the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

A representative of India said that sustainable development and economic activity had been severely disrupted by the advent of COVID-19, adversely affecting lives and livelihoods and posing challenges for all governments. India had nonetheless continued to pursue its commitment to attaining the SDGs through a range of initiatives, with a focus on health and nutrition, sanitation, quality education and universal access to housing. Despite scarce resources, it had also opened bank

accounts with debit cards for millions of its citizens, in particular rural women, and supplied rations to even more millions of households. India, furthermore, was producing COVID-19 vaccines and supplying them to countries around the world.

A representative of Egypt said that she and other Egyptian parliamentarians, along with the Resident Coordinator in Egypt, had recently participated in a consultation process with stakeholders in the national sustainable development strategy. Such strategies and VNRs were subsequently presented for further input to the Egyptian Parliament sitting in plenary session, as well as to the Egyptian President. Egypt was currently preparing its third VNR and she would take steps to ensure that the related IPU survey was completed. Given their critical role in prioritizing development, it was important for parliamentarians not only to participate in the VNR process but also to take the outcomes on board and drive forward solutions to the most pressing challenges. In conclusion, she encouraged parliamentarians to take the opportunity to engage on human settlement issues at the roundtable for parliamentarians to be organized as part of the 11th session of the World Urban Forum in June 2022.

Ms. M. Guerra (Mexico) said that the Mexican parliamentary working group mentioned earlier by her colleague had been established to pursue cross-cutting cooperation and follow-up on actions for achieving the SDGs, to which Mexico was wholly committed. In line with Goal 17 on partnerships for the Goals, the working group had joined forces with the country's main universities, engaging with academics and researchers to create key performance indicators for parliamentary work on the SDGs. With time of the essence, especially in the light of pandemic setbacks, efforts had been redoubled to keep the country on track for the SDGs, not only nationally but locally. Municipal governments and officials had therefore been enlisted to help in that endeavour, most notably with respect to Goal 6, on clean water and sanitation, and Goal 11, on sustainable cities and communities.

A representative of Kuwait said that the IPU's current mechanisms for working with organizations such as the United Nations would not achieve the desired outcome unless parliamentarians came together to standardize legislative norms or, at the very least, exchange information concerning their national legislation on the SDGs. Failing that, the current global reality was unlikely to change given the existence of so many different legal systems and conflicting pieces of legislation that might impede the implementation of the SDGs.

Mr. P. Katjavivi (Namibia), commending the excellence of the IPU as a platform for enabling parliamentarians to share experiences on a wide variety of topics, said that the Namibian Children's Parliament, composed of secondary-school students from around the country, was an example of no one being left behind. Its members had raised fundamental issues, including some previously unrecognized, around school-related challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, such as internet access, sanitation and cuts in class sizes. Their input had contributed substantially towards the formulation of policies and decisions for addressing those challenges. Concerning the SDGs, the Namibian Parliament had created a working group on their implementation and benefited as usual from IPU discussions to further enhance its plans.

The President thanked all those who had participated in the lively and informative discussion and invited the presenters to make closing remarks.

Ms. C.I. López Castro (Mexico), presenter, said that the discussion had been very productive in helping to clarify ways of stepping up parliamentary engagement in sustainable development processes. Parliamentarians had an important role in driving forward relevant legislation and must also take on the challenge of increasing the participation rate in the IPU's VNR survey for 2022.

Mr. C. Chauvel (Global Lead and Asia Pacific Focal Point, Inclusive Processes and Institutions, UNDP), presenter, said that events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine portended difficult years ahead characterized by economic and food insecurity, with adverse consequences for all. Against that backdrop, the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 was an unlikely prospect. It was therefore vital for parliamentarians, as part of their important mandate, to engage in global processes so as to contribute towards conserving gains already made and protecting against future shocks to the extent possible, failing which there would only be more suffering.

Ms. P. Torsney (Head of the Office of the Permanent Observer of the IPU to the United Nations in New York), presenter, said that the IPU had produced various publications relating to the implementation of the SDGs and that many of the IPU meetings on the subject could be viewed on the IPU YouTube channel. The IPU website was also a useful source of information. While the IPU was clearly keen to raise awareness of its VNR surveys as part of its efforts to ensure their completion by all Members contacted, those surveys additionally served as a vehicle for prompting parliamentary

engagement in the HLPF process by way of providing input, overseeing government actions and seeking participation in national delegations to the HLPF. A lack of response to the survey usually signalled that there was no such engagement, which was a concern. The current session and others like it were an important opportunity for parliamentarians to take away and apply lessons learned from the experiences of their colleagues.

Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee

The President said that the candidacy of Ms. H. Bint Hassan Alsulaiti of Qatar had been received to fill the vacancy on the Bureau of the Standing Committee for a member from the Arab Group. She took it that the Committee wished to endorse that candidacy.

It was so decided.

Ms. H. Bint Hassan Alsulaiti (Qatar), expressing thanks to the Arab Group for having nominated her for the position, said that she was keen to share with the Committee her country's experiences and work with UN agencies.

Any other business

No other business was raised.

The President, following an exchange of courtesies, declared the sitting closed.

The sitting rose at 18:00.

Forum of Women Parliamentarians

SITTING OF SUNDAY, 20 MARCH

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 10:50 with Ms. H. Ramzy Fayez (Bahrain), First Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, in the Chair.

Opening of the session

The First Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, opening the session, said that she wished to welcome all participants, and to thank the Parliament of Indonesia for its warm welcome and generous hospitality in hosting the 144th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Election of the President of the 33rd session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians (FEM/33/1-Inf.1)

As recommended by Ms. L. Wall (New Zealand) and Ms. M. Sultan Alsuwaidi (United Arab Emirates), Ms. I.Y. Roba Putri, Member of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, was, by acclamation, elected President of the 33rd session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.

Ms. I.Y. Roba Putri (Indonesia), President of the 33rd session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, took the Chair.

Welcoming remarks

The President of the Forum said that she wished to welcome all participants. The COVID-19 pandemic had disproportionately affected women, in particular those in situations of conflict and victims of violence. Parliaments, and women parliamentarians in particular, had a central role in ensuring that the post-pandemic recovery included a gender perspective. Gender equality could not be promoted by women alone; men must play an active role. The Forum would consider the gender dimension of the two draft resolutions to be adopted by the Assembly: *Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace*, to be discussed by the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security; and *Leveraging information and communication technology as an enabler for the education sector, including in times of pandemic*, to be discussed by the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development. The Forum would also hold a panel discussion on the parliamentary perspective on women's, children's and adolescents' health, in particular in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. P. Maharani (Speaker of the House of Representatives of Indonesia) said that the world was facing multiple challenges that were affecting gender equality and women's empowerment. Women were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical tensions and climate change. Parliaments must ensure that women's voices were heard, their interests taken into account and their needs met. Women were taking an increasingly key role in politics: 22 per cent of Speakers of parliament were women, and the global share of women parliamentarians had increased to 26 per cent. While those figures constituted progress, they were still low and indicated a deficit in democracy. Gender inequality was an indicator that human rights were not being realized. Women must have equal access to positions of power and involvement in decision-making processes.

The IPU should be at the frontline of promoting women's participation in decision-making. Parliaments must be agents of change. In Indonesia, gender equality had been promoted at all opportunities, and as a result, women had held top positions in Government, parliament and at the local administrative level. Progress in that regard continued; she was the first woman Speaker of the Indonesian Parliament. The Parliament of Indonesia was currently finalizing draft legislation on the protection of women and children against the crime of sexual violence, which would ensure that the State provided adequate protection and reparation to victims.

Women's leadership could be realized by including them in decision-making processes. Men's partnership and support were required to build inclusivity on the basis of mutual trust and respect. Women's leadership potential was evident in many areas, in particular as climate activists, particularly since women were more vulnerable to the effects of the climate crisis than men. In the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, women had played a key role on the frontlines of health care, accounting for

70 per cent of the world's health and social workers. They had demonstrated that they were capable of curbing the spread of the virus. Post-pandemic recovery must include a gender perspective. Women could also play a key role in peacebuilding and conflict resolution. Of Indonesia's 2,697 peacekeepers, 158 were women, deployed in five United Nations peacekeeping missions.

Women's empowerment could not be realized without access to education. Equal access to education was therefore imperative. All participants in the Forum should cement their commitment to driving changes in gender roles in society. When women's political participation was guaranteed, democracy would thrive. Through mutual cooperation, the world's parliamentarians could strengthen their commitment to gender equality.

Mr. D. Pacheco (President of the IPU) said that the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was a critical element of the IPU, which ensured that gender equality remained at the top of the Organization's agenda. The world was witnessing troubled times, in which armed conflict was having a disproportionate impact on women and girls, as demonstrated daily by the situation in Ukraine. The women of Ukraine were showing brave resistance. Ms. Lesia Vasylenko, President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, was unable to attend the 144th IPU Assembly, having chosen to stay in Ukraine and fight for freedom. The global parliamentary community stood with her and the people of Ukraine. The war must cease immediately, and women must be fully involved in all peace negotiations.

Women were a driving force for peace and post-conflict reconstruction. Yet while peace agreements concluded by women had significantly higher implementation rates than those concluded by men, women were only involved in a small percentage of peace negotiations. In Ukraine, delegations negotiating on both sides had thus far not included any women. Peace processes must be seen from a gender perspective, not only in the composition of delegations to peace negotiations but also to ensure gender-responsive agreements. That gender dimension should be reflected in the Forum's proposed amendments to the draft resolution on *Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace*, to be considered by the Standing Committee on International Peace and Security.

The Forum would hold a panel discussion on women's, children's and adolescents' health in times of COVID-19 and in recovering from the pandemic, to consider inequalities in access to health care and reproductive health services that had been exacerbated by the pandemic. Children and adolescents had been impacted by school closures and lockdowns, affecting their educational opportunities and exposing them to risks of mental health issues, violence and harmful practices, including child marriage and teenage pregnancy. Parliaments must use their leadership role to take action to realize women's and children's right to health.

The theme of the Assembly's general debate would be *Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change*. In that context, the close link between women's participation in politics and the achievement of climate goals must not be forgotten. Women's involvement in climate action contributed to achieving gender equality. Many climate initiatives been launched by women parliamentarians and female political leaders. The latest edition of the IPU's annual study on women in parliament, however, showed that only 26 per cent of the world's parliamentarians were women. At the current rate of progress, a further 40 years would be required to achieve gender equality in the world's parliaments. That was not good enough. Much remained to be done to achieve gender parity in parliament and equality in society. He wished the Forum a productive session.

Adoption of the agenda (FEM/33/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Recent activities to advance gender equality

(a) Report of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

Ms. A.N. Ayyoub Awadallah (Egypt), Rapporteur for the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, presented the report on the work of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, which had met in Madrid in November 2021. The Bureau had followed up on the IPU study on gender-based violence against women in parliaments in Africa, and had discussed the measures that could be taken by the IPU and national parliaments to address violence and sexual harassment against women in parliament. The Bureau would hold meetings with the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians to

explore measures to protect women parliamentarians against any kind of discrimination or violence. The IPU must remain at the forefront of efforts to eliminate gender-based violence in all contexts and should be a model and point of reference for all national parliaments in that regard.

At its meeting in Madrid, the Bureau had agreed on the programme of work for the current session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, which would include discussing the two draft resolutions for adoption by the Standing Committees from a gender perspective and preparing proposed amendments. The panel discussion on women's, children's and adolescents' health in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic would afford an opportunity to share national experiences and challenges. The Bureau had expressed its deep concern for the millions of women the world over affected by war and conflict, and its particular support for its President, Ms. Lesia Vasylenko, who had remained in Ukraine to support her country.

(b) Work and recommendations of the Gender Partnership Group

Ms. A.D. Mergane Kanouté (Senegal), *Vice-President of the IPU Gender Partnership Group*, said that the Gender Partnership Group comprised two women and two men, members of the Executive Committee: Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine), Ms. A.D. Mergane Kanouté (Senegal), Mr. A.R. Al Nuaimi (United Arab Emirates) as its Chair, and Mr. A. Saidov (Uzbekistan). The Group would meet on 23 March in Nusa Dua to continue its work on assessing the attendance of the 144th IPU Assembly from a gender perspective and promoting gender parity in the work of the IPU and its Member Parliaments. With regard to the composition of delegations to the 144th IPU Assembly, 36.9 per cent of participants registered thus far were women, which was lower than the 38.9 per cent registered at the 143rd Assembly in Madrid. Much remained to be done to ensure that all delegations to IPU Assemblies were gender-balanced. Parity was key to ensuring that all decisions were fully representative. There must be a zero tolerance approach to all forms of discrimination and sexism. All workplaces, including parliaments, remained susceptible to harassment. Only a clear and strong anti-harassment policy would enable such cases to be identified and eliminated. The Gender Partnership Group was considering an anti-harassment policy for implementation at all IPU meetings.

(c) Recent IPU activities for the promotion of gender equality (FEM/33/3(c)-Inf.1 and FEM/33/3(c)-Inf.2)

Ms. H. Ramzy Fayez (Bahrain), *First Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians*, presented the report on the parliamentary meeting held on the occasion of the 66th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (FEM/33/3(c)-Inf.1), the theme of which had been *The role of women's leadership and gender-responsive parliaments in climate action*. The meeting had been attended by 280 participants, including 93 members of parliament (85 women and 8 men) from 37 countries. Participants had explored the importance of women's leadership in climate action and shared good practices in promoting and implementing gender-responsive parliamentary climate action. They had noted that greater representation of women in parliament led to more effective climate change policies. Participants had also noted that climate legislation and gender equality policies complemented each other. Ultimately, to be effective and sustainable, the legal framework for climate action should be drawn up with a gender perspective. Parliaments had a key role in climate action by: taking proactive measures to increase women's participation; advancing gender-responsive climate legislation and policy reform; and pushing for green and gender-responsive institutions.

Women in parliament 2021: The year in review

The Secretary of the Forum said that the report *Women in parliament 2021: The year in review*, which had been launched on 8 March 2022, showed the progress and setbacks in women's participation in parliament. Currently, 26.1 per cent of the world's parliamentarians were women. Only five parliaments had achieved parity: Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, Rwanda and the United Arab Emirates. At the current rate of progress, a further 40 years would be needed to achieve gender parity in parliaments globally. In 24 out of 188 countries studied, less than 20 per cent of parliamentarians were women. Three countries: Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Yemen, had no women in parliament. Quotas remained critical for boosting women's representation. Of the 48 countries that had held elections in 2021, 30 had used some form of quota, compared with 25 of 57 countries that had held elections in 2020. Those quotas had proven effective and should continue to be implemented, supported by strong enforcement mechanisms.

The report also contained information on violence against women in politics. Women parliamentarians around the world had reported facing sexist comments, physical attacks and sexual assaults. The IPU study on sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Africa had shown that 8 out of 10 women parliamentarians in Africa had suffered some form of psychological violence. Gender parity in parliament was the key to breaking down barriers to equality, making politics accessible for women from diverse backgrounds and transforming the political space into a more enabling environment for women. It would make politics more representative and would make parliaments more effective, efficient and legitimate political institutions.

Contributing to the work of the 144th Assembly from a gender perspective
(FEM/33/4.Inf-1)

Ms. P. Patten (Special representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict) said that in June 2021 she had signed a framework of cooperation with the IPU, based on her firm conviction that parliamentarians were key allies in the prevention of and response to sexual violence in conflict. In its resolution 2467 (2019), the United Nations Security Council had highlighted the crucial role of the judicial system in preventing and eliminating sexual violence in conflict and ensuring accountability for those responsible. It had called on parliaments to strengthen legislation to that end. National laws, in line with international standards, were essential.

Criminalization of sexual violence not only allowed for prosecution of perpetrators and the provision of redress to victims, but also signalled a society's lack of tolerance and therefore had a preventive effect. Yet gaps persisted in legal frameworks and many States neither upheld their international commitments nor had specific domestic legal provisions in place. Even where relevant legislation existed, it was often either limited in scope and coverage, or not fully enforced. In 2021, her office had issued model legislative provisions and guidance on the investigation and prosecution of conflict-related sexual violence, a practical tool, providing a gold standard in criminal and procedural law to ensure the most robust provisions for victim- and survivor-centred justice. The support of parliamentarians in incorporating those model provisions into their national jurisdictions would be a step towards fulfilling the priorities set out in the framework of cooperation.

She welcomed the opportunity to consider the draft resolution on *Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace*. The theme was particularly timely given the conflict in Ukraine, which could become Europe's worst humanitarian and refugee crisis in decades, with women and children paying the highest price. The Forum's contribution would be essential to ensure that the resolution had a gender- and survivor-centred approach, recognizing the role of women in peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

Her role had been created by the United Nations Security Council in the context of increasing concern over the use of sexual violence against women and children as a tactic of war and terror. Her mandate was to provide strategic and coherent leadership to strengthen United Nations coordination mechanisms. She was also responsible for eliciting commitments from governments and parties to conflict, to prevent sexual violence in conflict through legal reform, accountability, advocacy and comprehensive service provision, including sexual and reproductive health, mental health, socioeconomic support and reintegration. She had outlined three strategic priorities for her mandate: converting cultures of impunity into cultures of deterrence, through justice and accountability; fostering national ownership and leadership for a sustainable, survivor-centred response; and addressing the root causes of sexual violence.

Some progress had been made at the normative and institutional levels, such as the imposition of criminal sanctions against perpetrators of sexual violence. Mandates of United Nations peace missions systematically included measures to protect the civilian population against sexual violence. Sexual violence was included in the monitoring frameworks of ceasefire agreements. More victims were being reached than ever before and there had been an increase in the number of prosecutions of cases of sexual violence. Yet it was clear that political commitment and financial support, including through national budgets, did not match the reality on the ground. The forthcoming 2021 edition of the annual report of the United Nations Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence painted a harrowing picture of sexual violence used as a tactic of war, terror and political repression to dehumanize, destabilize and displace populations facing overlapping political and humanitarian crises, further compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic.

She encouraged the Forum to ensure that the resolution to be adopted by the Standing Committee contained a dedicated reference to United Nations Security Council resolution 2467 (2019) on conflict-related sexual violence, which recognized that women and girls were not only particularly at

risk, but often specifically targeted, as a result of persistent inequalities, discrimination and lack of representation. The Security Council had underscored the importance of addressing the root causes of those inequalities as part of conflict prevention and resolution, in particular the impact of discriminatory laws, gender-based enforcement of existing laws, policies and budgets, harmful social practices and discriminatory views on women and gender roles in society. The resolution should also include mention of a survivor- and victim-centred approach in all interventions, to ensure that those left furthest behind could invoke their rights, express their grievances and aspirations, and pursue their full and effective representation by parliaments. The approach should empower survivors, prioritize their rights, needs and wishes, treat them with dignity and respect and promote their recovery.

The President of the Forum said that the Forum was called on to discuss the draft resolutions on the agenda of the 144th Assembly entitled *Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace* (Standing Committee on Peace and International Security) and *Leveraging Information and Communication Technology as an enabler for the education sector, including in times of pandemic* (Standing Committee on Sustainable Development). To do so, the Forum would split into two working groups. Group 1, on rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace, would be chaired by Ms. E. Anyakun (Uganda) and Ms. L. Wall (New Zealand) would act as Rapporteur. The second group would discuss leveraging information and communication technology as an enabler for the education sector, including in times of pandemic, and would be chaired by Ms. P.A. Komarudin (Indonesia) with Ms. M. Sultan Al Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates) as Rapporteur.

The sitting rose at 12:00.

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 14:40 with Ms. I.Y. Roba Putri (Indonesia), President of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, in the Chair.

Panel discussion

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

(FEM/33/5-Inf.1)

The President of the Forum said that women and children were often excluded from health care by out-of-pocket expenses, as well as lack of information, poor access to trained personnel, and unsupportive gender norms in particular in relation to sexual and reproductive health. The COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated those disparities. The panel would discuss the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a particular focus on equitable access to health services, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and child and adolescent well-being. She encouraged participants to share their national experiences and consider strategies on how to promote legal reform and mobilize action. The panellists were IPU partners from the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), UN Women and the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as Ms. P.A. Komarudin (Indonesia) and Ms. P. Bayr (Austria).

A short video by PMNCH was shown giving witness statements and personal testimonies of the particular struggles faced by women and girls with regard to access to health care and sexual and reproductive health and rights, which had been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. S. Mbaya (Team Lead, Campaigns and Partner Engagement, PMNCH) said that the impact of the pandemic on health services had been profound. Treatment for conditions not related to COVID-19 had been scaled back, with significant implications. WHO had conducted regular "pulse" surveys to keep track of the impact of the pandemic.

Overall, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, 70 per cent of countries had indicated constraints in at least one service related to reproductive, maternal, adolescent and child health, in particular, partial obstructions in antenatal care and facility-based birthing services, and a drop in basic immunization coverage for children, which had left 3.7 million more children un- or under-vaccinated compared with 2019. Family planning services had also been disrupted. It was therefore unsurprising that countries had already begun reporting the impacts. Peru had reported its first diphtheria case in 20 years. Malawi and Uganda had confirmed polio outbreaks. A million maternal and child deaths had

been seen, 200,000 still births recorded and 1.4 million unintended pregnancies were estimated. Some 10 million girls were at risk of becoming child brides over the coming 10 years as a result of the pandemic. Health-care workers had also been severely affected, both through illness and death caused by COVID-19 and through exhaustion and burnout. Many people had left health professions to seek employment elsewhere.

The indirect impacts of the pandemic had been just as significant. Family breakdowns were common. The pandemic had resulted in at least 1.5 million children being orphaned. In some countries, domestic violence hotlines were receiving up to five times more calls than before the pandemic; 16 per cent of young women had been subjected to some form of partner violence over the previous 12 months. Women were being subjected to routine caesarean sections, denied access to their birthing partners, or prevented from breastfeeding, for fear of passing on COVID-19. Mental health was also an issue of serious concern, in particular for adolescent girls. Forty per cent of pregnant and post-partum women were showing signs of post-traumatic stress disorder.

PMNCH had undertaken a survey of 30,000 women across 42 countries, looking into the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on their lives. Women and girls had said that lockdowns had affected their mental health and impacted access to education. As a result, 20 million more secondary school-age girls were at risk of dropping out of education, owing to lack of access. Those in less privileged areas were disproportionately affected, in particular owing to lack of access to technology. COVID-19 was making women and girls, in particular in rural areas, food insecure and eroding their livelihoods. In Africa, restrictions on movement had meant that women had been unable to maintain licences for agricultural work.

Women had reported adverse impacts on their sexual and reproductive health and rights, with reports of quarantines resulting in lack of access to sanitary products and girls being forced to tear up clothing to use as sanitary towels. In Colombia, 16 per cent of women had reported being unable to make regular gynaecological appointments. The long- and short-term consequences of such interruptions to routine care were significant. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) had reported that a global six-month interruption to regular sexual health services could lead to up to 47 million women being unable to access contraception, which would result in up to 1.4 million unplanned pregnancies.

In 2020, PMNCH and partners had issued a call to action, including a focus on: access to services; advancing gender equality; providing social protection; access to water; and prevention of violence. Parliamentarians, through their representative, budgetary, legislative and oversight functions, had a key role in implementing that call to action. Parliaments must ensure that the pandemic did not undermine their work to promote maternal, children's and adolescents' health. PMNCH and the IPU had made resources available for parliaments in that regard.

Mr. J.M. Kazi (UN Women Country Representative, Indonesia) said that COVID-19 and the measures to address it had severely impacted socioeconomic activities and had overwhelmed health systems worldwide, impeding access to health care. Women and children, particularly in vulnerable and marginalized communities, were disproportionately affected. According to WHO, 94 of 130 countries and territories studied had reported disruption in health services. In the Asia-Pacific Region, UN Women had gathered data showing significant disruptions to sexual and reproductive health services, and services responding to intimate partner violence and sexual violence. Findings had also shown that between March 2020 and June 2021, a reduction in utilization of essential health services in 18 lower-middle-income countries had led to 3.8 and 1.4 per cent increases in child and maternal mortality, respectively. The pandemic had negatively impacted adolescents' health, nutrition and overall well-being. Girls, older adolescents and those with disabilities were at higher risk of depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of the pandemic. The risk of child marriage had increased exponentially.

Health systems often reflected and reinforced the gender biases and restrictive gender norms of society, which undermined their functioning. Gender biases in social, cultural and institutional structures must therefore be addressed, and women and girls must be involved in health service design and delivery. UN Women promoted health based on gender equality and women's empowerment, with an emphasis on removing barriers to access, including integrating gender equality into policies, laws, programmes and budgets related to health, empowering communities to demand their rights, and supporting women in taking leadership on matters related to their own health.

UN Women had gathered data on various aspects of health during the pandemic, including the implications of COVID-19 for HIV prevention in South Africa, COVID-19 impacts in Asian and Arab States, and the health impacts of the pandemic for migrant workers on return to their home countries. Parliaments could play a critical role in health emergencies through legislation, oversight and

representation. UN Women had issued guidance for policy-makers on developing gender-sensitive responses to COVID-19. Priority must be given to ensuring quality of care and eliminating discrimination in access to health-care settings. The current context should be used as an opportunity to strengthen systems, building back not only better but fairer.

Ms. D. Chou (Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research, WHO), joining the meeting virtually, said that the previous two years had caused disruptions to the lives of everyone around the world. The term “sexual and reproductive health and rights” referred to a broad range of services and rights essential to health and well-being. Prior to the pandemic, important gains had been made in that regard, with reductions in maternal mortality, increases in policies on support for victims of violence against women and girls, a reduction in early marriages and pregnancy, and an increase in the use of contraception.

The pandemic, however, had resulted in an increase in violence against women, women being denied their choice of birthing partner, and a reduction in access to family planning, safe abortion care and maternal health services, as well as worrying trends in education dropout rates and early pregnancy. Even where disruption had since been stabilized, it had not been redressed. Women’s health outcomes had not returned to pre-pandemic levels; communities and individuals were being disempowered and exposed to preventable health risks.

The situation was distressing but not surprising. Previous experience had shown that when health systems were disrupted, sexual and reproductive health services suffered, as they were often not viewed as essential. In such circumstances, vulnerable women and girls lost their voices. Gender inequality and health inequity profoundly affected aspirations to survive and thrive, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). WHO had several tools and resources for supporting sexual and reproductive health and rights in the COVID-19 context, for individuals, communities and health systems, including on maintaining sexual and reproductive health services in national reorganization of services in response to the pandemic through use of telemedicine and digital health interventions. A portal containing up-to-date national and regional data was also available for policy-makers, along with the global status report on addressing violence against women, and guidance on multisectoral policies.

The full extent of the disruption would not be known for years. COVID-19 would drastically affect States’ ability to meet the SDGs. Urgent action was needed to prevent backsliding on the gains made prior to the pandemic. Sexual and reproductive health and rights should be prioritized as part of the post-pandemic recovery, and measures should be taken to ensure that those services and rights were not disrupted by future health emergencies. WHO would continue to work with the IPU to put health at the core of the parliamentary agenda. The world’s parliamentary community should continue to advocate for affordable, rights-based, good quality sexual and reproductive health services and to use evidence to inform policies in that regard.

A video, made by the nongovernmental organization Girls not Brides, was shown, detailing the links between the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular disruptions to education and increased exposure to violence and harmful practices, on children’s and adolescents’ health, with a focus on teenage pregnancies and child marriage.

Debate

Ms. P.A. Komarudin (Indonesia) said that in Indonesia, during the first wave of COVID-19, health-care facilities and services had been redirected to pandemic response. A 50 per cent decline had been recorded in reproductive health service visits and antenatal coverage. There had been a drop in the availability and usage of contraceptives, and a delay in basic immunization services for children. Those disruptions had been predicted to cause a significant increase in unintended pregnancy and maternal mortality. Moreover, pandemic control measures had contributed to increased risks to women and girls’ safety, with a significant rise in gender-based violence, including domestic and cyber violence. Child marriage dispensation requests to courts had tripled, in particular in rural areas.

The Government had taken a variety of measures, including the introduction of fiscal stimulus policies to cushion the economic, health and social impacts of the pandemic. Legislation had been adopted to relax the budget deficit limit rule and widen the State budget fiscal space. Parliament also ensured that key recovery policies were gendered, noting the pandemic’s differentiated impact between men and women; specific measures had been introduced to ensure women’s economic independence. The budgets of several social protection programmes had been increased, in particular

one to provide cash transfers for pregnant women and school-age children in underprivileged families. Financial and business support had been provided to small and medium-sized enterprises owned by women, including through tax credit relaxation, additional capital loans and a free employment cash transfer programme. Incentives had been given to health workers on the frontline, 70 per cent of whom were women.

Those measures were in line with the Government's commitment to attaining universal health coverage and its workplan to reform the health system by prioritizing maternal and child health services, family planning and reproductive health care, and reducing maternal mortality and stunting in children. Steps were also being taken to strengthen protection services for women and children victims of violence, optimizing efforts to prevent child marriage and increasing women's economic empowerment through entrepreneurship. Short-term relief measures would need to be shifted to a longer-term recovery plan that was inclusive and more gender equitable. To recover better, the world's parliaments must put women's, children's and adolescents' health and well-being at the forefront of recovery measures.

Ms. P. Bayr (Austria), President of the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights, said that gender-based violence remained one of the most significant threats to the health and lives of women and girls. In Italy, the Senate had recently set up a commission of inquiry to look into femicide cases over the previous 10 years, which had established that only 1 in every 10 victims had reported being in any danger. The commission was considering measures to improve security and bolster prevention services for violence against women and make them more accessible. In Belgium, an electronic wrist band had been introduced for the purpose of locating individuals against whom restraining orders had been brought, and sending an alarm directly to the police in the event of a breach. In Belgium and Switzerland, legislation had been passed on clear consent for consensual sex, and to establish that "no" was sufficient to constitute lack of consent. Reports of rape in Switzerland and convictions of perpetrators had increased as a result. In Belgium and the United Kingdom, virginity testing had been abolished. In Finland, a pilot project was in place to provide free of charge contraception of all kinds for all young people under the age of 25 years. As a result, teenage pregnancies and abortion rates had reduced.

On women's right to self-determination, women's rights were human rights, including the right to decide whether to have children and with whom, and access to information on safe contraception and safe abortion without barriers. Ireland had led the way by legalizing abortion, increasing telemedicine services to provide counselling services, and introducing access to the abortion pill by prescription. Similarly, in Austria, the abortion pill had been made more accessible during the pandemic, to compensate for the closure of abortion clinics and cancellation of appointments.

The mental health impacts of the pandemic had been significant, with many more young people reporting depression, anxiety and sleep disturbances. In Austria, the budget for psychological support for young people had been increased. Vienna had a pilot project in place for the provision of sanitary products to vulnerable and marginalized women. The European Institute for Gender Equality had been working on a common approach to combating female genital mutilation in Europe, providing services in all Member States and collecting data. The panel discussion would afford a valuable opportunity to share experiences and consider how to build forward better in recovery from the pandemic.

Ms. M.M. Alameri (United Arab Emirates) said that the COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated gender inequalities and highlighted economic, social and political gaps that affected the well-being of women and girls. The number of girls living in poverty globally had reached 500 million in 2020. Although international instruments enshrined gender equality and prohibited discrimination, obstacles persisted and had been exacerbated by the pandemic. Women faced unemployment, and lack of financial and food security. Lockdowns had resulted in a rise in domestic violence and barriers to access to resources for women. In the United Arab Emirates, efforts had been made to promote health for all without discrimination. Online education services had been set up. Pregnant women had been allowed to work from home. Women had proven their capacity to be at the frontline of the fight against the virus. Parliament had enacted a law on public health to set up a system for managing future health crises to reduce their impact on society.

Ms. M. Garcia Segura (Mexico) said that the Government of Mexico was doing its utmost to ensure access to health care for all. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the lives of most women around the world had been changed; everyone had suffered. The pandemic had taken priority over other health matters, and other care services had suffered. In Mexico, every effort was being made to catch up and bridge the care gaps, in particular with regard to reproductive health care

services. Fiscal measures had been approved to mitigate the economic impacts of the pandemic and provide vaccines for the whole population. Mexico was committed to achieving universal health coverage.

Ms. E. Azad (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the right to health was enshrined as a fundamental right in the Iranian Constitution, and health promotion had always been a government priority. Ensuring women's health was the key to ensuring health for all. The needs of mothers, infants and children, women heads of household and other women most significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic were at the forefront of recovery planning. Women's health had long been a national priority; each year in the Islamic republic of Iran, a national week for the promotion of women's health was celebrated. Women's reproductive health, mental health, well-being and healthy lifestyle had been the focus of policies during the pandemic. In January 2022, a joint meeting had been held between the national women's caucus, health diplomacy caucus and Ministry of Health to review women's health policies. A plan for health justice and excellence had been issued. Efforts to tackle women's cancers were being stepped up. Awareness-raising campaigns for antenatal and post-natal health had been conducted. Guidelines had been issued on children's health in the pandemic, including on reporting cases of COVID-19 in children.

Ms. F. Nabagabe Kalule (Uganda) said that the impacts of COVID-19 would take years to reverse. Women were the custodians of culture. Women parliamentarians must take a more feminist perspective to social justice. In Uganda, critical issues had been highlighted during the pandemic, such as food insecurity, gender-based violence in the home, the use of punitive measures by security forces, and the lack of financial regulation of private health facilities. The Parliament of Uganda had enacted legislation on health matters, including on mental health, national health insurance, and traditional and complementary medicines. Shelters for victims of violence and a hotline for reporting cases had been established. A fund for women's economic empowerment had also been established. Governments must commit more resources to addressing the root causes of gender inequality, and cultural leaders must be encouraged to speak up against harmful traditional practices. Efforts should be made to change societal attitudes to gender roles. Women parliamentarians must continue to speak out against patriarchal tendencies: a woman with a voice was a strong woman.

Ms. A. Vidot (Seychelles) said that the Government of the Seychelles had set up a public health emergency operation centre to manage the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and had held regular press conferences to keep the public informed. People had struggled. Disruption of services in all health centres, and economic consequences, such as unemployment and increased costs of living, were having a severe impact. The Seychelles Women's Parliamentary Caucus had worked with various parliamentary health bodies to advocate for women's and children's health, and had galvanized male parliamentarians to vote for motions to promote the health and well-being of women and girls, in particular a social programme for free access to sanitary products in schools and family planning services. The Government had responded positively, and had brought in the private sector to support the programme. A workshop had been organized recently, for nongovernmental organizations and government bodies, to assess policy and legislation on gender-based violence to identify gaps and good practices. Data gaps had been identified, which must be filled to give a comprehensive picture of the situation and inform policies to change mindsets and raise awareness of gender-based violence among young people.

Ms. H. Baldwin (United Kingdom) said that she wished to express her gratitude to all women parliamentarians and women in health care around the world, who had worked so hard in such difficult circumstances during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some 10 years previously, the United Kingdom Government had set a target to halve the number of still births and neonatal deaths. Although significant progress had been made, figures remained too high, and too many socioeconomic and racial disparities persisted. A new taskforce on maternity care disparities had been set up to look at why, when the United Kingdom's National Health Service was free of charge for all at the point of use, there remained a 40 per cent higher likelihood of miscarriage for a black woman than a white woman, and why Asian women were more likely than white women to face maternal mortality.

Ms. C. Gotani Hara (Malawi) said that the COVID-19 pandemic had severely impacted society in Malawi. Many children and young people had dropped out of education, and some 40,000 girls under 18 years old had fallen pregnant. It was not only sexual and reproductive health services that had suffered; other fundamental health care had stalled, such as the provision of a particular antibiotic

given to HIV positive pregnant women and HIV positive children, supplies of which had been redirected to treat cases of COVID-19. Health-care workers, who were predominantly women, were under immense pressure, which was having significant social and psychological impacts. Extreme poverty had been exacerbated. Parliamentary committees had been used to oversee implementation of legislation and check its compatibility with the context of the pandemic. Efforts were being made to identify and bridge legislative gaps in that regard.

Ms. A.N. Ayyoub Awadallah (Egypt) said that promoting the right to life of women and children was essential for the security of society. In Egypt, significant efforts were being made by civil society, Parliament and the Government to protect women and families and provide sexual and reproductive health services. Measures had been taken to protect vulnerable people, including pregnant women, during the pandemic, including by allowing them to work from home. Specific protection had also been afforded to women with disabilities. Legislation had been enacted to criminalize harassment and discrimination against women.

Ms. P. Maadam (India) said that the response to the COVID-19 pandemic had been unparalleled and overwhelming. In India, there had been a substantial diversion of financial and human resources towards COVID treatments, prevention and vaccine research. The challenges of the pandemic were all the greater in India, where around 60,000 babies were born daily. Pre-pandemic efforts to strengthen maternal and child health, in particular reducing maternal and infant mortality rates, had been halted by the redeployment of resources. Parliament had underscored the dangers of directing the entire public health machinery to pandemic response to the detriment of all other health services and had called on the Government to resume maternal and child health services. While pregnancy did not increase susceptibility to COVID-19, it could worsen the clinical course of the virus. All pregnant women were therefore advised to get vaccinated. India's vaccination programme had been particularly successful, using locally produced vaccines. Awareness-raising campaigns to prevent vaccine hesitancy had yielded positive results. The link between malnutrition and poor immunity was well established.

Ms. F. Haddouche Ilimi (Algeria) said that the COVID-19 pandemic was having severe economic, social and health implications the world over. While fighting the pandemic, care must also be taken to maintain progress towards sustainable development. In Algeria, measures had been taken to protect the public, including by making the COVID-19 vaccine available to all Algerian citizens. No efforts had been spared in that regard. The Government of Algeria was participating in regional initiatives to curb the pandemic and to keep pace towards meeting the SDGs. The pandemic had put women on the frontlines; they were playing a role of paramount importance and putting their own health at risk. Every effort must be made to ensure children's health and protect them against the many impacts of the pandemic, in particular by enabling them to continue their education without disruption.

Ms. J. Salman (Bahrain) said that in 2012, the 126th IPU Assembly had adopted a resolution entitled *Access to health as a basic right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children*. Although 10 years had passed, insufficient progress had been made and the topic remained high on the agenda. Consideration must be given to what more parliamentarians could do to improve the situation of maternal, children's and adolescents' health. Further support should be provided to countries that were lagging behind in that regard.

Ms. H.B.H. Alsulaiti (Qatar) said that the Government of Qatar had put in place a national health strategy in line with Vision 2030 and the SDGs, in an initiative led by women. A national strategy on COVID-19 had been adopted to address the economic, social and health impacts of the pandemic. Many measures had been taken to protect women's health during the pandemic, including allowing pregnant women and women with pre-existing medical conditions to work from home, reducing working hours for working mothers, offering part-time work options for women, setting up a helpline for services related to the pandemic, providing hygiene kits, and launching a mobile application for track and trace. The Qatari women's hospital was providing specific health care for women. Home-based support for elderly women was also being provided, along with rehabilitation services. A successful vaccination campaign had been held, with 88 per cent of the population of Qatar having received at least one dose. The Government of Qatar had also provided health-care support and vaccines to other countries.

Ms. D. Dlakude (South Africa) said that there had been an increase in teenage pregnancies in South Africa during the pandemic, owing to difficulties in obtaining contraceptives. Even prior to the pandemic, 16 per cent of young women aged 15 to 19 years had begun child bearing. The greatest contributing factor to teenage pregnancy was gender-based violence and femicide. One in three women experienced gender-based violence, and one in five children experienced sexual abuse. Parliament had enacted three pieces of legislation to assist the judicial system in ensuring that perpetrators of such violence were brought to justice. An early childhood development programme had been laborated, which taught gender equality and mutual respect. Assistance must be provided to victims to ensure that charges were brought against perpetrators and that reparation was granted.

Ms. K. Slassi (Morocco) said that the Government of Morocco had responded positively to the COVID-19 pandemic. A collective cooperation fund had been established, and significant vaccine coverage had been achieved. Yet many problems persisted; the increase in domestic violence, fuelled by lockdowns and economic crisis, was particularly concerning. Women were mentally drained, as they bore the heavy burdens of child care, health care and household chores. Early marriages and pregnancies were perpetuating poverty and ill-treatment of girls and young women. Psychological support was also key to the post-COVID-19 recovery, to address the mental health fallout of the pandemic. Women parliamentarians must strive to ensure equal rights for men and women in the pandemic context and beyond, to ensure that justice prevailed.

Ms. S. Al Hadi (Oman) said that, in Oman, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, high standards had been adopted at a variety of levels. A supreme council had been established to address COVID-19. A national public health campaign had been run to raise awareness on sanitization and hygiene, and a mobile application had been developed to keep the public up-to-date on pandemic statistics and information and to track and trace cases. Home delivery of medication had been set up for the elderly and people with long-term health-care needs, to ensure their continuity of care during lockdown. Telemedicine platforms had been set up, along with a virtual clinic for pregnant women. Such services were available to all residents of Oman. Comprehensive services had been set up for early diagnosis of breast cancer and to provide early treatment. Post-pandemic recovery and overcoming the economic, social and psychological consequences of the pandemic constituted a challenge for all States.

Ms. R. Nikhil Khadse (India) said that, to minimize pandemic-related disruptions to care, measures had been taken in India, including the issuing of guidelines for all local authorities on the provision of essential services. Maternal and child health facilities continued to provide round-the-clock care, and special antenatal care units had been set up for pregnant women testing positive for COVID-19. Separate wards had also been set aside for gynaecology and obstetrics patients testing positive for COVID-19. Emergency care and birthing facilities were being maintained. Investment in infrastructure was being increased to establish primary and secondary health-care facilities in rural areas. A comprehensive approach was being taken to women's, children's and adolescents' health, through an integrated service that addressed health, nutrition and education. Nutrition supplements had been distributed for children during the pandemic. A digital platform had been established, containing all information on the integrated service, for both government use and for individuals.

Ms. K. Hajjoubi (Arab Parliament) said that the state of health of women and children was indicative of the level of development of the whole of society. Despite the progress made in maternal, child and adolescent health over recent years, many countries still faced challenges, including lack of available care services, and shortages of health workers. Health inequities persisted among and within countries. The COVID-19 pandemic had increased those challenges and threatened progress. Lockdowns and overwhelmed medical services responding to the pandemic had resulted in severe disruption to routine medical care, and a rapid increase in morbidity and mortality. The economic impacts of the pandemic had meant that poor households had been unable to afford basic necessities, including food, which had resulted in severe health problems for pregnant women and children. Many countries were facing large migration flows, as a result of forcible displacement caused by conflict, with women and children constituting the majority of victims.

Ms. P. Bayr (Austria) *President of the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights* said that making the labour market accessible to women and ensuring their economic empowerment was a particularly important step. A balance of power must be established, which meant taking power away from men and giving it to women. Women's economic, legal, political

and social independence should be boosted. It was well recognized that when women took decisions, the whole of society tended to benefit. Women must therefore be included in decision-making processes. If a woman went into politics, it would change her life; if many women went into politics, it would change politics.

Ms. S. Mbaya (Team Lead, Campaigns and Partner Engagement, PMNCH) said that the pandemic had shown how fragile progress could be, and how difficult it was to regain progress after it had been lost. While the world's parliamentarians had a daunting task ahead, there were many tools at their disposal, including global commitments, laws already passed at the national level, parliamentary solidarity, and partnerships with international organizations. Those partnerships would strengthen parliamentary action. PMNCH remained ready, through its partnership with the IPU, to support all parliaments.

Mr. J.M. Kazi (UN Women Country Representative, Indonesia) said that the discussion had highlighted a major paradox: while the majority of frontline workers during the pandemic had been women, the decision-makers responsible for the policies that guided health care were predominantly men. Women's leadership must therefore be boosted. The composition of parliament must reflect the composition of society. Achieving gender parity in parliament was a significant achievement. Men must be allies to the cause and must be part of the solution.

The President of the Forum said that she wished to thank all participants for their valuable contributions; the debate had provided many examples and much experience for further reflection.

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

(FEM/33/4.Inf-1)

(continued)

Reports of the working groups

Ms. L. Wall (New Zealand), Rapporteur for working group 1, said that the working group had considered *Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace*. The group had been chaired by Ms. E. Anyakun (Uganda) and had been attended by the two co-Rapporteurs of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, as well as the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. More than 20 years had passed since the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, which had committed to addressing the needs of women and girls who were victims of violence and ensuring women's participation in decision-making, especially in conflict-prone or conflict-affected areas, to achieve sustainable peace. In discussing the draft resolution, a total of 16 participants had taken the floor. The working group had universally supported the draft resolution. Women and children were the victims of war and conflict, not the perpetrators. If women were in parliament in sufficient numbers, and had meaningful political power, peace would be guaranteed. Women in power would not resort to war.

Ms. M. Sultan Alsuwaidi (United Arab Emirates), Rapporteur for working group 2, said that the working group had discussed *Leveraging Information and Communication Technology as an enabler for the education sector, including in times of pandemic*. The working group had been chaired by Ms. P.A. Komarudin (Indonesia) and had been attended by 20 participants: 16 women and 4 men. A total of 14 delegates had shared their views. The COVID-19 pandemic had shown that the use of information and communication technology (ICT) in education was no longer optional. While such technologies provided significant opportunities, they could also exacerbate inequalities. Women and girls faced disproportionate barriers to access such technology. Disparities in connectivity and in access to devices within and between countries must be addressed.

The working group had discussed measures including equipping rural schools, guiding parents in helping their children access education and information online, increasing use of innovative tools and available platforms, including social media, to reach the widest possible range of learners, including use of ICT in teacher training and broadening ICT education in schools. Increased use of ICT in education had the potential to increase opportunities for women and girls. Resources and training should be leveraged to encourage girls to pursue careers in the ICT sector.

The working group had agreed that ICT could be a benefit to education if sufficient resources were allocated, and provided education budgets were not reduced in times of crisis. Legislation should be adopted to create an enabling environment for eLearning, including the awarding of education

certificates for online learning. A gender lens should be applied to education policies. The working group had prepared amendments to the draft resolution for review and submission to the Standing Committee.

The Forum adopted the reports of the two working groups by acclamation.

The President of the Forum said that the two reports would be used to draft proposed amendments to the resolutions for presentation to the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development. The drafting process would take place in consultation with the Chairs of the two working groups.

Elections to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians (FEM/32/8-Inf.1)

The President of the Forum said that the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was required to fill a vacant seat on the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians for one representative for the Eurasia group to complete the term of a member who had resigned: Ms. E. Afanasieva from the Russian Federation.

A candidature had been received from Ms. G. Karelova (Russian Federation). In the absence of any comments or objections, she would take it that the Forum wished to approve that candidature.

It was so decided.

Venue and date of the 34th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians

The President of the Forum said that the 34th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians would take place immediately before the opening of the 145th IPU Assembly, which was due to take place in October 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda.

Closing the session, she thanked all participants for their contributions.

The sitting rose at 16:50.

Forum of Young Parliamentarians

SITTING OF MONDAY, 21 MARCH

The sitting was called to order at 14:50 with Ms. S. Albazar (Egypt), President of the Board of the Forum, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Opening remarks

The Chair said that the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, and the youth movement at the IPU more generally, had been created because a group of young parliamentarians had strongly believed that the youth voice was missing from politics. Including young people in politics was the right thing to do to improve political participation but also to tackle critical problems, such as climate change. Young people would be the ones suffering the effects of climate change and repairing the damage despite having contributed very little to it. It was therefore essential for the IPU to prioritize youth participation.

The President of the IPU said that, having been first elected at 25 years old, he understood the importance of including young people in politics. Young people must be involved in decisions that affected their lives. Currently, however, there was a huge gap between young people and politics which must be closed. In many countries, young people did not want to vote or participate because they believed that politicians were “all the same”. It was important to banish such beliefs. The representation of young people in parliament was essential to democracy. He encouraged young parliamentarians to never give up even in the face of obstacles. The future belonged to the youth.

Climate change was the theme of the General Debate. The older generation was destroying the planet that young people would inherit. Parliamentarians must immediately take action to change climate change mentalities.

The Secretary General of the IPU said that he could not have imagined that the Forum of Young Parliamentarians would blossom as much as it had in such a short space of time. Thanks to the Forum, the IPU was getting younger and younger not only in terms of faces but also in terms of ideas and working methods. He agreed that the future belonged to the youth but added that the present also belonged to the youth. There was ample evidence that young people were helping to shape the present as well as the future, including within the IPU. It would only be possible to find solutions to challenges by including young people.

Updates on youth participation

The Chair wished to take stock of recent developments in youth participation in parliaments. There had been a number of interesting developments thanks to the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign. The IPU had provided Nigeria and Zambia with dedicated support to implement pledges from the campaign. Nigeria had received support with campaign pledge 4 in the form of training for young parliamentarians. Zambia had received support with campaign pledge 3 with a view to establishing a youth caucus. In addition, Zimbabwe had enhanced its youth quota in line with campaign pledge 1 while Mexico had proposed a new legislative initiative which would be discussed later in the meeting. The campaign had also been launched in Paraguay.

Mr. P.P. Kemper Thiede (Paraguay), speaking via video message, said that Paraguay had successfully launched the *I Say Yes* campaign in parliament. There were only two senators under 40 years old and only 23 deputies between 30 and 40 years old in the Parliament of Paraguay. The campaign was therefore much needed.

Paraguay had taken a number of actions as part of the campaign. First, it had translated the materials provided by the IPU into Spanish and made them available to other Spanish-speaking countries. Second, it had held a press conference to officially launch the campaign. Third, a stand had been set up in the central hall of the Congress to provide information about the campaign. Fourth, brochures about the campaign had been distributed to all deputies and senators, who had then been encouraged to make pledges. Fifth, parliamentarians had presented a bill lowering the age

requirement to stand for the office of municipal councillor from 23 years old to 18 years old in line with campaign pledge 2. He promised to continue promoting the campaign until more young people were elected to parliament.

Mr. E. George (Sierra Leone) said that the Parliament of Sierra Leone had established a youth organization of which he was the president. The organization had been working seriously on the *I Say Yes* campaign. Sierra Leone would soon be holding elections and was hoping to introduce youth quotas. It was not easy for young people in Sierra Leone nor in West Africa as a whole to get elected to parliament. Young people represented only 11 per cent of the Parliament of Sierra Leone. He hoped the percentage would increase at the next election but stressed that the support of the Forum was needed. His Parliament had already been in touch with media organizations, civil society and universities with a view to increasing youth participation in the elections. However, the most critical step was to engage leaders from political parties who must put forward a certain percentage of young people as candidates. It was important to change the perception that young people were “troublemakers” and instead make them part of the decision-making process.

Mr. M. Fathi (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that climate change was a major problem that had led to rising sea levels, destruction of natural resources, as well as increased conflict, poverty and inequality. The younger generations were fully aware that real solutions to the problem already existed. They were the ones who would suffer most if urgent action was not taken. Policymakers must understand that the fight against climate change was a fight to save humankind from extinction. The people in power must listen to the voices of young people and support new ideas and initiatives. No discussion about the future should take place without the presence of young people at the negotiating table.

Mr. S.R. Rasamanickam (Sri Lanka) said that the Parliament of Sri Lanka had no parliamentarians between the ages of 18 and 20, 5 parliamentarians between the ages of 21 and 30, and 21 parliamentarians between the ages of 31 and 40. It was important to make changes in the law to support youth participation in politics, especially in developing countries. Political parties should be obliged by law to nominate a certain percentage of young people as candidates. Sri Lanka was facing its worst ever economic crisis and would benefit from greater youth participation to move the country forward.

Mr. K. Jayawardena (Sri Lanka) said that Sri Lanka had had some successes in youth participation such as setting up a youth parliament. However, the number of young parliamentarians below 35 remained low at 3 per cent. More work was needed to encourage young people to enter politics.

Mr. K. Ait Mik (Morocco) said that, in Morocco, youth and gender quotas had been in place for two terms which had brought more young people into parliament. However, in the latest election, the Parliament had tried a new approach, which had resulted in a 20 per cent share of young parliamentarians under 45 in the House of Representatives. The Senate also had 10 young members in its ranks. Another way to increase the numbers of young parliamentarians was through political parties. It was important to encourage young people to stand as candidates and to start campaigning.

Mr. S. Tynkkynen (Finland) said that the average age in the Finnish Parliament was 46. About half of its members were therefore young parliamentarians according to IPU criteria. The current Prime Minister had been only 34 when she had taken up the post and many of the key ministers were also young women. The Parliament had been in talks about limiting the amount of money that could be spent on campaigns to level the playing field for young people. Social media was a game changer for young parliamentarians since it allowed them to campaign for free with huge reach. Newer social media platforms such as TikTok were particularly powerful tools which could give young candidates the upper hand over older candidates who tended not to use them.

Ms. R. Nikhil Khadse (India) said that India had one of youngest populations in the world with 65 per cent of its citizens being under 35. The Government had made efforts to provide youth with adequate education and skills so that they could participate effectively in economic and political processes. For instance, it had established a youth parliament festival consisting of district youth parliaments, state youth parliaments and a national youth parliament. The festival aimed to strengthen democracy, build tolerance and teach young people about the practices and procedures of parliament.

It also helped to raise awareness about the importance of active citizenship, encouraged youth participation and promoted leadership qualities in young people. The Government had also set up initiatives such as the *Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana* start-up scheme, the *Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Protsahan Yojana* employment scheme and the National Career Service, all of which had the potential to create economic opportunities for youth. The Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development had been set up as the main body responsible for youth activities both in urban and rural areas. There was also a national programme for the development of sport which promoted sporting excellence among the younger generation.

Ms. Dyah Roro Esti Widya Putri (Indonesia) said that 10 per cent of the Indonesian Parliament was under 40 with the youngest member being 23 years old. Indonesia was currently experiencing a “demographic bonus” where 70 per cent of its population was of productive age (between 16 and 65). Almost half of the population belonged to the millennial generation or to generation Z. Indonesia must capitalize on having such a young population, including by electing more young parliamentarians to represent the voice of the youth. Indonesia very much supported the youth movement within the IPU and had signed up to the *I Say Yes* campaign. Young parliamentarians had been taking advantage of social media to communicate with the public about their activities. In doing so, they had been able to reach younger and older generations alike.

Mr. M.A. Bouchouit (Algeria) said that it was important to take tangible steps to increase the representation of young people in national assemblies. The President of Algeria believed in the capacity of young people to build the future and had pledged to promote youth participation in political life. He had established a plan of action for youth and made political reforms to be more inclusive of young people. Article 38 of the Constitution required the State to assign financial and human resources for the development of young people. Similarly, it was mandatory by law for electoral lists to contain equal amounts of men and women and at least 50 per cent people under 40. The State was encouraging young people to participate in elections by supporting their campaigns financially, including by paying to print documents, rent rooms and organize transportation. The above measures had been very important in empowering youth. The 2021 elections had produced a Parliament consisting of 199 young parliamentarians, including 120 parliamentarians aged 26 to 39 and 79 parliamentarians aged 40 to 45.

Ms. F. Masiko (South Africa) said that youth representation in the South African Parliament stood at 30 per cent across both houses with the youngest member being 21 years old. Unfortunately, only 4 of the 47 parliamentary committees were chaired by young people under 45. Male parliamentarians still outnumbered their female counterparts in every age group. South Africa did not have constitutional or legislated youth quotas. According to its Constitution, however, any person eligible to vote was eligible to be a Member of Parliament. The onus therefore lay with the political parties to nominate young people in elections. South Africa was in the process of establishing a youth caucus as per IPU guidelines and had recently hosted a hybrid youth parliament focusing on economic issues affecting young people, particularly since the onset of COVID-19. Approximately 180 young people had participated in the youth parliament, including Members of Parliament, metropolitan and district councillors and civil society representatives. Participants had deliberated on the theme *Youth Power: Growing South Africa together in a time of COVID-19*. They had discussed issues such as accelerating the youth economic agenda in the post-COVID-19 period and overcoming barriers to youth participation and employment. The youth parliament had provided young people the opportunity to institutionalize oversight and accountability structures across the three spheres of government and enabled targeted responses to youth empowerment.

Ms. E. Ernst-Dziedzic (Austria) said that young people would be most affected by the climate disaster, but their voices often went unheard.

She felt that she could not continue to talk about climate change while the war in Ukraine was ongoing. It was not a war between two countries but a war of aggression led by one individual for the sake of his imperialistic ideas. The war was not between the Russian Federation and Ukraine alone but affected many more countries in Europe and in the world as a whole. There would be damaging effects on the whole global economy and on people’s livelihoods everywhere. For example, both the Russian Federation and Ukraine were important wheat and food producers, supplying countries around the world, including North Africa and the Middle East. With the war ongoing, harvests would likely fail, driving up prices and leaving many people unable to afford food. President Putin might have thought that he was too powerful and rich in oil and gas to cause a strong international reaction to his

war, but he had been proved wrong. The world must stand united and show Putin the consequences of his actions. It was vital to demonstrate that invading a neighbour was never acceptable and that crimes such as those being committed against Ukraine would never go unpunished.

Ms. A. Vidot (Seychelles) said that, regrettably, there were only 3 parliamentarians under the age of 35 in the Parliament of the Seychelles. However, the share of parliamentarians under 45 was high at 42.86 per cent and the parliamentary secretariat also had a young workforce. Young parliamentarians were actively engaged in the work of her Parliament and often pressured the executive with questions and motions related to youth. Recently, they had persuaded the executive to support a programme that provided free sanitary pads to girls so that they did not miss school. Moreover, they regularly questioned the executive on the budget to ensure there was adequate support for youth development, including in terms of housing, education, health, employment and business ventures. That said, parliamentarians of all ages in the Seychelles could do more for youth participation. They could, for instance, engage more with different types of youth-led nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

The Seychelles had created many opportunities for young people to empower themselves. However, it was a small country and depended a great deal on support from other countries. The Seychelles would be in a very difficult position if conflicts continued to take place around the world.

Mr. V. Tsvangirai (Zimbabwe) said that a youth caucus had recently been introduced in the Parliament of Zimbabwe which was already making positive change. The caucus was currently trying to introduce a youth service to encourage young parliamentarians from different political parties to find common ground on key issues such as peace. In addition, it had launched an initiative aiming to resolve drug problems among young people by inviting them to talk about their problems and to participate in recreational programmes instead of taking drugs. There was also a youth bank which had helped many young people start businesses. Young parliamentarians from the caucus had been fighting for an increase in funding for the bank. He called on the IPU to ensure that each delegation brought with them at least one young parliamentarian to IPU Assemblies.

Ms. E. Jolobala (Malawi) said that a youth caucus had already been established in Malawi which was working well with civil society and NGOs. Parliamentarians from across party lines tended to work together as a team when it came to youth. Young parliamentarians were demanding youth quotas in parliament and had set up a cross-party youth network to allow young people to express their views. Calls had been made for young people to be consulted in all discussions related to budget. There were also ongoing negotiations about incorporating the youth caucus into standing orders so that it could receive government funding for its activities instead of having to rely on donor support. Almost half of the population of Malawi was made up of young people. Thus, anyone standing in elections must take youth issues into account to receive votes. Young parliamentarians in Malawi went by the motto “nothing for us without us”.

Mr. U.S. Argariya (Nepal) said that human trafficking was the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world. Traffickers relied on online marketing and communication tools for demand and supply. A full-scale investigation into their activities was needed. The Government of Nepal had failed to meet international standards for the elimination of human trafficking but had made some positive steps in the right direction. For example, it had condemned two individuals formerly involved in such activities. Parliaments across the world must engage with each other to combat the problem.

Ms. J.C. Ng'andwe (Zambia) said that the Parliament of Zambia had not previously had a youth caucus but had established one following the IPU Assembly in Madrid. The youth caucus aimed to engage in advocacy, capacity building, dialogue and peer-to-peer learning. The Parliament of Zambia had a total of eight young parliamentarians: seven males and one female. She hoped those numbers would increase at the next election. Young parliamentarians were currently working on tabling a bill to promote youth quotas.

Mr. M. Alabbasi (Bahrain) said that youth empowerment was a priority for Bahrain. Over the years, Bahrain had managed to build up the number of parliamentarians under 40 to 20 per cent of the overall number. It had introduced a national strategy aiming to ensure youth involvement in the political, economic and social aspects of development and had set up a parliamentary youth committee. Young people were involved in decision-making both in the legislative and non-legislative arenas. Bahrain had recently held the second edition of the parliamentary culture programme where

young people had been able to voice their concerns. Several propositions had been tabled during the programme, including a draft law requiring NGOs to have a certain number of young people as board members. There were also in-depth discussions about the participation of young people in the labour market. A separate week-long event had also been held where young people had discussed measures and mechanisms that could boost youth involvement in parliament.

Ms. V. García Martínez (Mexico) said that she had started her mandate 15 years ago and was currently the Deputy Speaker of the Mexican Senate. Young parliamentarians represented more than 20 per cent of the total number of parliamentarians in both chambers. Her own party, *Partido Revolucionario Institucional* (Institutional Revolutionary Party), had a youth quota requiring 30 per cent of candidates to be young people. However, not all political parties had them. It was for that reason that she had presented a motion asking for youth quotas to be written into legislation and for the age of eligibility to stand for elections to be reduced from 21 to 18. There was also a need to put young people in decision-making positions and to assign sufficient budgets for youth affairs.

Contribution to the work of the 144th Assembly

The Chair invited delegates to offer a youth perspective on the theme of the General Debate, *Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change*. Urgent action was needed to minimize climate change which was already affecting every region of the world and intensifying at a rapid pace. Young people had the most to gain – or lose – from global action. It was important to accelerate efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Ms. E. Jolobala (Malawi) said that parliaments had an obligation to reduce climate change impacts, such as the damage done to the ozone layer. Malawi had introduced a carbon levy, which aimed to reduce carbon emissions, and had removed taxes on clean energy. The funds collected from the levy were being used on climate change actions. In addition, all Members of Parliament were required to lead green activities in their constituencies, such as tree planting. Malawi had been engaging local and religious leaders on climate change and teaching people not to destroy nature. Many women in Malawi were suffering as a result of climate change and were therefore in favour of government advocacy efforts. Lastly, there was a parliamentary committee on natural resources and climate change which was working hand in hand with the Government.

Ms. Dyah Roro Esti Widya Putri (Indonesia) said that Indonesia was a signatory of the Paris Agreement and had agreed to decrease greenhouse gas emissions by 29 per cent by 2030 or by 41 per cent with international aid. The energy transition was one of Indonesia's main priorities. The energy sector was heavily dependent on fossil fuels and contributed about 30 per cent of Indonesia's total emissions. Thus, one of the country's biggest goals was to push through a bill on renewable energy and increase the share of renewables from 14 per cent to 23 per cent. In addition, the country wished to strengthen bilateral cooperation to facilitate knowledge transfer, technology transfer and sharing of experiences on climate change. Doing so would help make renewables more competitive. Building up the forestry sector was also important to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Mr. M. Alabbasi (Bahrain) said that many young people around the world were concerned about the future as a result of the incapacity of governments to tackle climate change. He wished to draw attention to a climate change survey carried out by a UK university that had involved 10,000 young people aged 16 to 25 from 10 different countries. According to the survey, 60 per cent of participants had expressed concerns about climate change and over 45 per cent had said those concerns were affecting their daily life. One of the most important concerns expressed related to youth employment. It was therefore crucial to invest in jobs for young people that were environmentally friendly. Young people must be provided with the opportunity to contact leaders within the framework of conferences such as the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Bahrain was committed to reaching net zero emissions by 2060. It was decreasing emissions in parallel with efforts to develop the economy. It was developing the economy in a clean, sustainable and green way, applying the principles of a carbon free and circular economy. The country had also introduced the King Hamad Youth Empowerment Award to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which encouraged young people to get involved in SDG efforts.

Ms. A. Vidot (Seychelles) said that her country had introduced a ban on the use of plastics in 2017, a ban on the production and export of plastics in 2019 and a ban on the import of balloons in 2021. Approximately 47 per cent of the territory of the Seychelles was protected, including 30 per cent of its coastal areas. The National Assembly was leading by example when it came to green practices. For instance, it had been conducting sustainable audits on its operations since 2019 and had introduced an action plan to reduce its own carbon footprint, particularly with regard to energy, water and waste management. It had also installed solar panels on the roof of the building and was encouraging Members of Parliament to plant mangrove seeds around the premises to support the coastlines.

Ms. F. Masiko (South Africa) said that South Africa had created a presidential climate commission to chart a pathway for a net zero climate resilient economy by 2050. It also had a carbon tax to curb carbon consumption, reduce the demand for fossil fuels and push more companies to use renewables. In March 2019, South Africa had procured 6,422 megawatts of electricity from 112 independent renewable energy power producer projects, including from wind, solar power, landfill, hydropower and biomass. It would likewise be extending tax incentives for energy efficiency. Furthermore, the country was implementing large-scale energy and climate change research and development programmes geared towards mitigation solutions such as fuel cells. A “just transition” plan had been adopted which aimed to help the country move from coal to renewable energy and to meet the 1.5-degree temperature goal. Currently, parliamentarians were finalizing the Climate Change Bill which provided a legislative basis for comprehensive climate action. For example, the bill provided for the allocation of sectoral emissions targets and the regulation of large emitters. Lastly, South Africa had allocated domestic resources to help the country better cope with extreme weather and had started decommissioning old coal plants.

The Chair encouraged delegates to voice the above interventions at the General Debate during the segment reserved for young parliamentarians.

Two resolutions were being discussed at the current Assembly: *Rethinking and reframing approaches 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*. Mr. Rakotomalala and Mr. Kemper had been appointed as rapporteurs to draft a youth overview report on the two resolutions. Neither had been able to attend the Assembly. She would provide a brief summary of the report prepared by Mr. Rakotomalala and would later play a video message by Mr. Kemper.

Mr. Rakotomalala had produced a youth overview report for the resolution entitled *Rethinking and reframing approaches to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace*. First, the report reviewed the evolving nature and complexity of conflict and peacebuilding in the 21st century. Second, it argued in favour of processes that created lasting peace, such as destroying the culture of conflict, finding local consensus and having sustainable financing. Third, it called for the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security which emphasized the importance of inclusive representation of young people when making decisions related to conflict resolution. Fourth, the report called for youth engagement directly in parliament on matters of peace and security, including through youth committees and caucuses. Young parliamentarians were ideally placed to serve as mediators in conflicts, especially to foster dialogue among youth in divided societies. Lastly, the report urged parliaments to introduce measures to increase youth representation in parliament, such as youth quotas.

Mr. P.P. Kemper Thiede (Paraguay), Rapporteur, speaking via video message, said that he would report on the resolution entitled *Leveraging Information and Communication Technology as an enabler for the education sector, including in times of pandemic*. Information communication technology (ICT) was essential to strengthening the education sector and achieving wider education coverage. It was important to work closely with universities when developing public policies on ICT in education and ensure the participation of young people in the development of short-, medium- and long-term plans and strategies. There was a need to foster communication and cooperation between countries in the same region to overcome obstacles and reach as many people as possible. Parliaments should take legislative action to promote investment in infrastructure and technological training. Pedagogical systems needed to be redesigned so as to move from traditional to modern methods, including distance learning. The above measures would make education more effective, helping to modernize schooling, particularly in developing countries.

Mr. U. Lechte (Germany) said that the Russian Federation had launched an aggressive assault on Ukraine. Thousands of people had already been killed and three million had fled. Europe was under attack in a way that had not been seen since the Second World War. It was not a regional conflict but a conflict instigated by a nuclear power that had the potential to draw in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and cause a third world war. He called on countries around the globe, including in Africa and Asia, to support Europe in its time of need. Germany had been pacified for 75 years but had recently made the decision to invest more than EUR 100 billion on warfare in response to the attack on Ukraine. It was the most Germany had ever spent on warfare and was therefore an extremely significant development. People did not seem to realize the huge impact that a European war would have on the world. Among the areas affected would be nutrition. Ukraine, for example, was responsible for 8 per cent of global wheat production while the Russian Federation was responsible for 22 per cent.

Mr. M. Almheri (United Arab Emirates) said that countries must adapt their policies to keep up with rapid developments in technology and enact legislation that promoted remote learning. They must reinforce regional and international cooperation to ensure mutual recognition of certificates according to specific criteria. The educational curriculum must be adapted according to the requirements of the time. There was a need for modern education that taught digital skills. It was also important to raise awareness of the benefits of using technology. He called on governments and parliaments to allocate sufficient budgets for education and to refrain from reducing those budgets during a crisis. Education was key to development and could play a role in promoting digital citizenship. Parliaments must turn their words into action.

Mr. M. Fathi (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that youth were key to achieving peace, justice and reconciliation around the world. He welcomed the ongoing efforts of national and international institutions to involve young people in peacebuilding. Young people had helped to bring more peace than any other age group yet their role in peacebuilding had not been properly recognized. He called on countries to set up meaningful mechanisms to include young people in decision-making locally, nationally and internationally. It was important to change negative perceptions about youth and acknowledge their role in creating stable societies. Currently, the public discourse tended to see young people as potential perpetrators of violence despite the fact that the vast majority were not involved in violence or armed conflict. All over the world, young people were disproportionately affected by a lack of access to socioeconomic opportunities, which led to economic isolation, political frustration and social unrest. Young people should become active messengers of peace but could not do so without recognition from society.

Ms. Z. Yildiz (Türkiye) said that 46.8 per cent of the Turkish Parliament was under 49 years old, which meant that nearly half of all parliamentarians were young people. The youth branches of political parties were very powerful in Türkiye. Nearly 60 per cent of young parliamentarians were former members of such branches. Rather than strict quotas, she would prefer to see a medium established by which young people could more easily participate in politics. Young parliamentarians should be there not only because they were young but because they had the background to address emerging problems and to make the world a better place. Türkiye was helping to mediate the war in Ukraine with the help of many young people.

Ms. A. Rosi Khoerunnisa (Indonesia) said that parliaments were powerful agents in building peace and security. However, conflicts were escalating globally which meant that the current peace processes were no longer effective. Multitrack and multiactor approaches were needed to build peace. Action should be taken on all levels, from high-level negotiations to community-based initiatives. Indonesia had proposed an emergency item on the role of parliaments in supporting a peaceful solution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. It was also very concerned about the conflicts in Palestine, Myanmar, Xinjiang and elsewhere. Young parliamentarians should take concrete actions to minimize those conflicts. Inter-parliamentary cooperation among young parliamentarians must be developed in a more concrete way, for example, by organizing visits. Sustainable peace was a consequence of collective action.

Ms. A. Vidot (Seychelles) said that countries must reflect on whether they had sufficient legislation and mechanisms in place to ensure peace and security for the next generations. It was her hope that young people would continue to advocate for peace regionally and internationally in the future.

The Seychelles had encountered many challenges in its efforts to introduce distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Equality issues had been widespread since not all households had internet access. Teachers did not have experience in new modes of learning and equipment was also lacking in schools. The Seychelles needed to invest in audiovisual teaching technologies, promote capacity-building and work with international and local partners. It was determined to establish a more adaptable and resilient education system inclusive of ICT.

Ms. S. Parag (Guyana) said that Guyana had been injecting as much money as it could into the education sector and was moving forward in terms of ICT. That said, it remained at a disadvantage due to a lack of funding. She called on developed countries to offer financial assistance to developing countries so that they could install the necessary ICT infrastructure in schools.

Ms. M.N. Ulenge (United Republic of Tanzania) said that ICT should be integrated into every sector to foster economic development. She appreciated the role of ICT in increasing economic opportunities for young people. In Tanzania, taxes had been reduced to encourage young people to start online businesses. The Government was also working hard to ensure that ICT was leveraged at all levels of the education system. Approximately 890 schools had been provided with computers and 2,262 teachers had received training in the use of ICT. The Universal Communication Service Access Fund (UCSAF) had been set up to ensure ICT infrastructure and coverage even in rural areas. Young girls were being encouraged to take science subjects.

Putting the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign into action: Q&A session on youth quotas

The Chair said that the next segment of the meeting would focus on pledge 1 of the *I Say Yes* campaign: promoting youth quotas. The purpose of the segment was for young parliamentarians to share their stories of youth quotas in their countries and learn from each other. She invited the Secretary of the Forum to give an overview of the progress made towards youth quotas among IPU Members.

Ms. Z. Hilal (Secretary of the Forum), accompanying her comments with a digital slide presentation, said that the IPU had identified three targets for youth participation in parliament after carrying out consultations with academics, researchers and practitioners in the field. The targets were based on the proportion of young people in the population. They called for a minimum of 15 per cent of parliamentarians to be under 30, a minimum of 35 per cent of parliamentarians to be under 40, and a minimum of 45 per cent of parliamentarians to be under 45. Each target also called for gender parity. The level of implementation of the targets was very poor. Globally, the proportion of young parliamentarians under 30, 40 and 45 stood at 2.6 per cent, 17.5 per cent and 30.2 per cent respectively with young women especially underrepresented in all age groups. Youth quotas were a good way to address the problem. There were two types of quotas: reserved seats and legislated quotas for candidates. However, youth quotas only existed in about 11 countries and those that did exist lacked unity in terms of the percentages that were required to be met and the age brackets used. It was vital to create unity across countries and the targets of the IPU could provide a starting point to do so. Quotas needed to be well-designed and ambitious, and come with strong sanctions if not implemented.

Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), panellist, said that the *I Say Yes* campaign would play a vital role in fostering real discussion on how to increase the number of young parliamentarians around the world. Youth representation in public institutions was critical to ensuring that public decisions considered different perspectives and responded to the needs of all. The active involvement of youth could also inspire others of the same age and help restore trust in public institutions. Today, a significant proportion of the global population was made up of young people yet the proportion of young parliamentarians under 30 stood at only 2.6 per cent. Thus, parliamentarians had a responsibility to include more young people in politics.

In 2017, Mexico City had drafted a new Constitution under which youth quotas had been introduced. It was now mandatory by law for political parties to ensure that 30 per cent of their candidates were young people aged between 18 and 35. The age of eligibility to stand in elections in Mexico City had also been dropped from 21 to 18 in line with the voting age. There had been a heated debate around the above topics with some opposition. However, after some negotiations, all political forces had eventually been able to form a united front. Currently, the Mexican Congress was discussing a new initiative to introduce youth quotas at the federal level.

At present, Mexico had 21 parliamentarians under 30 (4.2%), 56 parliamentarians between 30 and 35 (11%), and 70 between 36 and 40 years old (13%). In the future, it hoped to promote greater participation of young people under 40 aiming to reach 50 per cent of the total number of parliamentarians.

The Chair, speaking in her capacity as a panellist, wished to quote former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who had said the following: “No one is born a good citizen; no nation is born a democracy. Rather, both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime. Young people must be included from birth. A society that cuts itself off from its youth severs its lifeline”.

Egypt was keen to promote youth empowerment. It had established youth quotas in its Constitution which had led to 20 per cent representation of young people in parliament. In addition, the President had set up a training academy for young people wishing to enter politics. The academy operated nationally but also regionally where young people from other countries in Africa were invited to participate alongside Egyptians. Egypt had hosted four meetings of the World Youth Forum and established a youth parliament to help young people learn about parliamentary life. The ruling party was consulting with young people in order to hear their views. Egypt hoped to involve more young people in decision-making processes as well as to establish pressure groups to lobby the Government on matters of concern not only to youth but also to other underrepresented groups, such as women. It was important to ensure more youth representation in political parties. Youth could contribute positively to social change.

Mr. C. Chauvel (Global Lead Advisor on Inclusive Processes and Institutions, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)), panellist, said that the best way to achieve sustainable human development, respect for human rights and peace was to have inclusive bodies that held governments to account. Quotas had their place in improving youth participation, but a number of other issues were also important. First, it was necessary to address young people’s disengagement with public decision-making which could not be done with quotas alone. There were other ways to normalize the presence of young people in office, such as establishing youth parliaments, training young people and encouraging their participation in civic organizations. It was necessary to show young people that their voices could be heard. Second, mechanisms should be institutionalized in the decision-making processes of the State to ensure that youth perspectives were considered. For example, every bill could be accompanied by a regulatory impact assessment statement in which the Minister presenting the bill must show how it affected the interests of young people. The relevant committees would then have the ability to examine the statement and decide whether it was accurate or misplaced.

Overall, he wished to emphasize that a holistic package of measures was needed, not just quotas. Otherwise, parliaments ran the risk of stranding young people in parliament without the tools to do the job.

Ms. J. Belschner (Post-Doctoral Researcher, Christian Michelsen Institute), speaking via video message, said that youth quotas did generally work since they brought more young people into parliament. However, parliaments should ensure that quotas bolstered youth involvement at all stages of the recruitment process. The recruitment process had three stages, namely a pool of aspirants, a pool of candidates and a pool of elected parliamentarians. It was important to encourage young people to aspire to a place in parliament, to push political parties to nominate young people as candidates as well as to ensure young people were actually elected through electoral lists but also by appealing to voters.

Youth quotas must meet two criteria in order to work. First, they must be in line with the electoral system. First-past-the-post systems required a high number of reserved seats. Proportional representation systems required a high number of reserved seats together with placement mandates making it compulsory for young people to be placed high up on electoral lists. Second, youth quotas must take gender into account. Many parties tended to prefer young men, although young women were more common where there were parallel youth and gender quotas. Ideally, however, equal numbers of men and women should be present. The best option was therefore a nested youth quota which included a gender parity rule.

Ms. M.S. Al Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates) said that youth participation was one of the key pillars of development. As a result, the United Arab Emirates had been working on strategies and policies to empower youth. It had established a Ministry of Youth and put in place several ministers under 40. There was a centre for youth responsible for addressing the needs of young people under 30 as well as a youth council whose members served as consultants on youth affairs. Her country had

also set up a fund to support young people in their economic activities. She wished to make a number of suggestions. First, financial resources should be allocated for youth development. Second, national projects were needed to empower youth. Third, countries should foster greater youth participation in national parliaments and in the drafting of the national and international agenda.

Mr. V. Tsvangirai (Zimbabwe) commended the Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia who had brought members of the youth parliament with him to the IPU Assembly. Other countries should consider doing the same.

He agreed that youth quotas were important. Zimbabwe was working towards youth quotas by ensuring that at least 50 per cent of candidates nominated by political parties were young people. However, young parliamentarians should not be answerable to political parties but to the people they represented. He asked Ms. Albazar and Mr. Chauvel whether they had any plans to visit the Parliament of Zimbabwe and address the youth caucus.

The Chair, speaking in her capacity as a panellist, said that she did not currently have plans to visit Zimbabwe but would do so if she got the chance.

Mr. C. Chauvel (Global Lead Advisor on Inclusive Processes and Institutions, UNDP), panellist, said that he had previously been planning to come to Zimbabwe but had been prevented from doing so due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. F. Masiko (South Africa) said that young people constituted 63.3 per cent of the South African population yet too few of their voices found expression in the corridors of power. Economic, social and political issues needed to be viewed through a youth lens.

South Africa did not have constitutional or legislated youth quotas. However, any person eligible to vote in local, provincial or national elections was also eligible to stand for elections. The closed list proportional representation system was one of the major entry barriers for young people. Limited access to funding and a reluctance by politicians to work with young people meant that forming their own political parties was unrealistic for many young people. Political parties had been gradually increasing the numbers of young people on their lists, but none had representation that accurately reflected the proportion of youth in the country. Currently, the committee on home affairs was holding nationwide public hearings on the Electoral Amendment Bill to ensure the inclusion of independent candidates in elections.

Numerous countries had shown that youth quotas could increase the number of young people in elected bodies. Although reserved seats and legislated quotas seemed to be the most effective system, party quotas also played an important role. Having quotas in the legislation or in the constitution was not enough if they were not implemented by the political parties. Political parties needed to place young people high on their party candidate lists in the case of proportional electoral systems. For quotas to be effective they must be accompanied by a holistic strategy to support meaningful youth influence within institutions, including parliaments. The strategy might involve setting up mentorships to support young parliamentarians in executing their mandate. Doing so would create cooperation between younger and more experienced parliamentarians.

Ms. T. Jutton (Mauritius) said that Mauritius had an aging population but was now seeing an emergence in youth voice and power. Mr. Chauvel should clarify how countries could deal with public disengagement and normalize the idea of having more youth in parliament. She agreed with Ms. Belschner that devising youth quotas was important and that those quotas must also ensure a gender balance. Parliamentarians should empower young people, engage them and prepare them to be the voice not only of their political party but of all the young people in their country.

Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), panellist, said that it was very difficult to push for youth laws because it went against the system. The system as it was currently would never allow for young people to take the seats of the older generation who wanted to stay for years. However, it was important to break the glass ceiling. Young parliamentarians should support and empower each other in their efforts to do so, including from within the IPU. Mexico had managed to approve youth quotas in a moment when the older generation had been distracted by other issues.

She encouraged the young parliamentarians of today not to repeat the same pattern in the future. They must leave their seats when the time was right to make way for a new generation of parliamentarians.

Mr. C. Chauvel (Global Lead Advisor on Inclusive Processes and Institutions, UNDP), panellist, responding to Ms. Jutton, said that parliamentarians had the power of the vote to bring about change. Change did not happen on its own but must be demanded.

It was important for young people to form coalitions with other social groups facing discrimination, such as women. The idea was to promote full inclusion and leave no one behind. The way to achieve full inclusion was culturally specific to each jurisdiction. Quotas could be one way to get there. However, it was not about the way countries got there but about what they were trying to achieve, namely to change culture and normalize youth participation.

The women's movement had been fighting for years. It had achieved a great deal but still had a long way to go. The youth movement was only just beginning.

Preparations for the 145th Assembly (October 2022)

The Chair said that the following resolution would be considered at the next Assembly: *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.* Pursuant to its Rules, the Forum must appoint a rapporteur who would prepare a youth overview report, integrating a youth perspective into the draft resolution. The Board of the Forum had decided to nominate Ms. S. Albazar (Egypt) as the rapporteur.

The nomination was approved.

Election to the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians

The Chair said that the Forum must elect a new Board member to replace Mr. A. Al-Kattan (Kuwait) who had resigned. The Arab Group had nominated Mr. M. Alajmi (Kuwait).

The nomination was approved.

Any other business

The Chair reminded delegates to sign up to the *I Say Yes* campaign.

The sitting rose at 18:10.

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

MONDAY, 21 MARCH 2022

The event was called to order at 12:35 by Ms. S. Kiladze (Georgia), member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, who moderated the panel discussion.

The Moderator welcomed participants and commended the IPU and UNICEF for their efforts to put children's rights at the heart of parliamentary activities. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was the most widely ratified international human rights treaty. Yet ratification alone would not suffice; the rights enshrined in the Convention must be respected and adequate resources allocated to implement its provisions. The situation of children's rights globally had deteriorated during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. Parliaments therefore bore a significant responsibility to budget for the realization of children's rights at the national level. Too often, parliaments preferred to invest in short-term projects with immediate tangible results, rather than making long-term investments in the rights of children, which would bear fruit later. When budgets were being cut, as had been the case during the pandemic, children's rights were the first to suffer. It was crucial that children were involved in budgetary decisions on matters that affected them.

Ms. D. Comini (UNICEF Regional Director for East Asia and the Pacific), addressing participants in a pre-recorded video message, said that UNICEF and the IPU had a long history of partnership, through which they worked to foster inclusion of children's rights issues in legislation, budget allocations and advocacy. They had issued joint guidance for legislators on various aspects of child protection, the involvement of children in parliament and legislating for the realization of children's rights, as well as on including child-focused indicators in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) monitoring frameworks. The Convention on the Rights of the Child called on parliaments to bring the voices of children and young people to the fore, and to ensure that their rights were understood, protected and promoted. While much had been done in the 32 years since the adoption of the Convention, progress was fragile and challenges persisted for the realization of children's rights and the attainment of the SDGs.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, countries in East Asia were experiencing recession and economic crisis, resulting in a rapid and dramatic increase in child poverty and exacerbating pre-existing and emerging inequalities. Public investment in the social sector must therefore be increased, and domestic and international resources mobilized to ensure an inclusive post-COVID-19 recovery that gave all children access to good quality education, health and social protection. Further COVID-19 response measures must take the specific needs of children into account. In that regard, all stakeholders must work together to advocate for social spending on children's issues.

Parliaments also had a key role in legislating to promote education, health and protection for children, as well as monitoring the executive to ensure it upheld its commitments. They must ensure that sufficient resources were allocated and directed to matters related to children and young people. Parliamentarians, as public figures and influencers, were uniquely placed to act as opinion leaders, represent the interests of communities and raise the profile of children's rights. The world's parliaments must learn from each other's experiences and best practices. IPU Member Parliaments should work in partnership with UNICEF to create a better and safer world for all children.

The Moderator invited Mr. A. Moechtar, Social Policy Specialist, UNICEF Indonesia to give an overview of the global situation with regard to the allocation of budgetary resources for matters related to children, to describe the progress being made and explain how UNICEF worked with parliaments to promote the consideration of children's rights in parliamentary activity.

Mr. A. Moechtar (UNICEF Indonesia) said that parliaments had a vital role in ensuring that laws, policies and budget allocations were directed towards the realization of children's rights as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. With regard to parliaments' legislative function, all ratified international instruments must be incorporated into national law. Parliamentary oversight was also crucial; parliaments must monitor the implementation of legislation and hold the executive to account. Parliaments' budgetary function was essential to ensure that

sufficient resources were allocated and appropriately directed to implement legislation and policy on children's rights. Children did not have the right to vote, and their voices would be left unheard if parliaments did not advocate for them.

Ensuring adequate public investment in children was crucial for the realization of children's rights. In South-East Asia and the Pacific, child-focused public spending in social sectors remained very low. Spending on children was often discretionary, short-term and frequently depended on volatile funding. Planning and budgeting processes had not been designed to respond comprehensively to children's needs. Lack of adequate, suitable, regular budgetary allocations had a negative impact on the realization of many aspects of children's rights.

UNICEF engaged closely with parliaments to promote programmes for children and increase investment in issues related to children's rights. UNICEF was present in many countries around the world, providing guidance on budgetary matters. Although essential, transparency in budgeting was severely lacking, as was public participation in budgetary processes. Parliamentary support for open, inclusive and participatory budget implementation, and advocacy for the inclusion of children's rights, could therefore have a significant impact. Legislative oversight of budget implementation was also lacking. UNICEF, through its country presence, was supporting numerous parliaments worldwide in developing child-focused budgets, through budgetary analysis, technical training and capacity building. Indonesia was currently focusing on developing a children's budget. The UNICEF Indonesia country office stood ready to work with the Indonesian Parliament in that regard.

UNICEF engaged with parliaments at four stages in the budgetary process: budgetary formulation; budget approval; budget implementation at the sectoral level; and budget monitoring and oversight. As an independent organization, UNICEF worked together with governments and parliaments, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to realize children's rights. It had significant technical expertise and a wide field presence, which could be leveraged by parliaments. UNICEF gathered and processed data, which could be used to provide evidence to help parliaments make informed decisions. UNICEF also had convening power and could align parliaments with strategic partners in civil society and academia, as well as the media and other international organizations in the United Nations system.

The Moderator said that the evidence on the lack of budgeting for children's rights was worrying and demonstrated the importance of children's rights-focused budgetary processes. UNICEF was providing crucial support in that regard. She invited Ms. Desantila Tahirai, a medical doctor and parliamentarian from Albania, and former UNICEF coordinator, who had recently been appointed Vice-Chairperson of the parliamentary group, "Friends of Children", to describe the work being done by the Albanian Parliament to budget for children's rights.

Ms. D. Tahiraj (Albania) said that Albania's "Friends of Children" parliamentary group comprised 50 members and was chaired by the Speaker of Parliament and three Vice-Chairpersons. The group had created six subgroups on a variety of topics that reflected the main legal, policy and administrative aspects of children's rights in Albania, one of which was dedicated to matters of budgeting to advance children's rights. Members of the subgroup had committed to ensuring that child rights were given due consideration in policies and budgets and to conducting activities to raise awareness and build capacity among Albania's parliamentarians. Annual discussions were held with the UNICEF country office on a budget law to secure resources for services that directly impacted children's well-being and health. The support provided by UNICEF was greatly appreciated.

Public investment in services for children had remained unchanged for several years. Education, health and social protection took the largest share of public expenditure as a percentage of the total government budget. Happily, that trend had not changed during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the face of economic threats resulting from the earthquake in Albania in 2019, along with the pandemic and latterly the situation in Ukraine, strengthening public finances for children must remain a priority, as the only sustainable path to future growth. Albania was making efforts to apply standards and budgets that were comparable to the rest of Europe. The Albanian Parliament would appreciate more examples, evidence and best practices for maintaining budgets for children, and looked forward to further cooperation with UNICEF in that regard. Investment in children was the only way to secure a sustainable future.

The Moderator said that Albania's parliamentary group could serve as an example for other countries and welcomed the support UNICEF provided to the parliamentarians of Albania. She invited Ms. P. Appiagyeyi, a parliamentarian from Ghana, to explain how the Parliament of Ghana was budgeting for children's rights.

Ms. P. Appiagyei (Ghana) said that Ghana was party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and a host of other international instruments for the promotion and protection of children's rights, including the International Labour Organization (ILO) Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182). The Constitution guaranteed the right of children to be protected against anything that threatened their development, and the Children's Act, Human Trafficking Act, Domestic Violence Act and Criminal Code, among other pieces of domestic legislation, contained provisions that prohibited various forms of child labour. In addition to the legal framework, policies and a variety of action plans had been put in place to enhance children's development, in particular through education and the elimination of child labour.

Ghana had a programme-based budgeting system, with priority areas identified for funding and the required budget requested by the relevant ministry. Parliamentary committees for each sector considered budget requests and took decisions on the allocation of resources, which were then subject to general parliamentary questions in plenary. In some ministries, efforts to budget for children's issues needed strengthening. UNICEF was working with the Ministry of Education to consider best practices and methods for meeting children's needs. Parliamentary caucuses, including on population and on disability, ensured that the rights of children were adequately taken into account in policies in those spheres. Parliament had been working to build partnerships with donor agencies in other countries, as well as with UNICEF and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to ensure that all programmes involving children's rights were adequately resourced. While progress was still lacking in some spheres, the prioritization of education in Ghana had been significant. Education was the best tool to enable children to claim and enjoy their rights. All children were therefore given free education, books and uniforms. Vulnerable girls were given free sanitary products to ensure that menstruation did not prevent them from attending school.

The Moderator said that the case of Ghana highlighted the important combination of upholding national and international commitments. The role of parliaments in analysing budgets at the planning stage, adopting them and overseeing their implementation was clear. International partnerships with other countries and international organizations were crucial. Focusing on education was key to upholding children's rights and to the development of the whole of society in the long term.

Discussion

Ms. J. Salman (Bahrain) said that when adopting the national budget, the Parliament of Bahrain focused on the needs of the most vulnerable in society. Investment in children was an investment in the future of society. In Bahrain, committees for women and children had been established in both houses of Parliament. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was the main point of reference for Bahrain's national legislation and policies with regard to children's issues. Parliament took steps to uphold children's rights through the promulgation of up-to-date laws, taking into account the best interests of the child. When considering the budget, the Parliament of Bahrain monitored all financial allocations for children to ensure that sufficient resources were allocated and directed appropriately. UNICEF's support had been key in the establishment of institutions and organizations for the protection of children, including a reception centre and a hotline for child victims of violence, a guidance service, a juvenile court and juvenile justice system, as well as clubs and groups for children and parents. Support mechanisms were in place for orphans, abandoned children and homeless children. Legislative measures were taken to tackle child labour and domestic violence. Legislation prohibiting children from begging was accompanied by a robust social security system. Bahrain's law on childhood was comprehensive, drawing on international treaties, experiences shared by other countries and guidance from UNICEF. Parliaments had a responsibility to protect children, particularly by ensuring that institutions and measures for their protection were adequately funded.

Ms. P. Tohmeena (Thailand) said that the Parliament of Thailand had established standing committees for children's affairs in both houses, which had been working with relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, nongovernmental organizations and academia, to ensure the well-being of all children, with a focus on health, education, food security, and future productivity and ability to contribute to society and the economy. A universal child support grant had been launched for all children from birth to age six years, although it currently stood at only US\$ 20 per month. A social protection system was in place to provide welfare support for children in vulnerable households and those living in poverty. An equitable education fund had been established to provide financial support for children and young people in need and to reduce educational inequalities. The fund gathered

information and data on inequalities in education and was required to report to parliament annually. The COVID-19 pandemic had negatively impacted education rates; increased poverty and a lack of access to the necessary resources for online learning had resulted in significant numbers of children dropping out of school. Extra efforts were therefore needed to ensure that the rights of all children were protected and that all children were able to reach their full potential.

Ms. H. Vijaykumar Gavit (India) said that investing in children contributed significantly to inclusive and sustainable human development; progress in meeting the SDGs required child-responsive policies. Child budgeting was an important policy and analytical tool, which could help parliaments take stock of their investments for children. The first step towards comprehensive resource allocation was to conduct budgetary analysis to identify gaps and neglected areas. The key was to focus on the most vulnerable, in particular street children, orphans, child workers and migrant children. COVID-19 had increased the risks and vulnerabilities of children; budgetary investment would be needed to redress the effects of the pandemic. Children under the age of 18 years constituted 39 per cent of India's population. The Constitution obliged the Government to make the necessary provisions to advance their rights and well-being. Recognition of the need to enhance the child responsiveness of India's national budget was reflected in India's national policy for children and its national plan of action for children. India was also party to a significant number of international instruments and decisions, including ILO Convention No. 182, and a variety of policies were in place to secure children's welfare. Measures must be taken to identify gaps in spending and improve the design, planning, implementation and monitoring of resource allocations to ensure that financial outlays were translated into positive outcomes for children. Parliaments played a crucial role not only in budgeting, but also holding governments accountable.

Ms. G. Weber (Ecuador) said that Ecuador faced significant problems with regard to poverty, teenage pregnancy and drug abuse, among others, all of which deprived children of their rights and freedoms, in particular access to education and health. All ministries should be involved in efforts to rectify that situation. Examples of good practice, successes and model policies and programmes were needed to advocate and plead the case for the allocation of resources.

Mr. A. Moechtar (UNICEF, Indonesia) said that UNICEF had representatives around the world, and had a country office in Ecuador, which could support the Parliament of Ecuador and provide evidence to support policymaking and budgeting. UNICEF paid particular attention to linking policy development with the SDGs.

Ms. A. Al Shaman (Saudi Arabia) said that children's well-being and development were fundamental. Legislation must be reviewed regularly to ensure that it was fit to tackle social and economic challenges. In Saudi Arabia, legislation had been adopted to protect children's rights, prevent harassment, and eliminate discrimination against children with disabilities, with strict sanctions for perpetrators. A law had recently been promulgated to prohibit early marriage. The Shura Council performed its oversight function, ensuring that relevant indicators were in place to hold ministries working on children's rights issues to account. A programme was in place to prevent violence against children and to ensure that health care and education were prioritized in the national budget. Basic education was provided free of charge. Monthly grants were provided to university students in financial need. The COVID-19 pandemic had required a transition to online education and particular efforts had been made to protect children against online abuse and harassment, in cooperation with international partners.

Mr. M. Rezakhah (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the Islamic Republic of Iran was party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols. The situation of children in armed conflicts was particularly worrying; the instigation of war and sale of weapons by some countries had deprived children of their rights to development, health and education. Unilateral coercive measures and economic warfare also impeded the realization of economic, social and developmental rights. The Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran had taken legislative measures to protect minors and realize their rights. Legislation on the protection of children and adolescents, revision of juvenile justice legislation and the family protection law had all been adopted with the aim of protecting children's rights.

Ms. E. Jolobala (Malawi) said that the Parliament of Malawi was working with a variety of partners, including UNICEF, to identify areas where children's rights required further protection, beyond the key sectors of agriculture, education and health. Many gaps in that regard were being brought to the Government's attention. The parliamentary committee on social affairs was conducting a child budget analysis with the support of the UNICEF country office. UNICEF had also assisted in the drafting of a bill on the establishment of a children's commission, and legislation on the prevention of trafficking in children and early marriage, which had been enacted. UNICEF had successfully helped Malawi's parliamentarians to lobby the Government to allocate adequate resources to early childhood development. UNICEF was also supporting ministries and the judiciary and security institutions to build capacity for dealing specifically with children. Public awareness was being raised of the importance of children's rights and juvenile justice.

Mr. R. Kavanga (Namibia) said that he was a member of Namibia's Children's Parliament, and was participating in the 144th IPU Assembly with the support of the UNICEF country office in Namibia. Leveraging parliamentary budget powers for children should start with investment in and empowerment of children. The Namibian Children's Parliament brought together 97 children from all over the country, to pass resolutions in Parliament. UNICEF Namibia had been instrumental in its establishment. The Children's Parliament had passed a resolution to increase the child grant for orphans and vulnerable children. The resolution had subsequently been passed by Parliament and included in the national budget. A similar resolution had recently been passed to increase the grant for children with disabilities, which was currently before the National Assembly.

Ms. N. Hamid (Pakistan) said that in Pakistan malnutrition and stunting were severe problems for children's development, to which the Government had allocated significant financial resources. The Prime Minister chaired a national coordination committee on nutrition. Education, in particular for girls, was lacking. Special grants were allocated to encourage girls to attend school, with bonus incentives for them to continue beyond the fifth grade, which was when most drop outs occurred. A national commission on the status of children monitored implementation of the relevant international instruments to which Pakistan was party. A child protection bureau had been set up to look after street children and children who had resorted to begging. Legislation had been enacted to prevent child labour, and rehabilitation centres had been set up for child workers countrywide. Prevention of violence against children was also a priority; laws were in place to prevent corporal punishment and sexual assault. Poliomyelitis had remained a problem until very recently; significant investment had been made in eradication, and Pakistan was close to being declared polio-free.

Mr. S. Sitorus (Indonesia) said that while a greater budget for child protection and child welfare was indeed necessary, fiscal space was limited, which posed a problem for many countries. Prioritization was therefore key. With that in mind, the Indonesian Government had allocated US\$ 2 billion to tackle stunting in 2022. The Indonesian Parliament wished to invite UNICEF to attend Parliament and present its programmes and guidance, in particular to help close the gap between budgeting and policy implementation for child protection and child welfare at the national, subnational and local levels.

The Moderator thanked all participants and welcomed the range of examples of action at the international and national levels. While all countries were different and different perspectives had been represented, it was clear that efficiency and effectiveness in budgetary processes were required if children's rights were to be realized. It was particularly important to share experiences and best practices. Child-friendly parliaments were key, to give children a voice and enable them to be involved in the decisions that affected them.

The event ended at 14:05.

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

TUESDAY, 22 MARCH

(Morning)

The event was called to order at 11:10 with Dr. G. Silberschmidt, Director of Health and Multilateral Partnership at the World Health Organization (WHO), as the Moderator.

Dr. T.A. Ghebreyesus (Director-General of the World Health Organization), speaking via video message, said that it was crucial that parliamentarians were fully engaged in discussions about health emergency preparedness. The COVID-19 pandemic had exposed and exacerbated fundamental weaknesses in pandemic preparedness and response nationally and globally. Weaknesses included complex and fragmented governance, lack of leadership, inadequate financing, and insufficient systems and tools. Instead of solidarity, the pandemic had been marked by inequity. Global health security was too important to be left to chance, goodwill, shifting geopolitical currents, or the vested interests of companies and shareholders. Voluntary mechanisms had not solved and would not solve such challenges. Thus, the Member States of the WHO were currently in the early stages of negotiating a treaty or other international accord on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. Parliaments would play a key role in bringing the accord to fruition and making sure it was fully implemented. The new IPU-WHO handbook entitled *Strengthening health security preparedness: The International Health Regulations (2005)* was a valuable tool for parliamentarians as they worked to strengthen emergency preparedness, underpinned by resilient health systems and a commitment to universal health coverage.

Mr. M. Chungong (IPU Secretary General) said that the world must never again be in the position in which it had found itself at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. People had been caught completely unaware, which had led to panic and lack of coordination. The present workshop was an opportunity to discuss how parliaments could strengthen preparedness and ensure resilience in the face of future crises. The world must learn from their experience of the COVID-19 pandemic by reviewing what had and had not worked. It would then be possible to put in place the right mechanisms to cope better in the future. He looked forward to the WHO treaty on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, and hoped that it would have a binding character. The role of the IPU was to equip parliaments with the tools, knowledge and skills to help them fulfil their commitments. The new IPU-WHO handbook aimed to do exactly that. Parliaments could make a difference with their law-making, budgetary and oversight powers. They should make the choice to establish legislative frameworks, budget allocations and accountability mechanisms that would strengthen crisis management and preparedness. The IPU remained committed to working with the WHO in order to support parliaments in their efforts on the above matters.

The Moderator drew attention to the key point of “never again”. Humanity tended to forget very quickly. The world had not drawn the necessary lessons from the Spanish flu or the Ebola outbreak, for example. It was up to parliaments to make sure that their commitments were followed up with concrete actions and global solidarity.

Ms. P. Maharani (Speaker of the House of Representatives of Indonesia) said that the COVID-19 pandemic continued to be a major health, economic and social crisis which was multiplying existing challenges and exacerbating socioeconomic inequalities. However, a crisis was also a period of intense learning and major transformation. The global pandemic could only be managed with a whole-of-government and whole-of-society response. Only by working together could a nation build public health resilience and strengthen preparedness. Solidarity between nations was the key to a sustainable and equitable recovery. Everyone played a role in maintaining public health. The role of parliamentarians was to pass legislation, exercise oversight, allocate budget and provide representation with a view to strengthening preparedness. They must step up their efforts and take the lead on the matter. National health-related legislation and policies must be comprehensive,

proportionate, gender-responsive and sensitive to vulnerable groups. Parliaments must work closely with governments to ensure adequate infrastructure on a wide range of issues, including health and safety protocols, vaccine distribution and availability of health funds. She endorsed the IPU-WHO handbook as an important tool for parliamentarians to advance their health security preparedness but stressed the need to implement its provisions.

The Moderator agreed on the need to implement the handbook's provisions. Parliamentarians could ensure implementation by passing laws, allocating budgets and holding the government to account.

Dr. J. Mahjour (Assistant Director-General on Emergency Preparedness, WHO), panellist, speaking via video link and accompanying his remarks with a digital slide presentation, said that the world had learnt many lessons over the course of the pandemic: (1) the epidemiology of the virus had been extremely important but had complicated matters given the appearance of new variants; (2) science had provided solutions to the pandemic but had exposed a problem of equity; (3) no country had been adequately prepared for the pandemic; (4) surveillance systems had been crucial in combating the virus; (5) it was vital to fight misinformation; (6) a comprehensive supply chain was necessary to deliver solutions all over the world; (7) universal health coverage was not enough and resilient health systems were also needed; (8) public health and social measures had been crucial; (9) communities should have been better engaged in designing the response.

The pandemic had been unprecedented given the large number of cases and deaths. It had put substantial strain on health systems and disrupted other essential health services. The socioeconomic impact of the pandemic had been enormous, especially on vulnerable groups. As a result, it was vital to be better prepared for the next pandemic.

Member States had come up with a number of workstreams to strengthen preparedness within the WHO. First, they had established the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body, responsible for drafting and negotiating a convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. Under the WHO Constitution, the World Health Assembly was able to adopt conventions or agreements (Article 19), adopt regulations (Article 21) and make recommendations (Article 23). Conventions and agreements as well as regulations were legally binding, but recommendations were not. Instruments adopted under Article 19 were based on an "opt-in" modality whereby Member States must ratify the instrument in question. The process of ratification involved all national stakeholders, including parliamentarians. Instruments adopted under Article 21 were based on an "opt-out" modality where Member States were taken to have accepted the instrument unless otherwise stated. One possible structure for a legally binding Article 19 instrument was a framework convention, such as the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. A framework convention involved a stepwise approach, with the convention established as a first step and additional components, such as protocols or guidelines, established in subsequent steps.

Second, Member States had established a working group on strengthening WHO preparedness and response to health emergencies. The main mandate of the working group was to consider the recommendations issued by different panels and advise on how to implement them. The recommendations had been grouped into four categories: governance, equity, systems and tools, and financing.

Third, Member States were discussing ways to strengthen the International Health Regulations (IHR). A set of amendments had been proposed by the United States of America. Member States were currently considering the best way to handle the amendments. One option was through the review committee established under Article 50 of the IHR.

Fourth, some Member States were looking to establish a governance mechanism to oversee the work of the WHO on health emergencies. Two ideas had been put on the table, namely a standing committee under the Executive Board or a standing committee within the framework of the World Health Assembly.

Fifth, a working group on sustainable financing had been established. As it currently stood, 80 per cent of WHO funding came from earmarked contributions (from donors) while only 20 per cent came from assessed contributions (from Member State fees). Many countries believed that increasing assessed contributions would allow for more predictability and independence in terms of funding.

Lastly, the WHO Director-General had committed to working on a Global Architecture for Health Emergency Preparedness, Response and Resilience which would outline how the WHO intended to lead in that area. It would involve all partners and cover all aspects of the matter.

The Moderator said that, by adopting the WHO Constitution, Member States had given the World Health Assembly the authority to change national law by approving regulations such as the IHR. It meant that the IHR were binding on Member States without the need for a ratification process. The advantage of the IHR was that they were universal. The disadvantage was that they did not have political commitment. Infection control required both universality and political commitment. As a result, Member States were considering a convention which would require an active ratification process. The convention would apply in addition to the IHR.

The working group on sustainable financing had proposed that the assessed contributions from Member States should be gradually increased from 20 per cent to 50 per cent of the budget. The idea was for Member States to retake full control of the organization. He urged parliamentarians to push their governments to support the increase.

Dr. S. Chungong (Director of the Health Security Preparedness Department, WHO), panellist, accompanying her remarks with a digital slide presentation, said that the Global Architecture for Health Emergency Preparedness, Response and Resilience aimed to minimize vulnerabilities to acute public health events and risks. Throughout 2020 and 2021, COVID-19 had subjected global and country emergency preparedness to a tough stress test. It had revealed that every country was vulnerable and no one country alone had all the capacities required for a comprehensive response. However, COVID-19 had not been the first severe pandemic or health emergency and nor would it be the last. Many other disease outbreaks, such as SARS and Ebola, had highlighted the toll that health emergencies could take on the world. Even when mortality was low, the socioeconomic impact could be high. SARS, for example, had caused less than 800 deaths but had had huge economic repercussions costing the world US\$ 30-50 million. An estimated US\$ 12 trillion had been lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The IHR were a legally binding instrument that introduced rules applicable across the world. The purpose and scope of the IHR were to prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of diseases. They included a number of rights and obligations for the WHO and State Parties, including the need to develop capacities to detect, assess and respond to public health emergencies. Parliamentarians could play a central role in promoting and implementing the IHR. The WHO and its Member States had developed a number of tools to monitor progress towards IHR implementation. A comprehensive analysis of the IHR monitoring and evaluation data was also available in addition to recommendations on capacity building. Information from those tools had provided an idea of the critical preparedness gaps. It had become clear that over 74 national action plans for health security had been developed yet none had been fully implemented or financed. Those plans must receive the necessary attention, support and budget.

Many lessons had been learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic which must be taken into account. They included the need to better engage communities, the need to establish more resilient health systems that could respond to emergencies while maintaining other essential services, and the need to set up mechanisms to better reflect gender considerations, equity and human rights.

Better levels of trust, mutual accountability and solidarity were necessary among countries as a prerequisite for preparedness. The WHO Director-General had announced the universal health and preparedness review (UHPR) in November 2020 as a mechanism to build back mutual trust, increase accountability and bring countries together on health matters. To date, 16 countries had volunteered to pilot the UHPR process. The UHPR focused on three areas: (1) governance, trust, stewardship and leadership; (2) effective, dynamic and coordinated national and global systems; (3) predictable and sustainable resourcing. Parliaments needed to be part of the process to make it truly meaningful.

The COVID-19 pandemic had exposed and exacerbated fundamental weaknesses in pandemic preparedness and response capacities, including fragmented governance and inadequate financing. Most importantly, it had exposed that many countries lacked the necessary expertise and workforce. The WHO was therefore developing the Global Strategic Preparedness Network, which would bring experts and countries together. Experts would be matched with countries based on gaps identified in various assessments. Parliaments were encouraged to join the initiative with a view to sharing best practices, knowledge, experience and concrete actions.

There was a need for a multisectoral and whole-of-society approach to preparedness. No sector could address the issues alone. The problem went way beyond health. To that end, the WHO had published a series of documents to encourage multisectoral collaboration, including a framework on civil-military collaboration and the new IPU-WHO handbook.

The aim of the new IPU-WHO handbook was to inform readers about the IHR and set out the role that parliaments could play in enhancing health preparedness. Although the main target group were parliamentarians, the handbook would also be of interest to other groups, including government

officials, members of civil society and academics. The handbook was based on a qualitative study and reality check conducted with parliamentarians. It provided useful explanations, posed key questions and suggested options for action. The recommendations therein would not necessarily suit every parliament but could serve as a basis for further consideration. All recommendations had been drawn from the experience of parliamentarians.

The world must be better prepared for the next pandemic but was only as well-prepared as the weakest country. As such, it was important to support the implementation of the IHR globally, regionally and nationally. Parliaments could play a fundamental role in enhancing national and global health security given their ability to approve budgets and monitor implementation of laws, policies and strategies. They were central in enabling an all-inclusive, multisectoral, whole-of-society approach.

The Moderator said that the WHO stood ready to help parliamentarians in their work to implement the IHR.

Ms. H. Edrees (Public Health Authority–Weqaya, Saudi Arabia), panellist, speaking via video link and accompanying her remarks with a digital slide presentation, said that the lack of preparedness for the COVID-19 pandemic had strained health and non-health systems nationally, regionally and globally. Parliamentarians must use their position to bring about better emergency preparedness in the future.

The WHO had developed a number of mechanisms and tools that could help countries identify gaps and priority areas in their health security infrastructure. They included the IHR, joint external evaluations and the Electronic State Party Self-Assessment Annual Reporting Tool (e-SPAR). The IHR was a legal instrument and framework that governed preparation and response to international health threats. Joint external evaluations were voluntary external assessments of a country's ability to assess its health security strengths and weaknesses. The e-SPAR was a web-based platform that supported State Parties of the IHR to report annually on the implementation of the IHR.

Parliamentarians could greatly influence a country's direction and vision on achieving national, regional and global health security. They were encouraged to engage with different sectors and harness their parliamentary responsibilities, including citizen representation, law-making, budgetary allocation, oversight and accountability. Country-level ownership should be established when developing and implementing policies for pandemic preparedness. However, preparedness policies were needed in addition to risk policies. There was a need to advocate for equal representation of women in preparedness activities and initiatives. The IPU-WHO handbook would provide valuable information on working towards IHR implementation.

One of the most significant lessons on health security and preparedness from the COVID-19 pandemic was the need for robust national legislation. In Saudi Arabia, multisectoral partnerships and coordination efforts for the COVID-19 pandemic had started as early as January 2020– months before the first case in the country had been identified. Although the Ministry of Health had played a key role in managing the pandemic, the centre of government and many non-health ministries, such as the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, had also made a significant contribution.

Countries must strengthen their health security and preparedness efforts in order to mitigate the challenges of an unexpected pandemic or health emergency. Parliamentarians were well-positioned to support those efforts. Some of the actions that could be taken in the future included assessing current pandemic preparedness and participating in workshops taking place internationally. It was important to note that each country would have a different experience and not all actions would meet the needs of every country. The IPU-WHO handbook outlined additional actions parliamentarians could take to further strengthen their country's health security and emergency preparedness systems.

The Moderator agreed that country-level ownership along with robust national legislation were both important considerations. Countries with experience of MERS or SARS had responded better to COVID-19 because they had learnt the relevant lessons.

Mr. V. Lee (Senior Director of Communicable Diseases at the Ministry of Health, Singapore), panellist, accompanying his report with a digital slide presentation, said that the COVID-19 pandemic had reminded the world of the devastating impact of health security threats not only to the health of populations but also to the social, economic and political fabric of nations. However, prior to COVID-19, there had been many other such reminders from different emerging infectious diseases, such as Ebola and SARS. It was not a matter of if but when the next pandemic would occur. The world must learn the lessons from the current pandemic as well as from past outbreaks to develop a more robust preparedness and response framework. The framework should consider what had happened in the past but must also be flexible to accommodate any unknowns that might unfold in the future.

The IPU-WHO handbook outlined what parliamentarians could do to achieve health security and prepare for the future. It served as a solid foundation and fostered a common understanding of the competencies that needed to be built. It also explained a number of legal instruments, such as the IHR. It was extremely important to build capacities under the IHR. Preparedness was needed not only during crisis but also in normal, non-pandemic times.

He drew attention to three important areas that were essential for a successful emergency response: strong national governance, cross-sectoral action and sustainable financing. Parliaments had a key role to play in achieving those objectives. Countries were encouraged to build comprehensive emergency preparedness systems in normal, non-pandemic times so that they could be rolled out during a crisis in an effective and timely manner. Singapore had a crisis management system where the whole of government could come together during a crisis. It was also important for all sectors to work together. The health sector alone did not have all the resources, research capacity or expertise to deal with a pandemic. In Singapore, the Government had engaged the support of other agencies, such as the police and the military which had helped to carry out contact tracing. Access to sustainable financing and resourcing throughout the preparedness and response phases was also critical. There was a need to build health care facilities, stockpile masks and medicines, and train staff, among other things, all of which required financing and resources.

The pandemic had also highlighted the importance of strong national legislation and community engagement. Parliamentarians should enact laws in support of public health action, including disease surveillance, testing, isolation and contact tracing. However, such laws would be insufficient if they did not have the support of the population. Community engagement was therefore critical. Countries who had achieved high COVID-19 vaccine coverage had done so through good community engagement. For example, in Singapore, grassroots leaders and vaccine teams had conducted door-to-door visits to help the population understand the need for vaccines.

Much work remained to be done to promote preparedness. It was best to start with national level preparedness which included IHR capacity building. There was no one-size-fits-all approach. The actions taken in Singapore were only relevant as lessons learnt and would need to be modified in different countries. International preparedness was also important, especially cross-national collaboration. COVID-19 vaccines had been developed in record time thanks to international collaboration. Lastly, only through a whole-of-society approach was it possible to succeed.

The Moderator said that mutual trust between government and society was needed for a successful response.

Mr. W. Williams (Seychelles) said that the Ministry of Health of the Seychelles had three statutory entities led by the public-health commissioner. First, the Health Care Agency was responsible for promoting, protecting and restoring public health. Second, the Public Health Authority was responsible for regulating, monitoring and evaluating health-related services. Third, the National AIDS Council was responsible for providing strategic guidance on HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases.

As part of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Seychelles had set up a high-level committee on disaster risk management chaired by the President and Vice-President and attended by ministers, local government representatives and the leader of the opposition, among others. It had also established a public health emergency centre as well as regional testing and vaccination centres. The public health commissioner had released regular press releases to help the population come to terms with the health risks and gain more knowledge on the virus. Amid conflicting views about vaccines, the Prime Minister and his cabinet had been the first to get vaccinated to encourage the population to do the same. Parliamentarians had contributed to a nationwide question time initiative seeking to further educate the general public about the realities of the virus. Parliamentary committees, such as the women's caucus and the finance committee, had held the executive to account throughout the response.

To date, the Department of Health had managed the COVID-19 pandemic well with limited resources. It had taken wise, prudent and bold decisions. Some of its successes included the installation of oxygen plants, designated quarantine centres and refrigeration facilities to store vaccines. Most of the population had received a second dose of the vaccine and was ready to receive the third.

The Moderator stressed the need for high-level leadership and to work together with the opposition.

Ms. P. Bayr (Austria) said that the IPU-WHO handbook was a valuable tool for parliamentarians. However, it would be even more valuable to create a platform where parliamentarians could exchange experiences on how they were translating the IHR into national law. She preferred to use the term “build forward better” rather than “build back better”.

Mr. S. Zafar Islam (India) said that the pandemic had not only cost lives but also greatly disrupted the global economy. There was thus a critical need for preparedness. Public health security required both proactive and reactive efforts.

The Government of India had taken a proactive approach to the pandemic and was working on multiple fronts to strengthen the health care system. The focus had been on achieving self-reliance and modernization of the health sector. Initiatives had been taken to develop health infrastructure, promote health education, strengthen disease management, provide health insurance and boost the digitalization of medical services. India had introduced a health insurance scheme called Ayushman Bharat which was the largest government-funded health insurance scheme in the world. The Pradhan Mantri – Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission had also been launched to fill critical gaps in public health infrastructure and build preparedness capacities. There was also a scheme to provide medicine to the poor at extremely affordable rates.

Parliamentarians must build new partnerships at the international and national levels with a view to strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration. It was important to ensure national accountability and allocate adequate funding and resources to health.

Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico) said that she had wanted to do more during the pandemic but had not known what to do. The handbook would be a useful tool for the future. She took note of the importance of community engagement and collaboration. The WHO should have more contact with parliamentarians, for instance through workshops or presentations. Mexico was committed to strengthening health security and emergency preparedness.

The Moderator said that the WHO was currently working on a parliamentary engagement strategy.

Mr. P.S. Rudana (Indonesia) said that COVID-19 had had a dual effect causing a global health and economic crisis simultaneously. Collaboration and coordination were needed to overcome the various impacts of the pandemic, including the health, environmental, social, political and economic impacts. Parliaments should engage in diplomacy and government oversight. The Parliament of Indonesia had been working with the Government on the following matters: (1) norm-setting to ensure fair and equitable access to safe, quality and efficacious vaccines and public goods; (2) building national independence in the field of medicines, medical devices and vaccines; (3) ensuring availability and affordability of vaccines. It was vital to work together to build the infrastructure needed for health resilience.

Ms. N. Hamid (Pakistan) said that Pakistan had had a largely successful strategy with few hospitalizations and deaths. The WHO had recognized Pakistan as a country from which the international community should learn. The main reason behind the country's success was the establishment of a national command and control centre which had enabled a unified response.

Pakistan had a very strong vigilance system and had built up its testing capacity from 3 to 400 laboratories in just a few weeks. The “clean care” initiative had been set up to train healthcare professionals. Vaccine centres had opened across the country and more than 100 million people were now fully vaccinated. A “smart lockdown” policy had been introduced where lockdowns had been imposed only in areas with high levels of COVID-19. Lastly, the Parliament had approved legislation to reform the National Institute of Health with a view to further improving the emergency response system.

Mr. N. Alalou (Syrian Arab Republic) said that more than 12 million people in Syria were in need of medical services. However, the war and the sanctions in place against the country had led to a lack of medical resources. The IPU should intervene alongside the WHO and other organizations to support the medical system of Syria. There was a need to secure medical equipment, restore hospitals, support primary health care programmes and assist the population in the fight against COVID-19.

Ms. P. Tohmeena (Thailand) said that public health security and preparedness would only be possible through a whole-of-society approach. A mechanism for the integration and coordination of all stakeholders should be developed. Thailand had invested significantly in primary health care and

universal health coverage and had worked to implement the IHR. As a result, it had a solid health security and preparedness system capable of buffering global health impacts. Thailand was one of the countries piloting the UHPR and planned to hold related activities in April 2022. The country stood ready to share its experiences and draw on feedback from others with a view to improving mutual trust. National parliaments could play their part by prioritizing health security as a fundamental right of citizens, aligning domestic legislation with the IHR and allocating adequate funding. She would share the handbook with her Parliament.

Ms. F. Haddouche Ilimi (Algeria) said that Algeria had taken a number of exceptional measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It had invested a great deal in its health system with a view to ensuring accessible, equitable and quality care. A specific focus had been placed on pregnant women, newborn babies and children. As such, the Ministry of Health had been working in coordination with the official body responsible for children. The Government had put in place a training programme to strengthen the capacities of health workers during the pandemic. Although the COVID-19 situation had improved, it was important to remain vigilant. There was a need to monitor the virus using technology, ensure a wider take-up of vaccines and continue applying protective measures. She expressed her support for the handbook.

Dr. J. Mahjour (Assistant Director-General on Emergency Preparedness, WHO), panellist, speaking via video link, wished to conclude with a number of key messages. First, global preparedness must take a bottom-up approach starting with communities. A top-down approach would not work. Second, a global framework was needed to define the rules of the game on pandemic preparedness and response. Equity should be at the centre. Third, the WHO should be empowered to take a leading role. Fourth, the role of parliamentarians was extremely important not only in the recovery from the current pandemic but also in preparation for the next one. Fifth, a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach was key.

Ms. A.D. Mergane Kanouté (Senegal), Vice-President of the IPU Executive Committee, said that the WHO, alongside governments, had been actively working to implement the IHR and was in the process of developing an official legal instrument on pandemics. Parliaments must make sure that all commitments were respected by passing the right laws and budgets. Solidarity and collaboration were essential if the world wished to emerge from the crisis stronger and better equipped. To protect populations, it was important to communicate effectively with the executive as well as to strengthen relations between parliamentarians and the people. She urged parliamentarians to make sure that their pandemic preparedness efforts were carried out in a holistic manner. The IPU would support parliamentarians as much as possible.

The event ended at 13:20.

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

TUESDAY, 22 MARCH

The event was called to order at 13:15 with Ms. B. Brenner, Head of the Office of the Permanent Observer of the IPU to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna, as the Moderator.

Mr. L.F. Paulus (Indonesia), panellist, said that the ratification and immediate implementation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) was important for world peace and a key element of the international regime for disarmament and non-proliferation. Indonesia did not have the desire to develop nuclear weapons or conduct nuclear tests. It supported efforts to achieve universal adherence to the CTBT. Those efforts were proof of the international community's desire to regulate the use of nuclear weapons and gradually eliminate them completely. Indonesia had signed and ratified the CTBT in 1996 and 2011 respectively. The ratification process had taken some time because the country had previously believed that nuclear States should be the first to commit to the treaty. The Indonesian decision to ratify the CTBT would help create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons. The COVID-19 pandemic had proved that nuclear weapons could not prevent the spread of infectious diseases or address the public health or economic impacts of pandemics. Rather, the availability of weapons tended to fuel armed conflict and hinder the implementation of public health measures. Parliamentarians must use their norm-setting and oversight responsibilities to move the world closer towards the elimination of nuclear weapons. They could do so by engaging in debates, presenting motions, ratifying disarmament agreements, allocating appropriate budgets, monitoring the government's implementation of disarmament obligations, putting in place exemplary policies and practices, and engaging in national, regional and global cooperation. He encouraged the parliaments of nuclear weapon States to contribute to the advancement of global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. A world without nuclear weapons was possible.

Mr. M. Chungong (IPU Secretary General), panellist, said that the commitment of Indonesia to the CTBT was an example of the type of commitment that he wished to see from others.

It was important to achieve universal adherence to the CTBT. Universality meant signing, ratifying and implementing the treaty. Parliaments had a strong role to play in that regard, particularly in implementation. He encouraged them to establish the necessary legislative and policy frameworks, allocate sufficient resources and make sure the government was implementing the treaty effectively.

The IPU's engagement on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament predated the treaty. Indeed, the first IPU resolution on the topic had been adopted in 1995 while the treaty had become a reality in 1996. The IPU Strategy for 2022-2026 gave the IPU the mandate to continue its work on the promotion of the CTBT. The discussion today was highly relevant in light of recent developments. It was an opportunity for parliamentarians to become even more resolved to promote the treaty. The treaty was an essential tool to protect the existence of humankind.

He urged countries who had not yet ratified the treaty to do so and those who had already ratified to proceed to implementation. The IPU would engage in advocacy to mobilize parliamentary goodwill in favour of the treaty. Parliaments should work together towards a nuclear-free world because security was a collective responsibility.

Mr. R.B. Floyd (Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)) said that the situation in Ukraine had brought the world to an unthinkable place where a State was threatening to use nuclear weapons. It was a stark reminder that, for as long as nuclear weapons existed, there was always a risk they might be used. The international community must find pathways towards global disarmament but could not do so without a verification network to detect nuclear tests. The CTBT was critical in that regard. The treaty had not yet entered into force but was already a huge success since it had reduced the number of nuclear tests from over 2,000 to less than a dozen. The reason there was such a strong norm against testing was because of the CTBT verification system. Over 90 per cent of the 337 facilities that needed to be established as part of the system were currently operating. The facilities were collecting data which was then shared with all State signatories. Countries were able to use the data in an empowered way, not only for the detection of nuclear tests but also for other purposes. Some countries, for example, were using the data to enhance their tsunami warning and earthquake monitoring capabilities.

Every country supported the objectives of the treaty, even nuclear States. Universalization was merely about reaching alignment with a country's values as well as their national and strategic context. The situation in Ukraine had emphasized the need to focus even more sharply on bringing the treaty into force. The CTBTO wished to see as many new ratifications as possible in the year leading up to 24 September 2022, which was the 25th anniversary year of the treaty. It normally saw two new ratifications per year but hoped to achieve five or more in the anniversary year. It was exciting to note that three countries were about to deposit their instrument of ratification, while a number of others were far down the track of their domestic ratification processes. By ratifying the treaty, countries empowered it and put pressure on other countries to also ratify.

He emphasized the need for teamwork. The CTBTO was pleased to be working with other organizations such as the IPU, as well as with individual States, civil society, young people and others. The issue of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation must reach across generations and would always be relevant.

A representative of the Syrian Arab Republic said that the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction was a priority for his country. Syria had signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in 1968 prior to many European countries and had acceded to the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2013. In addition, Arab States, including Syria, were pushing for a UN resolution that would create a weapons-of-mass-destruction-free zone in the Middle East. It was worth noting that the main nuclear threat in the Middle East was Israel. Israel was continuing to build on its nuclear capabilities without any international monitoring. He called on the UN Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to take the necessary measures to stop Israel. The international community must put pressure on Israel to join the CTBT and make the Middle East a nuclear-free zone.

A representative of the Syrian Arab Republic said that Syria had been advocating for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction for a long time. The CTBT should be aimed at superpowers that possessed weapons of mass destruction, not small countries that did not possess or have the intention to possess such weapons. It was not fair to ask a small country with few weapons to disarm. There was also a need for internationally agreed security assurances for countries that did not possess weapons of mass destruction. Ratification was important but ensuring compliance was even more so. Although the treaty should be universalized, a dilemma existed as to how to do so. It was discouraging that, 25 years after the treaty had been opened to signature, it still had not come into force. He urged the countries with the biggest stockpiles to commit to disarmament.

Mr. G.P. Timislina (Nepal) said that his country stood for complete and unconditional disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. Total elimination of existing nuclear weapons and the assurance that they would never be produced again was the only way to prevent catastrophic consequences and ensure universal peace and security. The CTBT would help to cap nuclear development and consolidate universal norms against nuclear testing. According to the 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, the use of nuclear weapons was a crime against humanity and a violation of international law. The current efforts of the CTBTO were centred around ratification so that the treaty could enter into force.

Nepal was committed to the CTBT and would ratify the treaty in the near future. It did not possess nuclear arms and did not aspire to possess them. The country was committed to peaceful coexistence and was a party or signatory to almost all UN conventions and treaties related to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. It was, nevertheless, vulnerable to nuclear explosions due to its geopolitical location.

The arms race continued to grow as a result of human greed. The world must redouble its efforts to never again see the dark cloud of a nuclear explosion.

Mr. A. Longuinhos Guterres Lopes (Timor-Leste) quoted Article 8.2 of the Constitution of Timor-Leste which promoted relations of friendship and cooperation, peaceful settlement of conflicts and disarmament. Timor-Leste had signed the CTBT in 2008 and was in the process of ratification. The country strongly supported the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons.

Mr. G. Mohaba Messu (Equatorial Guinea) said that his country had always believed in sovereignty, peace and dialogue as ways to resolve conflicts. It was in favour of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, and had raised the topic consistently

during its time as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. Equatorial Guinea supported the spirit and letter of the CTBT which was an important legal framework for the international community. His country was now in the last phase of administrative procedures to ratify the treaty. He called for a world free of nuclear weapons where people could live in peace.

Ms. F. Bint Abdulla Zainal (Bahrain) said that Bahrain supported efforts towards the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It had signed up to most international agreements on the topic, including the CTBT, the NPT and various agreements with the IAEA. It had also put in place national legislation that supported those agreements. Other actions carried out by Bahrain included setting up a committee on abolishing nuclear weapons, raising awareness and capacity building. Bahrain had a national strategy on nuclear non-proliferation. She called on those States that had not ratified the CTBT to do so.

Ms. J. Nunu Kumba (South Sudan) said that global peace and security were an integral part of the foreign policy of South Sudan. Therefore, South Sudan was in favour of a ban on the use of weapons of mass destruction, including for the purposes of nuclear tests. Nuclear weapons were a great threat to humanity, global health and the environment as well as to peace and security. South Sudan did not produce weapons of mass destruction. However, it believed that every country was vulnerable to their effects. As such, it was in the interest of South Sudan for the production, use and testing of nuclear weapons to be totally banned. The CTBT had been discussed by the cabinet and would soon be submitted to her Parliament for ratification.

Mr. R.B. Floyd (Executive Secretary of the CTBTO) said that it was encouraging to hear that so many countries were progressing towards the ratification of the CTBT. Universalization was achievable. It was not about weapon States versus non-weapon States but about all States together. He commended the Secretary General of the IPU for his commitment to the cause.

The event ended at 14:15.

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))

TUESDAY, 22 MARCH

The event was called to order at 14:40, with Mr. J. Hyde, Secretary of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC) and of GOPAC Oceania, as the Moderator.

The Moderator, welcoming participants to the panel discussion organized jointly by GOPAC and the IPU on international cooperation to prosecute corruption and recover stolen assets, said that GOPAC was the only international parliamentary body dedicated solely to anti-corruption. Over time, several new initiatives for pursuing a multilateral approach to preventing and combating corruption had been introduced. Such initiatives included the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network) hosted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Building on the momentum created in 2021 from the special session of the UN General Assembly against corruption and in order to strengthen interparliamentary dialogue and cooperation in accordance with resolution 8/14 on promoting good practices in relation to the role of national parliaments and other legislative bodies in preventing and combating corruption in all its forms, adopted at the eighth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption held in Abu Dhabi in December 2019, the panel discussion would focus on three important questions.

The first question concerned current and potential future initiatives for effectively supporting the international prosecution of corruption, the associated challenges and ways in which parliaments could address those challenges. The second concerned the current state of recovery mechanisms and how parliaments could work to promote fair and effective asset recovery and ensure that repatriated assets were being used effectively for the benefit of the public. The third concerned possible action by the global parliamentary community to keep tabs on the international anti-corruption commitments made by UN Member States.

Mr. A. Bin Fetais Al-Marri (Chair of GOPAC), also welcoming participants, said in a video message that solidarity and cooperation were key to the global fight against corruption, with parliamentarians playing an instrumental role in developing transparent legal mechanisms for stolen asset recovery in addition to clear regulations for the authorities to follow in that quest. The panel discussion was an opportunity to learn about anti-corruption initiatives around the world and about expectations concerning the outcomes of GOPAC activities.

Mr. F. Zon (Indonesia), Vice-Chair of GOPAC and President of Southeast Asian Parliamentarians against Corruption (SEAPAC), panellist, opening the discussion and thanking the IPU for its long-standing partnership with GOPAC, said that transnational corruption was a highly complex, systemic and severe form of criminal activity disproportionately affecting the developing world as a result of lost trillions amounting to over 5 per cent of global gross domestic product. At the same time as fostering growth and prosperity, the expansion of global markets and the rise of information-intensive industry had presented criminals and corrupt opportunists with the opportunity to exploit illicit gains, often with impunity. Cross-border corruption undermined development, fuelled conflict and escalated threats to global security. In the current critical climate, it was more important than ever to further strengthen cooperation across jurisdictions to curb corruption, promote increased commitments to facilitate effective asset recovery processes, and ensure effective country-level actions.

The UN Convention against Corruption clearly recognized the need for international cooperation to prosecute cross-border corruption, to which end GOPAC had continued to urge the adoption of related international legal instruments and explore mechanisms for dealing with perpetrators of cross-border grand corruption. It had launched a global campaign, *#PreventProsecuteParalyze*, for recognition of grand corruption as a crime against humanity, calling in addition on the United Nations to appoint a special rapporteur on anti-corruption and recommending the adoption of a protocol to the Convention against Corruption for the establishment of an international anti-corruption court. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to use the tools at their disposal to strengthen the commitment

to, and support for, anti-corruption activities. They must also partner with others to address the transnational dimensions of corruption and better integrate international commitments into the national policy framework. With its 1,200-plus members, GOPAC offered a distinctive platform for parliamentarians to work together on those and related issues, including asset recovery.

Data produced by the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR) showed the need to eliminate the barriers to such recovery and strengthen the political will for the proper return of stolen assets. Parliaments could, among other things, take legislative and other action to support asset recovery measures, including non-conviction-based asset forfeiture; provide a sound legal basis for wide-ranging mutual legal assistance; cooperate across party lines; develop national monitoring systems; and establish parliamentary task forces or specialized working groups to support asset recovery and oversight.

GOPAC was working to enhance the parliamentary role in promoting the implementation of internationally agreed principles on asset recovery and welcomed the establishment of the GlobE Network. It called on parliamentarians to engage more strategically and meaningfully in its programmes and on all IPU Members collectively to strengthen their commitment to combating corruption by being part of the solution and ensuring that they were no longer excluded from anti-corruption discourse.

Ms. L. Wall (New Zealand), member of the GOPAC Board of Directors and Vice-Chair of GOPAC Oceania, panellist, noting her country's top ranking in the Corruption Perceptions Index compiled by Transparency International, said that New Zealand had introduced a law combating organized crime and corruption in 2004 and acceded to the UN Convention against Corruption in 2005. Corruption was also covered in its Crimes Act and secret commissions were prohibited by law. Parliament's anti-corruption work programme was future-focused to prevent complacency in an ever-changing world and was also aligned with the integrity and conduct work programme for State services. It was led by the Minister of Justice and overseen by the Serious Fraud Office, which worked in tandem with the police and the Financial Markets Authority and which regularly briefed parliamentarians who were GOPAC members about the levels and emerging types of corruption countrywide. New Zealand participated in the International Public Sector Fraud Forum initiated by the United Kingdom and furthermore aimed to crack down on the use of businesses for hiding laundered money, introduce corporate liability for bribery and corruption, develop clearer statutory guidance as to the meaning of corruption, and update its fraud offences.

Thanks to its Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Act, New Zealand was currently recovering assets of over \$50 million annually, which went into a fund established to address harm from organized crime, in particular drug-related harm, and thereby improve community well-being. The fund was also intended to help towards building an evidence-based case for solutions to such crime and was open to public and non-public services, with applications subject to ministerial approval. It had additionally been earmarked to address mental health issues within the criminal justice system.

Concerning action by the global parliamentary community, she implored all parliamentarians not only to join GOPAC, which performed an incredibly important role, but also to create a GOPAC chapter. She furthermore encouraged them to partner with Transparency International or other organizations equally committed to addressing corruption and to consult the *Anti-Corruption Assessment Tool for Parliamentarians* co-authored by GOPAC and the UN Development Programme. In short, parliaments must remain active in monitoring the anti-corruption work programmes of governments, holding justice ministers accountable for the implementation of those programmes, and ensuring anti-corruption legislation was fit for purpose, effective and of high quality.

Ms. R. Zaharieva (Coordinator of the GlobE Network, UNODC), panellist, speaking via video link from Vienna and accompanying her remarks on the GlobE Network with a digital slide presentation, said that, in the wake of strong political support from the G20 Leaders' Summit held in Riyadh in 2020, the GlobE Network had been created in June 2021, under UNODC auspices, with the aim of developing a quick, agile and efficient tool for combating cross-border corruption offences.

The achievement of its current membership of 93 independent anti-corruption authorities from 56 States in such a short period was a strong indication of the value of the GlobE Network in a variety of spheres, specifically: facilitating direct and informal cooperation among anti-corruption law enforcement agencies; establishing secure channels of communication; facilitating any requested and agreed parallel and/or joint bilateral or multilateral investigations; facilitating consultation to promote effective mutual legal assistance in transnational corruption cases; enhancing knowledge, innovation and capacities and exchanging good practice; developing an online one-stop hub to facilitate access to knowledge products and to information on capacity-building programmes; and complementing and ensuring synergies with other relevant networks and stakeholders.

In terms of its organizational structure, the GlobE Network comprised a plenary, a steering committee and a permanent secretariat hosted by the UNODC in Vienna. The plenary convened at least once annually, with an upcoming meeting scheduled for June 2022, while day-to-day decisions were taken by the 15-member Steering Committee.

In closing, she drew attention to StAR, which had been co-founded in 2007 by the World Bank and the UNODC to end safe havens for corrupt funds, bolster international efforts to confiscate and recover assets stolen by corrupt officials, and secure the return of those assets to their legitimate owners. In addition to legislative assistance and national capacity-building, StAR facilitated domestic coordination and case support.

Mr. L. Syarif (Asia Pacific Sub-Committee, Integrity Initiatives International), panellist, accompanying his remarks with a digital slide presentation, said that cross-border corruption could draw in many countries and heads of State and government, citing in that respect the Brazilian Odebrecht and Malaysia Development Berhad cases involving up to a dozen countries each. The Panama Papers and the Paradise Papers had furthermore exposed the collusion of high-ranking officials to save their black money, which brought to mind the case of Indonesian former politician Nazaruddin arrested in Colombia on corruption charges. As former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan had said, if crime crossed all borders, so must law enforcement.

Forming the legal basis for international cooperation on corruption, the UN Convention against Corruption covered such matters as extradition, transfer of sentenced persons, mutual legal assistance, transfer of criminal proceedings, law enforcement cooperation, and joint investigations. None of those mechanisms was designed, however, to combat fast-moving crime. Means of information sharing included diplomatic channels, mutual legal assistance and agency-to-agency cooperation. In Indonesia, examples of collaborative cross-border investigations were provided by the Rolls-Royce bribery case in 2018 involving the former chief of Garuda Indonesia, which had been investigated in cooperation with the anti-corruption agencies of two other countries, and the long-running Indonesian electronic identity card, or e-KTP, corruption case, which remained under investigation in cooperation with the anti-corruption agencies of four other countries. Such multi-jurisdictional cases entailed numerous challenges, among them non-cooperative jurisdictions, differences in legal systems, the time-consuming process of pursuing mutual legal assistance and diplomatic channels, lack of resources, rapid movement and sophisticated *modi operandi* facilitated by globalization and technology, and language barriers among law enforcement officers.

Compared with mutual legal assistance, agency-to-agency cooperation was fast and efficient but served intelligence purposes only, as any evidence gathered was inadmissible in court. A new legal framework was therefore urgently needed to combat fast-moving crimes, a goal that parliamentarians could work together to achieve, including through the IPU. To that end, they should seek to initiate genuine cooperation and action to combat transboundary corruption, abolish tax havens, promote the establishment of an international anti-corruption court, and introduce international sanctions for non-cooperative countries in cross-border investigations and asset recovery. In Indonesia specifically, efforts must be directed to cleaning up all three branches of government, enacting the proposed asset recovery law, and strengthening the capacities and independence of the country's Anti-Corruption Commission and Financial Intelligence Unit.

The Moderator thanked the panellists for their presentations and invited comments from the floor, noting that Mr. Zon had another engagement and would not be present to respond to any questions.

Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia) said that it would be useful to know whether any record-keeping methods had been established to overcome the challenge posed by non-conviction-based asset forfeiture owing to profound differences in laws across jurisdictions. With regard to keeping pace with fast-moving crime, a case in point related to the rising use of cryptocurrency as an emerging international monetary system that was as yet entirely unregulated.

Mr. S.R. Rasamanickam (Sri Lanka) said that his country was saddled with a substantial debt burden accumulated largely thanks to vanity and white-elephant projects from which former politicians had profited. The Government had also allegedly used the black market to purchase weapons during the height of the civil war. His question therefore related to how parliamentarians could hope to introduce anti-corruption legislation when those in charge were potentially engaged in corruption, which called for a different approach than in countries where accountability and the rule of law were better respected. Severe financial crises such as that currently facing Sri Lanka were more likely to be

avoided if sanctions of the type mentioned earlier were imposed. His generation should not have to pay for the mistakes of political leaders and he therefore stood ready to support any GOPAC initiative that would help Sri Lanka towards addressing corruption.

Ms. A. Al Shaman (Saudi Arabia) said that, in waging battle against corruption and its pernicious effects, her country had put in place appropriate laws, deterrent sentences and necessary support for anti-corruption bodies. As an anti-money-laundering measure, only two entities were authorized to accept charitable donations. Embezzled assets could also be voluntarily returned, without criminal consequences, via a dedicated bank account and were subsequently put to charitable use. Alerted through awareness campaigns to the dangers of corruption, the public were encouraged to report instances of that crime by calling a special 24-hour hotline. Saudi Arabia was known to pursue charges abroad against fugitive officials wanted for corruption and money-laundering. Moreover, the Riyadh initiative for enhancing international anti-corruption law enforcement cooperation had been proposed under the Saudi presidency of the G20 Leaders' Summit in 2020, with Saudi Arabia sowing the first seeds through its contribution of US\$ 10 million towards the establishment of a global platform for that purpose.

Ms. L. Wall (New Zealand), member of the GOPAC Board of Directors and Vice-Chair of GOPAC Oceania, panellist, said that the New Zealand Parliament was currently awaiting the findings of an inquiry under way into the current and future nature, impact and risks associated with cryptocurrency. In that context, GOPAC's role was to highlight the part that cryptocurrency could play in facilitating corruption. GOPAC was aware of the problem and hoped to find an appropriate response.

Mr. L. Syarif (Asia Pacific Sub-Committee, Integrity Initiatives International), panellist, said that the Indonesian Financial Intelligence Unit had reported only two days previously that many high-ranking Indonesian officials were laundering money through either cryptocurrency or casinos. The Australian authorities had been assisting Indonesia with asset recovery, but the country's Anti-Corruption Commission had established that, so far, no more than US\$ 200,000 had been recovered.

Ms. R. Zaharieva (Coordinator of the GlobE Network, UNODC), panellist, speaking via video link, said that the nature of the mutual legal assistance process was a huge obstacle to combating corruption effectively; it was highly formalistic, deeply cumbersome and consumed a great deal of time and resources. The GlobE Network was working to address that problem by enabling direct communication between the authorities concerned to clarify needs and requirements in advance and thereby speed up the process once started.

Ms. I.M. Barreto Freitas Ximenes (Timor-Leste) said that legislation criminalizing corruption and money-laundering, as well as the financing of terrorism, had been enacted in her country as a matter of priority, whereas legislation on the recovery of stolen assets and on extradition remained stuck in the pipeline. An anti-corruption commission had been established and GOPAC Timor-Leste, in its efforts to prevent corruption, focused on promoting good governance. She asked how GOPAC could help countries like hers bring individuals to justice for corruption if they were dual nationals and had sought refuge in their second country of citizenship.

Mr. K. Kandodo (Malawi) said that his country had a reasonable legal framework in place for combating corruption and money-laundering, including a law on corrupt practices, and had established a financial intelligence unit and an anti-corruption bureau. Owing to budgetary constraints, however, there was an insufficient number of judges, the effect of which was to stall corruption trials and impede asset recovery. He would appreciate advice on ways of recovering stolen assets from outside the country.

Ms. T. Ackson (United Republic of Tanzania) said that she would like to know what legal action could be taken against countries that received stolen assets, especially as some of those countries clearly had means of identifying whether assets received were suspect.

Ms. H. Alhelaissi (Saudi Arabia), emphasizing the need for practical solutions, asked how theories could be translated into realities, why some regions of the world appeared to be more prone to corruption than others, and whether awareness programmes were an answer. As to sanctions, it was a question of how they would be imposed and who would pay the price, bearing in mind that the burden was usually borne by society, in particular its lower echelons.

Mr. L. Syarif (Asia Pacific Sub-Committee, Integrity Initiatives International), panellist, in responding to comments, said that Indonesian attempts to repatriate stolen assets had succeeded in only three cases and that the total recovered had amounted to under US\$ 10 million – a tiny proportion of the sums stolen. Laws on the registration of beneficial ownership would be a positive step forward, as would the abolition of tax havens to prevent money-laundering through legal channels. Types of sanctions were a matter for the international community to determine. The UN Convention against Corruption offered avenues for cooperation, however, including extradition and transfer of sentenced persons as well as of criminal proceedings.

Ms. L. Wall (New Zealand), member of the GOPAC Board of Directors and Vice-Chair of GOPAC Oceania, panellist, said that no conviction was needed in New Zealand for the authorities to confiscate assets if the owner was unable to prove their origin. As to sanctions, an autonomous Magnitsky-style regime – as currently applied in the United Kingdom to the assets of oligarchs associated with Vladimir Putin – was the way forward for the international community to unite in stopping corruption and holding persons implicated in human rights abuses to account. GOPAC would in fact do well to challenge all parliaments to enact Magnitsky laws.

Ms. R. Zaharieva (Coordinator of the GlobE Network, UNODC), panellist, speaking via video link, said that the many valid and interesting points raised during the invigorating discussion had underlined the globality of the problem of corruption and its significant negative impact on countries, budgets and people. With that in mind and in the light of her experience as a former national prosecutor and investigator, one possible way of translating theoretical knowledge into action was to share and benefit from examples of good practices – and indeed of less successful practices owing to the lessons they also taught about how things could be done better. Forums such as the IPU and the GlobE Network were important platforms for exchanging information and generating creative ideas on more effective ways and means of fighting corruption.

The Moderator, thanking the panellists and participants for their contributions, said that the output from the discussion would feed into the work of GOPAC, with its six Global Task Forces on specific issues critical to the fight against corruption. GOPAC looked forward to continuing its partnership with the IPU and to fostering partnerships with the GlobE Network and others on those issues. The GOPAC Secretariat stood ready to assist parliamentarians wishing to join the GOPAC membership, which could also be done online at www.gopacnetwork.org.

The event ended at 16:15.

Adoption of resolutions, final documents and reports

SITTING OF THURSDAY, 24 MARCH

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 14:50 with Ms. P. Maharani, President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

Nusa Dua Declaration on *Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change*

The Chair said that substantive and robust deliberations had taken place within the framework of the General Debate. She invited Mr. Casini to introduce the outcome document, the Nusa Dua Declaration – *Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change*.

Mr. P.F. Casini (Italy) said that parliamentarians from around the world had come together at the 144th IPU Assembly in Nusa Dua and participated in the General Debate on the theme, *Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change*. A total of 114 speakers from 87 Member Parliaments, including 22 presiding officers and 15 young parliamentarians as well as representatives of two associate members and three observers had taken part. The Assembly had heard from the parliaments of countries that were on the front line of climate change, including least developed countries and small island developing States. Those countries were already experiencing climate shocks, leading to food insecurity, health impacts, loss of life and displacement. The Assembly had also heard from parliaments that were leading the way on climate action and implementing innovative solutions. The General Debate had provided parliamentarians the opportunity to hear best practices and lessons learned from around the world. It was clear that parliaments were putting in place strong climate legislation and working to meet the needs of the most marginalized groups. The debate had also revealed where parliamentary action on climate change needed to be strengthened. The outcome of the General Debate had been encapsulated in the Nusa Dua Declaration, which reflected the rich discussions that had taken place. As highlighted in the declaration, climate change was no longer a threat but a reality. Warming temperatures, melting glaciers, rising sea levels, flooding, cyclones and droughts were just some of the current impacts of climate change. It would not be possible to reach the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius without an immediate reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Members of Parliaments recognized the urgent need to address the climate crisis, which posed an existential threat to humankind. The Nusa Dua Declaration built on the outcome document of the parliamentary meeting for 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and would serve as a guiding force for stronger parliamentary action on climate change.

The Declaration was endorsed by the Assembly.

Item 4 of the agenda

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

(Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)

(A/144/4-DR)

Ms. A.D. Gomashie (Ghana), co-Rapporteur, informed the Assembly of the outcome of the deliberations of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security. She and Ms. Widegren had been chosen as co-Rapporteurs for the resolution entitled *Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace*. The goal of the resolution had been to create a more sustainable and inclusive vision of peace and promote the understanding that conflicts must be assessed holistically with an appreciation of the history of the situation. She hoped that the final draft would be a helpful guide to all parliamentarians regardless of their political stance.

On 21 March 2022, the Committee had held a lively debate with introductory remarks from the IPU Honorary President, Mr. Chowdhury. Approximately 30 speakers had taken the floor to express their thoughts on the subject matter. The topic of the resolution had been of extreme interest to

Members given the current situation of war in Ukraine. Drafting of the resolution had taken place on 21 and 22 March 2022 where delegates had considered 83 amendments tabled by 16 Member Parliaments and the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. The Committee had worked in a cooperative and efficient manner but had expressed many divergent views. In the end, a little more than 50 per cent of the proposed amendments had been taken on board. The reason that many amendments had not been accepted was the need to remain focused in terms of scope and render the resolution actionable.

The final resolution had been adopted at the session of the Committee on 23 March 2022. It contained 30 preambular paragraphs and 20 operative paragraphs (up from 25 and 17 respectively). India had expressed reservations to preambular paragraphs 5 and 13 as well as to operative paragraph 17, all of which related to the link between climate change and conflict.

The resolution called on parliaments around the world to partner with actors involved in conflict to ensure that their solutions were truly inclusive and context-specific. It also urged parliamentarians to represent all impacted people, including survivors and vulnerable groups. The resolution highlighted the importance of including women and youth perspectives and of providing tailor-made responses to conflict.

The resolution was adopted by consensus.

A representative of India asked that the reservations of India be included in a footnote to the resolution.

Item 5 of the agenda

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

(Standing Committee on Sustainable Development)

(A/144/5-DR)

Ms. A. Mulder (Netherlands), President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, said that her Committee had deliberated on the draft resolution entitled *Leveraging Information and Communication Technology as an enabler for the education sector, including in times of pandemic*. After a presentation of the text, the Committee had held a debate followed by a drafting session in which it had considered 64 amendments submitted by 13 Member Parliaments and the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. The consolidated text had been examined and adopted by acclamation on 23 March.

The Committee had been very united on the draft resolution and the co-Rapporteurs had been open to many amendments. The resolution aimed to build on the experiences of remote learning that countries had gained during the COVID-19 pandemic. The resolution addressed many different aspects, including ICT literacy, teacher needs and infrastructure. Special attention had been paid to the needs of marginalized and vulnerable populations and how parliaments could promote more inclusive education through their legislative and budgetary functions. However, it was important to emphasize that no computer could ever replace teachers.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Item 6 of the agenda

Reports of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights and the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

Mr. A. Gajadien (Suriname), President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, said that his Committee had held two debates during the Assembly. The first debate had been to prepare the ground for a resolution that would be finalized at the next Assembly entitled *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 had been opened by the Rapporteurs and included interventions from two experts. The panellists had outlined that poverty and inequality were major drivers of migration alongside war, conflict and political tensions. In the coming years, climate-related natural disasters would also become a major cause of migration.

Delegates had recalled the need for concerted responses to migration that were grounded in human rights and consistent with the Global Compact for Migration. It was important to pay particular attention to the multiple forms of exploitation and abuse to which many migrants, particularly women and girls, were subjected. They included human trafficking as well as labour and sexual exploitation. Delegates had also insisted that borders should remain open to everyone who was fleeing conflict, regardless of their nationality or religion. Parliamentarians must ensure that migration was not held hostage to national, regional or global politics. The protection of marginalized and disadvantaged groups needed to be always put at the centre.

The second debate had examined the role of parliaments in reconciling health measures during a pandemic with the preservation of civil liberties. Participants had observed that restrictive measures, such as lockdown and school closures, had been taken in almost every country during the COVID-19 pandemic. Those measures had had a serious impact on individual freedoms. The discussion had focused on how to find the appropriate balance between preserving civil liberties while responding to a pandemic. Five key principles had been identified. First, parliament should not interfere with individual liberties unless there was a significant risk to public health. Second, an evidence-based approach was needed. Third, trust in science and public health agencies must be preserved. Fourth, parliaments should only impose measures to the extent that they were needed to achieve a legitimate public health objective. Fifth, parliaments must preserve fairness and equity in any decisions taken. Lastly, delegates had shared examples of how they had carried out oversight during the pandemic. The debate would not lead to a resolution but had allowed for an exchange of experiences and ideas.

The Bureau of the Committee was conscious of its responsibility to contribute to the overall IPU Strategy for 2022-2026. As such, it had resolved to develop a strategic plan for the Committee for the same period. A virtual meeting would be held on the topic in May 2022.

The Assembly took note of the report.

Ms. S. Abdi Noor (Kenya), President of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, said that her Committee had had the opportunity to conduct a field visit to a UN project local to Indonesia. The project supported civil society organizations working in partnership with the Government to strengthen service provision for women and children living with HIV/AIDS who had experienced violence or discrimination. On 23 March 2022, the Committee had held a session which had consisted of two panel discussions. The first panel had focused on the work of the United Nations in Indonesia and had included presentations from representatives of UN Women and UNAIDS. Twenty-four parliamentary delegations had attended and seven had taken the floor. The second panel had focused on the upcoming High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Nine delegates had taken the floor. The delegates had acknowledged their role in ensuring that their countries implemented the Sustainable Development Goals and committed to participating fully in the process leading up to the submission of their national reports. Lastly, the Committee had elected a new member to the Bureau, namely, Ms. H.H. Alsulaiti (Qatar).

The Assembly took note of the report.

Item 7 of the agenda

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

The Chair said that the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security had proposed the following subject item for its next resolution: *Cyberattacks and cybercrimes: The new risks to global security*. Mr. J. Cepeda (Spain) and Ms. S. Falaknaz (United Arab Emirates) had been designated as co-Rapporteurs. She took it that the Assembly wished to approve the subject item.

It was so decided.

The Chair said that the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development had proposed the following subject item for its next resolution: *Parliamentary efforts in achieving negative carbon balances of forests*. Ms. H. Vijaykumar Gavit (India) and Mr. C. Hoffmann (Germany) had been designated as co-Rapporteurs. She took it that the Assembly wished to approve the subject item.

It was so decided.

Closure of the Assembly

Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), speaking as a young parliamentarian, said that the 144th IPU Assembly had provided parliamentarians with a point of reference on climate change and made them more conscious of the problem. Parliamentarians must take immediate action and return to the next Assembly with results. The climate crisis was a matter for all generations. Parliamentarians had the privilege to make change and must use that privilege. Future generations would thank them for it.

Ms. E. Nyirasafari (Rwanda) said that the 145th IPU Assembly would be held in Rwanda in October 2022. It was a great joy for Rwanda to host the Assembly at a time when the world was recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Assembly would allow parliamentarians to continue expressing their views on different global issues.

A short video about the 145th IPU Assembly in Rwanda was played.

Mr. E. Mundela Kanku (Democratic Republic of the Congo), speaking on behalf of the African Group, thanked Indonesia for its hospitality and congratulated delegates on their active participation during the Assembly. He called on IPU Members to take action against the devastating effects of climate change.

Ms. A. Gerkens (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group, said that the Twelve Plus Group had held many meetings during the Assembly, but those meetings had been overshadowed by the absence of one of its members, Ukraine. She emphasized that the war in Ukraine was a matter of global, not regional, impact and thanked delegates for adopting the emergency item resolution. She noted the objections of several countries who were convinced that the war had been triggered by the actions of Ukraine. There was absolutely no proof that supported such allegations. What had been confirmed, however, was the bombing of hospitals, shelters with women and children, kindergartens and other civilian objects. The war must stop. She called on Belarus to close its borders to Russian troops but leave them open for refugees. It was good that the resolution sought to find ways in which parliamentarians could help end the war. The Twelve Plus Group had suggested two members for the Task Force, one male and one female. It had also organized a side event on Ukraine during the Assembly.

The Twelve Plus Group had contributed greatly to the General Debate on climate change which must remain high on the agenda. It had also been active in the standing committees. Indeed, Ms. C. Widegren (Sweden) and Mr. U. Lechte (Germany) had both been co-Rapporteurs of resolutions. Several proposals had also come from Twelve Plus Members, including the topic for the next resolution of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development.

Ms. S. Carvajal Isunza (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), said that climate change must be the highest priority for parliaments. Many GRULAC countries, particularly those in the Caribbean, had suffered immensely as a result of natural disasters such as hurricanes and flooding. It had been important to introduce measures to discourage the use of fossil fuels, including taxes. The countries struggling the most needed help in acquiring virtual tools so that they could express themselves at international fora. Otherwise, they would remain isolated, leading to more economic and social delays. It was only through collaboration and multilateralism that real solutions on climate change could be found.

Latin America had also been working hard on other issues, including on achieving greater participation of women in politics. There were now more women than men in the House of Representatives of Mexico.

GRULAC countries had contributed actively to the Assembly. For instance, delegates from Mexico and Uruguay had played an important role in drafting the emergency item while Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Paraguay and Uruguay had all given presentations. She was pleased that Guatemala had been able to attend the Assembly after a few years of absence.

The Balinese people lived in a culture of peace, always treating others with humility, warmth, tolerance and respect. The world could learn many lessons from them.

Mr. P. Wichitcholchai (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, thanked Indonesia for its hospitality as well as the IPU Secretariat for its hard work and dedication. He welcomed the Nusa Dua Declaration and underscored the urgent need for the global parliamentary community to join hands in solidarity to tackle the climate emergency.

Mr. H. Alziadin (Jordan), speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, thanked Indonesia for its warm welcome as well as the IPU Secretariat for its professionalism. He looked forward to meeting again in Rwanda.

The President of the IPU thanked Ms. Maharani and her staff for organizing the Assembly against the odds. The 144th IPU Assembly in Nusa Dua had been a success thanks to her personal commitment. Many IPU Members would come back to Indonesia for the parliamentary meeting of the G20 in October 2022.

During the Assembly, participants had engaged in several days of hard work with many meetings taking place across all IPU bodies. He wished to highlight two outcome documents, the first of which was the emergency item resolution on the war in Ukraine. The situation in Ukraine was not a conflict but a war in which many people were suffering. The IPU condemned the invasion and called for an immediate ceasefire. The role of parliamentarians in putting an end to war was essential. Thus, the IPU would send a Task Force with a view to fostering a peaceful resolution. The Task Force would be made up of parliamentarians from all geopolitical groups. The only way to find a solution was through dialogue and diplomacy. He called on all parliamentarians, no matter where they were from, to help stop the war in Ukraine.

Second, he drew attention to the Nusa Dua Declaration, which expressed the need for urgent action on climate change. Parliamentarians had a special role to play on climate change given their budgetary and oversight powers. They must act immediately. The people wanted action not words. Parliamentarians should come back to the next Assembly knowing that they had made a difference for future generations.

The Chair said that, throughout the Assembly, delegates had engaged in many different discussions in which they had sought solutions to global challenges. They had managed to reach consensus while also accommodating different views. Differences were natural. The Assembly provided a platform to facilitate dialogue, build bridges and resolve differences. The IPU and its Members had shown themselves to be drivers of international cooperation and solidarity.

During the Assembly, parliaments had reaffirmed the importance of not only making commitments but also taking action. Developed countries must meet the US\$ 100 billion climate finance goal and provide developing countries with financial support to implement mitigation and adaption measures. Parliamentarians must seek to resolve conflicts by engaging in preventive diplomacy combined with early detection measures to address tensions early on. They must ensure equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, strengthen preparedness in case of future pandemics and promote an equitable economic recovery. Robust laws to tackle corruption were also needed.

She urged parliaments to build on the outcomes of the Assembly to create a safe, peaceful and prosperous planet. Parliaments had an opportunity to leave a legacy of compassion and peace for future generations. They must come together in pursuit of a common goal, namely a better planet for all.

The Chair was presented with a gift.

The sitting rose at 16:30.

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.

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 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

Results

Affirmative votes.....	389	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	861
Negative votes	472	Two-thirds majority.....	574
Abstentions	162		

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		Türkiye	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

R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes..... 577 Total of affirmative and negative votes ..765
 Negative votes 188 Two-thirds majority.....510
 Abstentions 258

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan			<i>Absent</i>	India			23	Portugal	13		
Algeria			16	Indonesia		22		Qatar			11
Andorra	10			Iran (Islamic Republic of)		19		Republic of Korea		<i>Absent</i>	
Angola			14	Israel	12			Rwanda	10		
Armenia			11	Italy	10			San Marino	10		
Australia	10			Japan	20			Sao Tome and Principe		<i>Absent</i>	
Austria	12			Jordan			12	Saudi Arabia		<i>Absent</i>	
Bahrain		11		Kazakhstan			13	Senegal		10	
Bangladesh		<i>Absent</i>		Kenya		<i>Absent</i>		Seychelles	10		
Belarus		13		Kuwait			11	Sierra Leone		<i>Absent</i>	
Belgium	13			Lao People's Dem. Republic			12	South Africa		17	
Benin		<i>Absent</i>		Latvia	9			South Sudan		<i>Absent</i>	
Botswana	11			Madagascar		<i>Absent</i>		Spain		<i>Absent</i>	
Bulgaria	10			Malawi	10			Sri Lanka		<i>Absent</i>	
Cabo Verde	10			Malaysia		<i>Absent</i>		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		<i>Absent</i>		Türkiye	19		
Denmark	12			Mozambique			13	Uganda		<i>Absent</i>	
Ecuador	13			Namibia			11	United Arab Emirates		11	
Egypt			20	Nepal		<i>Absent</i>		United Kingdom	18		
Equatorial Guinea		<i>Absent</i>		Netherlands	11			United Republic of Tanzania			17
Estonia	11			New Zealand	12			Uruguay	10		
Eswatini		<i>Absent</i>		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		<i>Absent</i>					
Greece	13			Paraguay	8						
Guinea	13			Poland	15						
Guyana		<i>Absent</i>									
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.

* 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.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS ***LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS***

Mr./M. Duarte Pacheco

President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Président de l'Union interparlementaire

Ms./Mme Puan Maharani

Speaker of the House of Representatives of Indonesia
Présidente de la Chambre des Représentants de l'Indonésie

Mr./M. Martin Chungong

Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Secrétaire général de l'Union interparlementaire

**I. MEMBERS - MEMBRES
AFGHANISTAN**

RAHMANI, Mir Rahman (Mr.)	President of the House of the People
Leader of the delegation	
ALFAZY, Mir Haidar (Mr.)	Member of the House of the People
DEHQAN, Ferdous (Mr.)	Secretary general
Member of ASGP	

ALGERIA – ALGERIE

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TALBI, Ali (M.)	Membre du Conseil de la Nation
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CHIHEB, Mouna Ahlem (Mme)	Conseillère
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BENBARA, Abderrezzak (M.)	
Secrétaire des affaires étrangères	
TAS, Abderrazak (M.)	
Attaché des affaires étrangères	
(RND: National Democratic Rally / Rassemblement national démocratique)	
(FLN: National Libération Front / Front de libération nationale)	
(I: Independent / Indépendant)	

ANDORRA - ANDORRE

COMA, Berna (Mme)	Membre du Conseil général (DA)
Leader of the delegation	
NAUDI, Carles (M.)	Membre du Conseil général (CC)
COSTA, Ferran (M.)	Membre du Conseil général (L'A)
(DA: Democrats for Andorra / Démocrates pour Andorre)	
(L'A: Liberal Party / Parti Libéral)	
(CC: Committed Citizens / Citoyens engagés)	

ANGOLA

MELO, Suzana (Ms.)	Second Vice-President of the National Assembly
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CHIMBINDA, Arlete (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (UNITA)
SALUCOMBO, Nvunda (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
VALENTE, Maria (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (MPLA)
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NUNES, Edmundo (Mr.)	Adviser
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BARRICA, Nildeice (Ms.)	Adviser, National Assembly
(MPLA: Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola / Mouvement populaire pour la libération de l'Angola)	
(UNITA: National Union for the Total Independence of Angola / Union nationale pour l'indépendance totale de l'Angola)	

ARMENIA - ARMENIE

SIMONYAN, Alen (Mr.)	Speaker of the National Assembly (CC)
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Vice-President, Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	
VARDANYAN, Tsovinar (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (CC)
NARIBEKYAN, Vahan (Mr.)	Secretary General of the National Assembly
KHACHIKYAN, Heghine (Ms.)	Deputy Secretary General
GHAZARYAN, Zabela (Ms.)	Senior Specialist of the Foreign Relations department, National Assembly
Secretary of the Group	
HAJI-HAKOBYAN, Hakob (Mr.)	Adviser, Head of the Protocol Department
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(CC: Civil Contract / Contrat civil)	

AUSTRALIA – AUSTRALIE

HUGHES, Hollie (Ms.)	Member of the Senate (LPA)
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GRIFFIN, Anthea (Ms.)	Consul General
COGHLAN, Tom (Mr.)	
Diplomatic corps	
(LPA: Liberal Party of Australia / Parti libéral australien)	
(ALP: Australian Labor Party / Parti travailliste australien)	

AUSTRIA – AUTRICHE

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BAYR, Petra (Ms.)	Member of the National Council (SPÖ)
GRAF, Martin (Mr.)	Member of the National Council (FPÖ)
ERNST-DZIEDZIC, Ewa (Ms.)	Member of the National Council (Grüne)
BRANDSTÖTTER, Henrike (Ms.)	Member of the National Council (NEOS)
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GABRON, Nadine (Ms.)	Adviser
(ÖVP: Austrian People's Party / Parti populaire)	
(SPÖ: Austrian Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate autrichien)	
(FPÖ: Austrian Freedom Party / Parti de la liberté)	
(Grüne: The Greens / Les verts)	
(NEOS: Austrian Liberal Party / Parti libéral autrichien)	

BAHRAIN - BAHREIN

BINT ABDULLA ZAINAL, Fawzia (Ms.)	Speaker of the Council of Representatives
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President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	
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SALMAN, Jameela (Ms.)	Second Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council
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SALMAN, Abdulnabi (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the Council of Representatives
ALTHAWADI, Abdullah Khalifa (Mr.)	Member of the Council of Representatives
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ALABBASI, Mohammed (Mr.)
ABUNAJMA, Rashid (Mr.)
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ALJEEB, Fawzia (Ms.)
GHAYYATH, Aysha (Ms.)
HAMD, Saleh (Mr.)
ABED, Hussain (Mr.)
MOHAMED, Ali (Mr.)
Secretary of the delegation

Member of the Shura Council

Member of the Council of Representatives
Member of the Council of Representatives
Secretary General of the Council of Representatives

Advisor
Senior Parliamentary Relations Development Specialist,
Council of Representatives
Advisor
Head of Follow-up and Coordination
PR and protocol Coordinator
Senior Political Researcher, Council of Representatives
Advisor

BANGLADESH

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CHAKMA, Basanti (Ms.)
SHAHNAWAZ, Gazi Mohammad (Mr.)
HOSSAIN, Syed Abu (Mr.)
AHMED, Kaniz Fatema (Ms.)
SHUVO, Khan Ahmed (Mr.)
SALAM, K. M. Abdus (Mr.)
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MAHBUB, Chowdhury Mohammad Hamid Al (Mr.)
KUMAR, Goutom (Mr.)

Member of the Parliament
Member of the Parliament
Member of the Parliament
Member of the Parliament
Member of Parliament (BAL)
Member of the Parliament
Secretary General

Adviser
Adviser

(BAL: Bangladesh Awami League / Ligue Awami du Bangladesh)
(JP: Jatiya Party / Parti Jatiya)

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Member, High-Level Advisory Group on Countering
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SAVINYKH, Andrei (Mr.)
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BORISYONOK, Viktor (Mr.)
Diplomatic corps

Member of the Council of the Republic

Member of the House of Representatives

BELGIUM - BELGIQUE

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VERCAMMEN, Peter (Mr.)
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Member of the Chamber of Representatives (Ecolo)
Committee on Energy, Environment and Climate
Foreign Affairs Committee
Advice Committee regarding EU Matters
Member of the Senate (N-VA)
Committee on Transversal Matters - Powers of the
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Deputy Director, Senate

(Ecolo: Green Party / Les Verts)
(N-VA: New Flemish Alliance / Nouvelle alliance flamande)

BENIN

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 Chef de délégation
 Membre, Comité des droits de l'homme
 TCHAOU, Florentin (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UP)
 Membre de la Commission des relations extérieures, de
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 Chef de service de la Coopération Interparlementaire de
 l'Assemblée nationale du Bénin

DAZAN, Hindéwé Herman Constant (M.)
 Secrétaire de la délégation
 (UP: Progressive Union / Union Progressiste)
 (BR: Bloc républicain)

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 MAKWINJA, Wilhemina Tebogo (Ms.)
 SALESHANDO, Dumelang (Mr.)
 MOTAOSANE, Palelo Keitseope (Mr.)
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 Secretary to the delegation
 KEEKAE, Lesedi (Mr.)

Speaker of the National Assembly

Member of the National Assembly (BDP)
 Member of the National Assembly (BCP)
 Member of the National Assembly (BDP)
 Clerk of the National Assembly

Adviser

(BDP: Botswana Democratic Party / Parti démocratique botswanais)
 (BCP: Botswana Congress Party / Parti du Congrès de Botswana)

BULGARIA – BULGARIE

KIROVA, Rositsa (Ms.)
 Leader of the delegation

Deputy Speaker of Parliament (GERB)

(GERB: Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria / Citoyens pour le développement européen de la Bulgarie)

CABO VERDE

DA LUZ, Armindo João (Mr.)
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 MENDES ALMEIDA, Adélsia de Jesus (Ms.)
 MONTEIRO DE ANDRADE LOPES, Leila
 Leonor (Ms.)
 Secretary of the group

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (MPD)

Member of the National Assembly (PAICV)
 Executive Secretary

(MPD: Movement for Democracy / Mouvement pour la démocratie)
 (PAICV: African Party for the Independence of Cabo Verde / Parti africain pour l'indépendance du Cabo Verde)

CAMBODIA - CAMBODGE

SUOS, Yara (Mr.)
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 Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, International
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YANG, Sem (Mr.)

Member of the Senate, Chairman of Commission on Human
 Rights, Complaints Reception and Investigation
 Member of the Senate

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 Member of National Assembly

SOKUN, Ty (Mr.)

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 SRUN, Dara (Mr.)

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CHHIM, Sothkun (Mr.)

Director General of Protocol and International Relations,
 Adviser

HEANG, Thul (Mr.)	Director of the International Relations Department of the Secretariat-General of the National Assembly, Adviser
CHHENG, Kimlong (Mr.)	Adviser
NGOUN, Kimly (Mr.)	Adviser
LIM, Maneth (Ms.)	Adviser
SENG, Thy (Mr.)	Adviser
Secretary to the delegation	
IV, Heang (Mr.)	
Ambassador	
THENG, Seangleng (Mr.)	Second Secretary of the Embassy

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC / REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE

PATASSE, Marie Christiane (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
ABDEL KARIM, Nabia Koudjou (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

CHILE - CHILI

MIX, Claudia (Ms.)	Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies (Com)
Member, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Human Rights and Native Peoples Committee
Leader of the delegation	Committee on Social Development, Overcoming Poverty and Planning
UNDURRAGA, Francisco (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PE)
ILABACA, Marcos (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PS)
ROJAS, Luis (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
	Secretary of the Chamber of Deputies
PEILLARD, Jacqueline (Ms.)	Director International Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies
ZUNIGA, Violeta (Ms.)	Adviser
(PDC : Christian Democratic Party / Parti démocrate-chrétien)	
(UDI : Independent Democratic Union / Union démocratique indépendante)	
(PS : Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)	
(Com : Comunes)	
(PE : Political Evolution / Evolution politique)	

CHINA - CHINE

CHEN, Guomin (Mr.)	Member of the National People's Congress (CPC)
Member, Executive Committee	Vice Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
CHEN, Fuli (Mr.)	Member of the National People's Congress (CPC)
Member, High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism	Foreign Affairs Committee
SHEN, Zheyi (Mr.)	Director of the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the National People's Congress of China
	Staff member of the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the National People's Congress of China
ZHENG, Yi (Ms.)	
(CPC: Communist Party of China)	

CROATIA – CROATIE

MARTINČEVIĆ, Natalija (Ms.)	Member of the Croatian Parliament (NS)
Leader of the delegation	Chairperson of the Committee on Information, Computerisation and the Media
KOHAROVIC, Nebojsa (Mr.)	
Ambassador	
(HDZ : Croatian Democratic Union / Parti démocratique croate)	
(NS: People's Party - Reformists)	

CZECH REPUBLIC – REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE

VOJTKO, Viktor (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (STAN)
Leader of the delegation	
FIFKA, Petr (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (KDU)
HORSKÁ, Miluše (Ms.)	Member of the Senate (ODS)
NYTRA, Zdenek (Mr.)	Member of the Senate (ODS)
KOSARIKOVA, Katerina (Ms.)	Adviser
Secretary of the delegation	
TUČKOVÁ, Alena (Ms.)	
Secretary of the Group	

DOLECEK, Jaroslav (Mr.)

Diplomatic corps

HORCICKOVA, Jana (Ms.)

Diplomatic corps

(ODS: Civic Democratic Party / Parti démocrate civique)

(STAN: Mayors and Independents / Maires et indépendants)

(KDU: Christian Democratic Party / Parti démocrate-chrétien)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO – REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

MUNDELA KANKU, Eddy (M.)

Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Premier Vice-président du Sénat (UDPS)

Co-président du Groupe UIP, Président du Groupe géopolitique africain

FURAHA MUYUMBA, Francine (Mme.)

Sénatrice, Présidente de la Commission permanente des relations extérieures (PPRD)

BIKENGE, MUSIMBI, Jérôme (M.)

Sénateur

ZETA BAMANYISA, Anita (Mme.)

Sénatrice (FNSD)

BAYUKITA MAKULA James (M.)

Sénateur

TSHIYAYA, Francis (M.)

Secrétaire particulier du Premier Vice-Président du Sénat

NGUVULU KHOJI, Jean (M.)

Secrétaire général

Membre de l'ASGP

KALALA MAYI-MALE, Jean-Claude (M.)

Secrétaire

KAPAND ROHANI, Bosco (M.)

Secrétaire

MUTUMBE MBUYA, Crispin (M.)

Conseiller parlementaire

KANIKA SUMBAYI, Philibert (M.)

Conseiller Coordonnateur du Bureau d'études de l'Assemblée nationale et Co-Secrétaire administratif du Groupe national UIP

(UDPS: Union for Democracy and Social Progress / Union pour la Démocratie et le Progrès social)

(PPRD: People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy / Parti du Peuple pour la Reconstruction et la Démocratie)

(MLC: Movement for the Liberation of Congo / Mouvement de Libération du Congo)

DENMARK – DANEMARK

HEITMANN, Jane (Ms.)

Member of the Danish Parliament (V)

OEKTEM, Fatma (Ms.)

Member of the Danish Parliament (V)

LANGHOFF, Rasmus Horn (Mr.)

Member of the Danish Parliament (S)

BLIXT, Liselott (Ms.)

Member of the Danish Parliament

VALENTIN, Kim (Mr.)

Member of the Danish Parliament (V)

Cultural Affairs Committee

European Affairs Committee

Secretary General

JENSEN, Torben (Mr.)

Member of the ASGP

KJELGAARD, Kamilla (Ms.)

Adviser

Secretary of the delegation

LARSON, Claudius (Mr.)

Higher Executive Officer, Danish Parliament

LARSEN, Lars Bo (Mr.)

Diplomatic corps

(EL: The Red-Green Alliance / L'Unité-Alliance rouge-verte)

(V: The Liberal Party / Le Parti libéral)

(S: The Social Democratic Party / Le Parti socio-démocratique)

ECUADOR – EQUATEUR

ANDRADE MUÑOZ, Wilma P. (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly (ID)

Member, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

Leader of the delegation

WEBER, Geraldine (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly (PSC)

JACHERO, Elias (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (PSC)

MUÑOZ LOPEZ, Christian Pabel (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (UNES)

Bureau, Standing Committee on Sustainable Development

CORDERO, Ana Belen (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly (CREO)

GALARZA, Alejandro (Mr.)

Adviser

(ID: Democratic Left / Parti de la gauche démocratique)

(UNES: Union for hope / L'union pour l'espoir)

(CREO: Creando Oportunidades)

(PK: Pachakutik Plurinational Unity Movement – New Country / Le Mouvement de l'unité plurinational Pachakutik)

(PSC: Social Christian Party / Le Parti social-chrétien)

EGYPT – EGYPTÉ

GEBALY, Hanafi (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the House of Representatives
DARWISH, Karim (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (MW) Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee
SARI ELDIN, Hani (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Chairman of the Financial, Economic and Investment Committee
ATTIA, Sahar (Ms.) Vice-Chair, Working Group on Science and Technology	Member of the House of Representatives
AL-BAZZAR, Sahar (Ms.) President, Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians	Member of the House of Representatives
AYYOUB AWADALLAH, Aida Nassif (Ms.) Member, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the Senate (MW)
NOUR ELDIN, Haytham (Mr.) MANAA, Ahmed (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Director, House of Representatives Secretary General
KAMEL, Mahmoud (Mr.)	Protocol officer, Adviser
AHMED, Ahmed (Mr.) Diplomatic corps	
REDA, Ramy (Mr.) Diplomatic corps	

(MW : Nation's Future Party / Parti de l'avenir de la nation (Mostakbal Watan))

EQUATORIAL GUINEA – GUINEE EQUATORIALE

MOHABA MESSU, Gaudencio (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Chamber of Deputies
NTUGU NSA, Atanasio-Ela (Mr.)	Member of the Senate (PDGE)
OBONO EDJANG, Silvia-Paloma (Ms.) Member, Board of Young Parliamentarians	Member of the Senate (PDGE)
Member, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	
ESONO ABE, Bienvenido Ekua (Mr.)	Secretary General
OBIANG MAYE, Victorino-Nka (Mr.)	Adviser

(PDGE: Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea / Parti Démocratique de Guinée Equatoriale)

ESTONIA – ESTONIE

KIVIMÄGI, Toomas (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Member of the Estonian Parliament (RP) Deputy Chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee
TUUS-LAUL, Marika (Ms.)	Member of the Estonian Parliament (EceP) Social Affairs Committee
HELME, Helle-Moonika (Ms.)	Member of the Estonian Parliament (EceP)
KYTT, Helmen (Ms.)	Member of the Estonian Parliament (SD)
HABICHT, Antero (Mr.) Member of ASGP	Secretary General
OTSTAVEL, Enel (Ms.)	Adviser

(RP : Estonian Reform Party / Parti de la réforme)

(SD : Estonian Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate estonien)

(EceP : Estonian Centre Party / Parti estonien du centre)

ESWATINI

BUJELA, Nokunceda (Ms.) Member, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the House of Assembly
Leader of the delegation	
DLAMINI, Mkhululi Sibusiso (Mr.)	Member of the House of Assembly Chair of the Economic Planning and Development Portfolio Committee
	Member of the Finance Portfolio Committee
	Member of the Public Works and Transport Portfolio Committee
MAGAGULA, Wilfred Sifiso (Mr.)	Member of the House of Assembly
SHABANGU, Treasure Sabelo (Mr.) Secretary of the delegation	Adviser

FINLAND – FINLANDE

JÄRVINEN, Heli (Ms.) President of the Group Leader of the delegation Rapporteur, Standing Committee on Sustainable Development	Member of Parliament (G)
TYNKKYNEN, Sebastian (Mr.) Vice-President of the Group	Member of Parliament (PS)
TANUS, Sari (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (PDC)
KYLLONEN, Merja (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (VAS)
HUTTUNEN, Marja (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Assistant for the International Affairs, Parliament
VUOSIO, Teemu (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Secretary for the International Affairs, Parliament
LEHTIMAKI, Outi (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Adviser
(G : The Greens / Les Verts)	
(PS : The Finns Party / Parti des Finlandais)	
(VAS : Left Alliance / l'Alliance de gauche)	
(PDC : Christian Democratic Party / Parti démocrate-chrétien)	

FRANCE

BLANC, Etienne (M.) Membre, Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale Chef de la délégation	Sénateur (LR)
ESSAYAN, Nadia (Mme) Membre, Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (Modem)
JOURDA, Gisèle (Mme)	Sénatrice (PS)
LARIVE, Michel (M.) Président, Groupe de travail sur la science et la technologie	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FI)
RENAUDINEAU, Guillaume (M.) Secrétaire du Groupe	Conseiller, Sénat
SADOUN, Mohamed (M.)	Conseiller, Assemblée nationale
(EELV: Ecologic Europe, the Greens / Europe Ecologie, les Verts)	
(PS : Socialist Party / Parti Socialiste)	
(LR : The Republicans / Les Républicains)	
(FI : La France insoumise)	
(Modem : Democratic movement / Mouvement démocrate)	

GERMANY - ALLEMAGNE

BRINKHAUS, Ralph (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Member of the German Bundestag (CDU/CSU)
MÜNTEFERING, Michelle (Ms.)	Member of the German Bundestag (SPD)
HOFFMANN, Christoph (Mr.)	Member of the German Bundestag (FDP)
LECHTE, Ulrich (Mr.) Member, Board of Young Parliamentarians	Member of the German Bundestag (FDP)
BYSTRON, Petr (Mr.)	Member of the German Bundestag (AfD)
ALBIN, Silke (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General for International Affairs and Director-General for Research and External Relations, German Bundestag
ZÁDOR, Katalin (Ms.) Secretary to the Delegation	International Parliamentary Assemblies Department, German Bundestag
GRIMM, Thomas (Mr.)	Adviser, International Parliamentary Assemblies Department, German Bundestag
LEPEL, Ina (Ms.) Ambassador	
(CDU/CSU: Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union / Union chrétienne démocrate/Union chrétienne sociale)	
(SPD: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)	
(AfD: Alternative for Germany / Alternative pour l'Allemagne)	
(FDP: Free Democratic Party / Parti libéral démocrate)	

GHANA

KYEI-MENSAH-BONSU, Osei (Mr.)	Member the Parliament (NDC)
Leader of the Delegation	
IDDRISU, Habib (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (NPP)
GOMASHIE, Abia Dzifa (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (NDC)
APPIAGYEI, Patricia (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (NPP)
IBRAHIM, Ahmed (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (NDC)
IDDRISU, Haruna (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (NDC)
BREFO-BOATENG, Evelyn (Ms.)	Adviser
Secretary to the delegation	
DABAGA, James (Mr.)	Adviser
ACHEAMPONG, Richard Kwame (Mr.)	Adviser
ATTOR, Kofi (Mr.)	Adviser
OSEI, Sheba Nana Afriyie (Ms.)	Adviser
NSIAH, Cyril Kwabena Oteng (Mr.)	Clerk to Parliament
Member of ASGP	

(NPP: New Patriotic Party / Nouveau parti patriotique)

(NDC: National Democratic Congress / Congrès démocratique national)

GREECE – GRECE

GKIKAS, Stefanos (Mr.)	Member of the Hellenic Parliament (ND)
Leader of the delegation	Standing Committee on National Defense and Foreign Affairs
	Special Standing Committee on Armament Programs and Contracts
	Committee on Parliament's Finances
GIOGIAKAS, Vassileios (Mr.)	Member of the Hellenic Parliament (ND)
	Standing Committee on Social Affairs
	Standing Committee on Production and Trade
	Special Permanent Committee of the Regions
MOUZALAS, Ioannis (Mr.)	Member of the Hellenic Parliament (SYRIZA)
KARTSAKLI, Aikaterini (Ms.)	Adviser
Secretary to the group	
KARANASOS, Panagiotis (Mr.)	Adviser

(ND : New Democracy / Nouvelle démocratie)

(SYRIZA : Coalition of the Radical Left / Coalition de la gauche radicale)

GUATEMALA

RAMIREZ, Thelma (Ms.)	Member of the Congress of the Republic (UNE)
Leader of the delegation	
(UNE: National Unity of Hope / Union nationale de l'espérance)	

GUINEA - GUINEE

BALDE, Mamadou Fadia (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
CONTE, Fanta (Mme.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
(UDG: Democratic Union of Guinea / Union démocratique de Guinée)	

GUINEA-BISSAU – GUINEE-BISSAU

CAMARA, Caramo (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PAIGC)
Chef de la délégation	
(PAIGC: Parti africain pour l'indépendance de la Guinée et du Cap-Vert)	

GUYANA

NADIR, Manzoor (Mr.)	Speaker of the National Assembly
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	
NANDLALL, Mohabir Anil (Mr.)	Member of Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana (PPP/C)

PARAG, Savitri (Ms.)	Member of Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana (PPP/C)
HASTINGS-WILLIAMS, Dawn (Ms.)	Member of Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana (APNU+AFC)
JONES, Christopher (Mr.)	Member of Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana (APNU+AFC)
ISAACS, Sherlock (Mr.)	Clerk of the National Assembly
CHARLES, Carlleta (Ms.)	Parliamentary Executive Officer
Secretary of the Delegation	
CHATTERPAUL, Juleanna (Ms.)	Secretary
SCIPPIO, Alanzo (Mr.)	Public Relations, Adviser
(PPP/C: Peoples's Progressive Party / Civic)	
(PNCR: Peoples National Congress Reform)	
(APNU: A Partnership for National Unity)	
(AFC: Alliance for Change)	

ICELAND – ISLANDE

GUNNLAUGSSON, Sigmundur Davíð (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (CP)
Vice-Chair of the delegation	
Leader of the delegation	
FRIDRIKSSON, Johann Fridrik (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (PP)
BANG, Arna Gerður (Ms.)	Advisor, Parliament
Secretary of the Group	
(CP : Centre Party / Parti du Centre)	
(PP: Progressive Party / Parti progressiste)	

INDIA – INDE

MAHTAB, Bhartruhari (Mr.)	Member of the House of the People (BJD)
Leader of the delegation	
Bureau, Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	
DAYAL RAM, Vishnu (Mr.)	Member of the House of the People (BJP)
Bureau, Standing Committee on Sustainable Development	
VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT, Heena (Ms.)	Member of the House of the People (BJP)
Member, Working Group on Science and Technology	
MAADAM, Poonamben (Ms.)	Member of the House of the People (BJP)
Member, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	
NIKHIL KHADSE, Raksha (Ms.)	Member of the House of the People (BJP)
Member, Board of Young Parliamentarians	
ZAFAR ISLAM, Syed (Mr.)	Member of the Council of States
KUMAR, Ajay (Mr.)	Advisor
Secretary of the Group	
SINGH, Yogendra (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary, Adviser
LINGALA, Venkata Ramana (Mr.)	Advisor
CHANDRA TIWARI, Mahesh (Mr.)	Advisor
ANAND, Rakesh (Mr.)	Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Adviser
(BJP: Bharatiya Janata Party / Parti Bharatiya Janata)	
(BJD: Biju Janata Dal)	

INDONESIA – INDONESIE

LODEWIJK, F. Paulus (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives (GOLKAR)
Leader of the Delegation	
RACHMAT, Gobel (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives (NASDEM)
ISKANDAR, Muhaimin (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives (PKB)
ZON, Fadli (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (Gerindra)
Member, Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Chair of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation
DHIELAFARAREZ, Gilang	Member of the House of Representatives
RUDANA, Putu Supadma (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (PD)
	Vice-Chair of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation

SERA, Mardani Ali (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (PKS) Vice-Chair of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation
TOHIR, Achmad Hafidz (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (PAN) Vice-Chair of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation
ROBA PUTRI, Irene Yusiana (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives
KOMARUDIN, Puteri Anetta (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives (GOLKAR)
Member, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	
ISKANDAR, Indra (Mr.)	Secretary General
Member of the ASGP	
SOETIKNO, Toferry Primanda (Mr.)	Adviser
Adviser to the Head of the Delegation	
WIJAYANTI, Dewi Amelia Tresna (Ms.)	Adviser
Adviser to the delegation	
RETNOASTUTI, Endah T.D.	Adviser, Head of Bureau KSAP
Secretary of the Group	
(PDI-P :	Indonesian Democratic Party-Struggle / Parti démocrate indonésien en lutte)
(Gerindra :	Great Indonesia Movement Party / Mouvement pour une grande Indonésie)
(PKB :	National Awakening Party / Parti du réveil national)
(PKS :	Justice and Prosperous Party / Parti de la justice et de la prospérité)
(PD :	Democratic Party / Parti démocratique)
(PAN :	National Mandate Party / Parti du populaire national)
GOLKAR	

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) – IRAN (REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D’)

REZAKHAH, Mojtaba (Mr.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
Leader of the delegation	
REZAEI, Ali (Mr.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
MORTEZA, Mahmoud Vand (Mr.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
FATHI, Moshen (Mr.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
AZAD, Elham (Ms.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
GHASSEM POUR, Amir Abbas (Mr.)	
Secretary to the delegation	
KORDLOU, Mohammad Hossein (Mr.)	Protocol officer
AGHAMOHAMMADI, Zahra (Mr.)	Adviser
KHOSH HEIKAL AZAD, Mohammad (Mr.)	
Ambassador	

ISRAEL

DICTER, Avi (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (Likud)
Leader of the delegation	
Member, Committee on Middle East Questions	
SHPAK, Nira (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (YA)
MARGALIT, Liat (Ms.)	Adviser
Secretary of the group	
RETTMAN, Hanan (Ms.)	Adviser
Secretary to the delegation	
(Likud: Conservative / Conservateur)	
(YA : Yesh Atid)	

ITALY – ITALIE

CASINI, Pier Ferdinando (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
Honorary IPU President	Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee
President of the Group	
Leader of the delegation	
SORBELLO, Roberto (Mr.)	Adviser, Chamber of Deputies
Secretary General of the Group	
RADONI, Susanna (Ms.)	Adviser, Protocol, Chamber of Deputies
Secretary of the Group	
PINELLI, Alessio	Spokesman for President Casini
LATTERI, Benedetto (Mr.)	
Ambassador	
(M5S: Movimento 5 Stelle / Five Stars Movement / Mouvement Cinq Etoiles)	
(PD: Partito Democratico / Democratic Party / Parti Démocrate)	

JAPAN - JAPON

TANAKA, Kazunori (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (LDP)
Leader of the delegation	
KONDO, Shoichi (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (CDP)
NAKANISHI, Satoshi (Mr.)	Member of the House of Councillors (LDP)
HACHIRO, Yoshio (Mr.)	Member of the House of Councillors (CDP)
TSUCHIDO, Shu (Mr.)	Adviser, House of Representatives
NISHIHARA, Narumi (Ms.)	Adviser, House of Representatives
OGAWA, Akiko (Ms.)	Adviser, House of Councillors
NISHIKIDO, Kazuma (Mr.)	Adviser, House of Councillors
MORI, Haruna (Ms.)	Adviser, House of Councillors

(LDP: Liberal Democratic Party / Parti libéral démocrate)

(CDP: The Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan / Parti démocrate constitutionnel du Japon)

JORDAN – JORDANIE

ALZIADIN, Haitham (Mr.)	Vice President of the House of Representatives
Leader of the delegation	
ALHELALAT, Mohammad (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
A. MASADEH, Mohd Taiser (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
ABU SUAILIK, Mohd (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
ALZABEN, Naifeh (Ms.)	Member of Parliament
ALRIYATI, Tamam (Ms.)	Member of Parliament
JARADAT, Mohammad (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
AL WAKED, Abdel Rahim Maher (Mr.)	Secretary General of the House of Representatives
Member of the ASGP	
HAWAMDEH, Hazem Mamdouh Abdel Aziz (Mr.)	Adviser, Director of Inter-Parliamentary Affairs
ALMASHAKBEEH, Adnan (Mr.)	Adviser
ABU RUMMAN, Aryad (Mr.)	Adviser

KAZAKHSTAN

KUSPAN, Aigul (Ms.)	Member of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Leader of the delegation	Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and Security
ABAKANOV, Yeldos (Mr.)	Member of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan
	Committee on issues of ecology and environmental management
SKAKOVA, Aizhan (Ms.)	Member of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan
	Committee on issues of ecology and environmental management

BOKEBAYEV, Kazbek (Mr.)

Diplomatic corps

KHISSIMOV, Ayan (Mr.)

Diplomatic corps

(Nur Otan : People's Democratic Party "Nur Otan" / Parti populaire et démocratique "Nur Otan")

KENYA

LUSAKA, Kenneth (Mr.)	Speaker of the Senate
Leader of the delegation	Chairperson of the Senate Business Committee
KIHIKA, Susan Wakarura (Ms.)	Member of the Senate (JP)
Member, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	
ODUOL, Jacqueline (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (ODM)
Chair, High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism	National Cohesion and Equal Opportunities
	Departmental Committee on Sports, Culture and Tourism
NOOR, Sophia Abdi (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (PDR)
President, Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs	

KIARIE, John (Mr.) Member, Committee to Promote Respect of International Humanitarian Law AMOLLO, Lawrence Odak Ochieng (Mr.) KISIANGANI, Rose Natecho (Ms.) MUSANDU, Anna Alice Adhiambo (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (JP) Adviser, Senate Adviser, Senate Adviser, National Assembly
(ODM :	Orange Democratic Movement / Mouvement démocratique orange)
(JP :	Jubilee Party / Parti Jubilee)
(PDR :	Party for Development and Reform / Parti pour le développement et la réforme)

KUWAIT – KOWEIT

AL-GHANIM, Marzouq (Mr.)	Speaker of the National Assembly
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	
ALAZEMI, Salman (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
AL-SALEH, Hisham (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
AL MATAR, Hamad (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
ALMUTAIRI, Abaid (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
ALFARES, Rana (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly
ABDULLAH, Amer (Mr.)	Director
ALAJMI, Mobarak (Mr.)	Head Section of Protocol, National Assembly
ALMUTAWA, Amal (Ms.)	Deputy Secretary General
ALHARBAN, Talal (Mr.)	Adviser
Secretary of the delegation	
ALSUBAIE, Sara (Ms.)	Political Researcher – Inter-Parliamentary Organization
Secretary of the delegation	Department, National Assembly
ALAWADHI, Abdullah (Mr.)	Adviser, Director of Foreign Relations and Protocol, Office of the Speaker
ALBEHBEHANI, Ahmad (Mr.)	Adviser, Political Researcher - IPU Affairs Section
ALSUBAIE, Meslet (Mr.)	Adviser, Media
AL-ANEZI, Meshal (Mr.)	Adviser, Director
ALSANAD, Mohammed (Mr.)	Adviser

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC – REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE POPULAIRE DU LAOS

PRASEUTH, Sanya (Mr.)	Member of Parliament
	Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
KONGPHALY, Thanta (Mr.)	Member of Parliament
	Vice-Chairman of the Planning, Finance and Audit Committee
PHONETHIP, Chansoda (Ms.)	Member of Parliament, Vice President of the Lao Women Union's Executive Committee
ANOTHAY, Khemphone (Mr.)	Director General of Inter-Parliamentary Relations Department
ANANTHA, Soutsakhone (Mr.)	Head of Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division
KEOLA, Anyphet (Ms.)	Adviser
PHANDANOUVONG, Vilaysack (Ms.)	Adviser
SIDSENA, Phomma (Mr.)	
Ambassador	

LATVIA – LETTONIE

TEIRUMNIEKS, Edmunds (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (NA)
Leader of the delegation	Social and Employment Matters Committee
	Secretary of the Sustainable Development Committee
JUDINS, Andrejs (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (JV), Chairman of the Citizenship, Migration and Social Cohesion Committee Human Rights and Public Affairs Committee
(JV:	New Unity / Nouvelle unité)
(NA :	National Alliance / Alliance nationale)

MADAGASCAR

RAKOTOMALALA, Miarintsoa Andriantsitonta (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
Chef de la délégation	Président du Réseau des jeunes parlementaires de Madagascar
Membre, Forum des jeunes parlementaires	
RAKOTOSON Hubert (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
RAKOTOARISON Adrian Braun (M.)	Directeur de la Législation

MALAWI

GOTANI HARA, Catherine (Ms.)	Speaker of the National Assembly
Leader of the delegation	
MLOMBWA, Claude Clement (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (MCP)
JOLOBALA, Esther (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (UDF)
KANDODO, Kenny (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (MCP)
KAPICHILA, Misolo (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (UDF)
MUSOWA, Victor (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (DPP)
MWENYEHILI, Jeffrey (Mr.)	Deputy Clerk of Parliament, National Assembly
Secretary to the delegation	
KILIMO, Constance (Ms.)	Protocol Officer
Member of ASGP	
KALEMBA, Fiona (Ms.)	Secretary General
DUBE, Gerald (Mr.)	Adviser
CHIKANDIRA, Nancy (Ms.)	Adviser
Secretary to the delegation	

(MCP : Malawi Congress Party / Parti du Congrès du Malawi)

(UDF : United Democratic Front / Front démocratique unifié)

(DPP : Democratic Progressive Party / Parti démocratique progressiste)

MALAYSIA - MALAISIE

SULAIMAN, Ma'mun (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
Leader of the delegation	Member Special Select Committee on Rights and Gender Equality (WARISAN)
IBHARIM, Nurul Fadhilah (Ms.)	Assistant Secretary, International Relations and Protocol Division, House of Representatives
Secretary to the delegation	
MOHD ADHAM, Noor Aida (Ms.)	Adviser
Diplomatic Corps	
(PAS:	Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party / Parti islamique pan-malaisien)
(PKR:	People's Justice Party / Parti pour la justice du peuple)
(WARISAN:	Sabah Heritage Party / Parti Warisan Sabah)

MALDIVES

SHAREEF, Adam (Mr.)	Member of the People's Majlis (MNP)
Leader of the delegation	
RAEE, Mohamed (Mr.)	Member of the People's Majlis (MDP)
MAHMOOD, Jeehan (Ms.)	Member of the People's Majlis (MDP)
THARIQ, Ahmed (Mr.)	Member of the People's Majlis (PPM)
NIUSHA, Fathimath (Ms.)	Secretary General
Member of ASGP	
BADHREE, Zuyyina (Ms.)	Adviser
Secretary of the Group	

(MDP : Maldivian Democratic Party / Parti démocratique des Maldives)

(PPM: Progressive Party of Maldives / Parti progressiste des Maldives)

(MNP : Maldives National Party / Parti National des Maldives)

MALTA – MALTE

FARRUGIA, Angelo (Mr.)	Speaker of the House of Representatives
Leader of the delegation	
BAJADA, Ian Paul (Mr.)	Manager II (Research), House of Representatives
Secretary of the Group	

MAURITIUS - MAURICE

PHOKEER, Sooroojdev (Mr.)	Speaker of the National Assembly
Leader of the delegation	
JUTTON, Teenah (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (MSM)
Member, Board of Young Parliamentarians	
RAMCHURN, Urmeelah Devi (Mr.)	Adviser
Secretary of the delegation	
(MSM: Mouvement Socialiste Militant)	
(MLP: Mauritius Labour Party / Parti travailliste mauricien)	

MEXICO – MEXIQUE

MARTÍNEZ GARCÍA, Verónica (Ms.)	Vice-Speaker of the Senate (PRI)
Leader of the delegation	
GUERRA, Marcela (Ms.)	Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies
Leader of the delegation	
CARVAJAL ISUNZA, Sofía (Ms.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PRI)
GOMEZ DEL CAMPO, Mariana (Ms.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PAN)
GARCIA SEGURA, Marisol (Ms.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (Morena)
LÓPEZ CASTRO, Cynthia Iliana (Ms.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PRI)

(PRI : Institutional Revolutionary Party / Parti révolutionnaire institutionnel)

(PAN : National Action Party / Parti de l'Action nationale)

(Morena : National Regeneration Movement / Mouvement de la régénération nationale)

MONACO

NOTARI, Fabrice (M.)	Membre du Conseil national (PM)
Chef de la délégation	Président de la Commission pour le suivi de la
Président du Groupe	négociation avec l'Union Européenne
Commission permanente du développement durable	
FRESKO-ROLFO, Béatrice (Mme)	Membre du Conseil national (HM)

(PM: Primo! Monaco as Priority / Primo! Priorité Monaco)

(HM: Monaco Horizon / Horizon Monaco)

MOROCCO – MAROC

TALBI EL ALAMI, Rachid (M.)	Président de la Chambre des Représentants (RNI)
Président du Groupe	
Chef de la délégation	
TOUIZI, Ahmed (M.)	Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (PAM)
SLASSI, Khaddouj (Mme)	Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (USFP)
CHOUMAIS, Hassan (M.)	Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (PAM)
AIT MIK, Kamal (M.)	Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (RNI)
EL KHADI, Najib (M.)	Secrétaire général, Chambre des Représentants
Président de l'ASGP	
SATRAOUY, Said (M.)	Chef de la Division des relations multilatérales,
Secrétaire administratif du Groupe	Chambre des Représentants
DRIOUCHE, Abdelwahad (M.)	Conseiller général chargé de la diplomatie
Secrétaire de la délégation	parlementaire, Chambre des Conseillers
CHAQRI, Ahmed (M.)	Chef de Cabinet du Président de la Chambre des
	Représentants
ADENNOUN, Khalid (M.)	Conseiller au cabinet du présidents, Chambre des
	Représentants
BENABDELLAH, Ouadia (M.)	Diplomatic corps

(RNI : Rassemblement national des indépendants)

(USFP : Socialist Union of Popular Forces / Union socialiste des forces populaires)

(PAM : Authenticity and Modernity Party / Parti Authenticité et Modernité)

MOZAMBIQUE

MULEMBWE, Eduardo (Mr.) President of the Group Leader of the delegation	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (FRELIMO)
MALEMA, Lucinda Bela (Ms.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (FRELIMO) Vice Chairman of the Social Affairs Committee
MUSSAGY, Gania (Ms.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (RENAMO)
MANJATE, Narcisio (Mr.) Secretary of the Group Member of the ASGP	
MADROBA, José (Mr.)	Adviser
(FRELIMO : (RENAMO :	Mozambique Liberation Front / Front de libération du Mozambique) Mozambican National Resistance / Résistance nationale du Mozambique)

NAMIBIA – NAMIBIE

KATJAVIVI, Peter (Mr.) Leader of the delegation President of the Group Bureau, Standing Committee on UN Affairs	Speaker of the National Assembly Chairperson of the IPU; Standing Committee on Standing Rules and Orders and Internal Arrangements; Standing Committee on Privileges (SWAPO) Speaker of the National Council (SWAPO)
MUHA, Sinimbo Lukas (Mr.)	Member of National Assembly
MUTEKA, Emma Tangi (Ms.)	Member of National Assembly
KAZONGOMINJA, Peter C K R (Mr.)	Member of National Assembly
KAIZEMI, Hope (Ms.)	Secretary, National Assembly
KANDETU, Lydia (Ms.) Secretary, Member of the ASGP	
SHALI, Auguste Tegelela (Ms.)	Parliamentary Clerk, National Council
KAVHURA, Petrus Muyenga (Mr.)	Adviser
FINNIES, Shaandre (Mr.)	Adviser
NAMISEB, Tousy Johannes (Mr.) Member of ASGP	Adviser
TJAONDJO, Cornelia (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Deputy Director
KAVANGA, Rivaldo (Mr.)	Adviser
SILUME, Morgan Simaiaa (Mr.)	Adviser
(SWAPO: South West Africa People's Organization / Organisation du peuple du Sud-Ouest africain)	

NEPAL

TIMISLINA, Ganesh Prasad (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Chairperson of the National Assembly
KARKI, Surendra Kumar (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
SHRESTHA, Bhairab Sunder (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
DEVAKOTA, Anita (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly
ARGARIYA, Uma Shankar (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
GAUTAM, Bharat Raj (Mr.)	General Secretary of the Federal Parliament
PHUYAL, Rajendra (Mr.)	Secretary of National Assembly, Adviser
AKELA PAUDEL, Govinda (Mr.)	Chief Secretary of Chairperson of National Assembly, Adviser
UPADHYAYA ACHARYA, Rekha (Ms.)	Under Secretary, Federal Parliament Secretariat, Adviser

NETHERLANDS – PAYS-BAS

ATSMA, Joop (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Member of the Senate (CDA)
GERKENS, Arda (Ms.) Rapporteur, Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	First Deputy Speaker of the Senate (PS)
RAVEN, Ton (Mr.)	Member of the Senate (OSF)
MULDER, Agnes (Ms.) President, Standing Committee on Sustainable Development Member, Forum of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the House of Representatives (CDA)

NEHMELMAN, Remco (Mr.)	Secretary General of the Senate
VAN DER HARST, Laura (Ms.)	Secretary General of the Senate
Member of ASGP	
CHRISTIAANSE, Monique (Ms.)	Adviser
Secretary of the delegation	
BAKKER-DE JONG, Femmy (Ms.)	Adviser
Secretary of the delegation	

(CDA : Christian Democratic Appeal / Appel chrétien-démocrate)
 (PS : Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)
 (VVD: People's Party for Freedom and Democracy / Parti populaire pour la liberté et la démocratie)
 (OSF: Independent Senate Faction)

NEW ZEALAND - NOUVELLE-ZELANDE

WALL, Louisa (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives (L)
President of the Group	
Leader of the delegation	
SIMPSON, Scott (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (NP)
(L: New Zealand Labour Party / Parti du travail néo-zélandais)	
(NP: National Party / Parti national)	

NIGER

HABIBOU, Aminatou (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PNDS)
Chef de la délégation	
DOGARI MOUMOUNI, Oumarou (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FA-Lumana)
MADOUGOU, Ousseyana (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (Fallala)
OUSMANE, Moussa (M)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
SABO, Marimou (Mme)	Conseillère
(PNDS : Niger Party for Democracy and Socialism / Parti Nigérien pour la Démocratie et le Socialisme)	
(Fallala : Parti Fallala pour la République)	
(FA-Lumana : MODEN/FA-Lumana – Mouvement démocratique nigérien pour une fédération africaine=	

NIGERIA

BARKIYA, Kabir Abdullahi (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Chairman of the Senate Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Affairs
ANKA, Lawan Hassan (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Chairman of the Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change
GALADIMA, Zakariyau M. (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (APC)
Bureau, Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	
FULATA, Abubakar Hassan (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (APC)
President, African Geopolitical Group	
ONANUGA, Adewunmi (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives (APC)
IBRAHIM, Tukur Kabir (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
OJO, Amos (Mr.)	Clerk to the National Assembly
ORUMWENSE, Felix (Mr.)	Secretary, Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Protocol
Secretary of the Group	
UMAR, Shehu (Mr.)	Director, Inter-Parliamentary Organisations
FOFAH, Florence (Ms.)	IPU Desk Officer
Delegation Secretary	
UZEME, Okoh Bernard (Mr.)	Clerk, Senate Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Affairs
ALFA, Abdulrahman-Naibi Salisu (Mr.)	Clerk, House Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations
(APC: All Progressive Congress / Congrès progressiste)	

NORWAY – NORVEGE

MØRLAND, Tellef Inge (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (L)
President of the Group	
Leader of the delegation	
TRELLEVIK, Ove (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (C)
KJERSTAD, Brigit Oline (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (SP)
FOSS, Ingunn (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (C)
HJEMDAL, Silje (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (P)
MYKJÅLAND, Gro Anita (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (CP)
FRASER, Thomas (Mr.)	Senior Adviser
Secretary to the delegation	
STOCK, Lisbeth (Ms.)	Adviser
GIVERIN, Rut Krüger (Ms.)	
Diplomatic corps	
ROVIG, Eivind Forbord (Mr.)	
Diplomatic corps	
(SP : Socialist Left Party / Parti Socialiste de gauche)	
(C : Conservative Party / Parti Conservateur)	
(P : Progress Party / Parti du progrès)	
(CP : Centre Party / Parti du centre)	
(L : Labour Party / Parti travailliste)	

OMAN

AL HARTHI, Yaqoob (M.)	Member of the Shura Council
Leader of the delegation	
ALZADJALI, Maryam (Ms.)	Member of the Shura Council
AL AMRY, Zahir (Mr.)	Member of the Shura Council
AL JUNAIBI, Abdullah (Mr.)	Member of the Shura Council
AL HADI, Sariya (Ms.)	Member of the Shura Council
AL SAADI, Khalid (Mr.)	Secretary General, State Council
AL NADABI, Ahmed (Mr.)	Secretary General, Shura Council
AL-BUSAIDI, Etab (Ms.)	Coordination specialist
AL HABSI, Abdullah (Mr.)	Adviser, Director
AL FARSI, Lamaya (Ms.)	Adviser

PAKISTAN

FAROOQ, Umer (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
Leader of the delegation	
ARBAB, Sher Ali (Mr.)	Member of Parliament
KHAN, Shandana Gulzar (Ms.)	Member of Parliament
EZDI, Seemee (Ms.)	Member of Parliament
HUMA, Zille (Ms.)	Member of Parliament
HAMID, Nausheen (Ms.)	Member of Parliament
KAKAR, Anwar-Ul-Haq (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
YOUNAS, Naqash (Mr.)	Adviser
JOVERIA, Salma (Ms.)	Adviser
HUSSAIN, Szed Khurram (Mr.)	Adviser

PARAGUAY

LLANO, Blas (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
Leader of the delegation	

POLAND – POLOGNE

MORAWSKA-STANECKA, Gabriela (Ms.)	Vice-President of the Senate (PPS)
Leader of the delegation	
BUDNER, Margareta (Ms.)	Member of the Senate
KARWOWSKA-SOKOŁOWSKA, Agata (Ms.)	Director of the Analysis and Documentation Office,
Member of the ASGP	Chancellery of the Senate
WÓJCIK-PAWLICZAK, Agata (Ms.)	Expert, Chancellery of the Senate
STOCZYNSKA, Beata (Ms.)	
Diplomatic corps	
(PPS: Polish Socialist Party / Parti Socialiste Polonais)	

PORTUGAL

MATOS, Sofia (Ms.) Leader of the delegation	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (SDP)
MARTINS, Hortense (Ms.) Committee on Middle East Questions	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (PS) Economy Committee
CARNEIRO, Hugo (Mr.) SANTOS, Suzana (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (SDP) Adviser of the International Relations and Cooperation Division Department, Assembly of the Republic
COELHO, Joao (Mr.)	Head of International Division and Cooperation
(SDP : Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)	
(PS : Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)	

QATAR

ALSULAITI, Hamda Bint Hassan (Ms.) Leader of the delegation	Vice-President of the Shura Council
ALSULAITI, Abdulla Bin Ali (Mr.) AL-AHBABI, Mohammed Bin Mahdi (Mr.) President, Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the Shura Council Member of the Shura Council
AL-FADALA, Ahmad Nasser (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General
ALQADI, Abderrahmane (Mr.) BOUCHKOUJ, Noureddine (Mr.) ALKAABI, Sarea (Mr.) ALHASSAN, Mohammed Hamad (Mr.) ALEMADI, Ahmed bin Mohamed (Mr.) Secretary of the delegation	Adviser Legal Expert, Shura Council Adviser Adviser Adviser
AL HASNI, Muchsin (Mr.) ALHADEY, Hayder (Mr.)	Protocol Officer Protocol Officer

REPUBLIC OF KOREA – REPUBLIQUE DE COREE

PARK, Byeong-seug (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly
KANG, Jun-hyeon (Mr.) CHOI, Seung-jae (Mr.) KIM, Byoung-gwan (Mr.) CHO, Koo rae (Mr.) KWAK, Hyunjun (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly Member of the National Assembly Chief Secretary to the Speaker Ambassadorial Advisor to the Speaker for Foreign Affairs Director General of the International Affairs and Protocol Bureau
PARK, Sang joo (Mr.) Secretary of the delegation	Secretary to the Speaker
LIM, Karen (Ms.) Secretary of the group	Program Officer
CHO, Seo yeon (Mr.) KIM, Bo Lam (Mr.) KIM, Yun Choong (Mr.)	Protocol Officer and Interpreter Adviser, Program Coordinator Adviser, Deputy Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference Division
CHA, Yeon kyeng (Mr.)	Protocol Officer and Interpreter

RWANDA

NYIRASAFARI, Esperance (Ms.) Leader of the delegation	Vice-President of the Senate (RPF)
RUBIBI, Olivier (Mr.) Secretary of the group	Director
(RPF : Rwanda Patriotic Front / Front patriotique rwandais)	
(PSD : Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)	

SAN MARINO – SAINT-MARIN

MONTEMAGGI, Marica (Ms.) Leader of the delegation	Member of the Great and General Council (Libera)
ZONZINI, Giovanni Maria (Mr.) ROSSI, Matteo (Mr.)	Member of the Great and General Council (R.E.T.E.) Member of the Great and General Council (NPR)
(Libera : Partito Politico Libera)	
(R.E.T.E. : R.E.T.E Civic Movement / Mouvement civique R.E.T.E.)	
(NPR : Noi per la Repubblica)	

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE – SAO TOME-ET-PRINCIPE

VIEGAS DOS RAMOS, Guilherme Octaviano (Mr.) Member of the National Assembly (MLSTP-PSD)
 Leader of the delegation
 DOS PRAZERES FERREIRA, Anaydi (Ms.) Member of the National Assembly (ADI)
 COTÚ, Danilson (Mr.) Member of the National Assembly (PDC/MDFM/UDD)
 D'ALVA, Yonelma (Ms.) Adviser
 (MLSTP-PSD : Sao Tome and Principe Liberation Movement / Mouvement de libération de Sao Tomé-et-Principe)
 (PDC/MDFM/UDD : Democratic Convergence Party / Force for Democratic Change Movement – Union of Democrats for
 Citizenship and Development / Parti de la convergence démocratique / Mouvement pour les forces de changement
 démocratique – Union des démocrates pour la citoyenneté et le développement)
 (ADI: Acção Democrática Independente)

SAUDI ARABIA – ARABIE SAOUDITE

ALSHEIKH, Abdullah (Mr.) Speaker of the Consultative Council
 Leader of the delegation
 ALHELAISSI, Hoda (Ms.) Member of the Consultative Council
 Advisory Group on Health
 FADIL, Ayman (Mr.) Member of the Consultative Council
 KHASHOGGI, Hani (Mr.) Member of the Consultative Council
 AL SHAMAN, Amal (Ms.) Member of the Consultative Council
 Bureau, Standing Committee on Democracy and Human
 Rights
 ALSHDDI, Hussam (Mr.) Adviser
 Secretary of the delegation
 ALSHAHRANI, Ahmed (Mr.) Adviser, President's Ceremony Officer
 ALMETAIRI, Mohammed (Mr.) Secretary General, Consultative Council
 Member of the ASGP
 ALQAHTANI, Faris (Mr.) Researcher
 ALHARBI, Yoosef (Mr.) Adviser
 ALORAIJ, Afnan (Ms.) Adviser
 ALMANSOUR, Khalid (Mr.) Adviser, Consultative Council
 ALTURKI, Khalid (Mr.) Director of Ceremonies to the Speaker

SENEGAL

MERGANE KANOUTÉ, Adjia Diarra (Mme) Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (BBY)
 Chef de la délégation
 Vice-Présidente, Comité exécutif
 Membre, Sous-Comité des finances
 (BBY : Benno Bokk Yaakaar)

SEYCHELLES

WILLIAM, Waven (Mr.) Member of the National Assembly (LDS)
 Vice-President, Standing Committee on Sustainable
 Development
 Leader of the delegation
 VIDOT, Audrey (Ms.) Member of the National Assembly
 DIDON, Emma (Ms.) IPU desk officer
 SOMBA, Josua (Mr.) Adviser
 KURASAH, Sheuneni (Mr.) Adviser
 BARITO, Nico (Mr.)
 Diplomatic corps
 (LDS : Seychelles Democratic Alliance / Union démocratique seychelloise)

SIERRA LEONE

BUNDU, Abass Chernor (Mr.) Speaker of Parliament
 Leader of the delegation
 GEORGE, Edward (Mr.) Member of Parliament (SLPP)
 President of Africa Young Parliamentarians
 BANGURA, Ibrahim (Mr.) Member of Parliament (APC)
 LEBBIE, Nenneh (Ms.) Member of Parliament (SLPP)
 FOFANAH, Musa (Mr.) Member of Parliament (C4C)
 LEBBIE, Moohamed (Mr.) Deputy Clerk of Parliament

SANKOH, Hannah (Ms.) Desk Officer & Adviser
 GANDO, Mohamed Lansana Amara (Mr.) Public Relations Officer
 (SLPP : Sierra Leone Peoples Party / Parti populaire de la Sierra Leone)
 (APC : All People's Congress / Congrès du peuple réuni)
 (C4C : Coalition for Change Party / Parti de la coalition pour le changement)

SOUTH AFRICA – AFRIQUE DU SUD

MAPISA-NQAKULA, Nosiviwe (Ms.) Speaker of the National Assembly (ANC)
 Leader of the delegation
 LUCAS, Sylvia (Ms.) Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (ANC)
 FROLICK, Cedric Thomas (Mr.) Member of the National Assembly (ANC)
 LOTRIET, Annelie (Ms.) Member of the National Assembly (DA)
 SHIVAMBU, Nyiko Floyd (Mr.) Member of the National Assembly (EFF)
 DLAKUDE, Doris (Ms.) Member of the National Assembly (ANC)
 MASIKO, Filike (Ms.) Member of the National Assembly (ANC)
 XASO, Masibulele (Mr.) Secretary, Member of the National Assembly
 NOJOZI, Nogolide (Ms.) Adviser
 SITHOLE, Dumisani Job (Mr.) Adviser
 MOLOTO, Mothapo (Mr.) Adviser
 MVULANE, Sebolelo (Ms.) Adviser
 KULA, Zuki (Ms.) Adviser
 TEMBE, Sithembiso (Mr.) Adviser
 (ANC: African National Congress / Congrès national africain)
 (DA : Democratic Alliance / Gauche démocratique)
 (EFF : Economic Freedom Fighters / Combattants de la liberté économique)

SOUTH SUDAN – SOUDAN DU SUD

NUNU KUMBA, Jemma (Ms.) Speaker of the Transitional National Legislative
 Leader of the delegation Assembly (SPLM)
 ACIEN, Gabriel (Mr.) Member of the Transitional National Legislative
 Assembly (SPLM)
 MALWAL, Sandra (Ms.) Member of the Transitional National Legislative
 Assembly
 MALOU, Daniel (Mr.) Member of the Transitional National Legislative
 Assembly
 AKOT, Makuc (Mr.) Secretary General
 ANIBIE, Janet (Ms.) Adviser
 GAMU, Anita Romai David (Ms.) Protocol
 (SPLM : Sudan People's Liberation Movement / Mouvement populaire de libération du Soudan)

SPAIN – ESPAGNE

ECHANIZ, José Ignacio (Mr.) Member of the Congress of Deputies (PP)
 Leader of the delegation
 Member, Executive Committee
 Member, Health Advisory Group
 CEPEDA, José (Mr.) Member of the Senate (PSOE)
 Vice-President, Spanish IPU Group
 SÁNCHEZ del REAL, Victor (Mr.) Member of the Congress of Deputies (Vox)
 MARTÍNEZ ZARAGOZA, Ana (Ms.) Member of the Senate (PSOE)
 ALVAREZ, Ana (Ms.) Deputy Secretary General
 Member of ASGP
 GOMEZ-BERNARDO, María Teresa (Ms.)
 Secretary of the Group
 CASTILLO, Fernando (Mr.) Adviser
 (PP: People's Party / Parti populaire)
 (PSOE: Spanish Socialist Workers' Party / Parti socialiste ouvrier espagnol)

SRI LANKA

ABEYWARDANA, Mahinda Yapa (Mr.) Speaker of Parliament (SLLP)
 President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation Chair, Committee on Parliamentary Business
 Chair, Committee on High Posts
 Chair, Committee on Standing Orders
 Chair, Liaison Committee
 Chair, Committee of Selection

ALAHAPPERUMA, Dulas (Mr.)
 RASAMANICKAM, Shanakiya Rajaputhiran (Mr.)
 WICKRAMASINHE, Rajika Priyangani (Ms.)
 JAYAWARDENA, Kavinda (Mr.)
 DASANAYAKE, Dhammika (Mr.)
 Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP
 (SLLP: Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna)
 (SJB: Samagi Jana Balawegaya)
 (ITAK: Illankai Tamil Arasu Kachchi)

Member of Parliament (SLLP)
 Member of Parliament (ITAK)
 Member of Parliament (SLLP)
 Member of Parliament (SJB)
 Secretary General, Parliament

SURINAME

GAJADIEN, Asiskumar (Mr.)
 Leader of the Delegation
 President, Standing Committee on Democracy and
 Human Rights
 SOERJANI, Mingoen (Ms.)
 BOUVA, Melvin (Mr.)
 Member, Working Group on Science and Technology
 JAIRAM, Asna (Ms.)
 (VHP: Progressive Reform Party / Parti progressiste et réformiste)
 (NDP: National Democratic Party / Parti national démocratique)

Member of the National Assembly (VHP)

 Member of the National Assembly (VPH)
 Member of the National Assembly (NDP)

 Advisor International Relations DNA

SWEDEN – SUEDE

WIDEGREN, Cecilia (Ms.)
 Leader of the delegation
 Member, Executive Committee
 Chair, Sub-Committee on Finance
 Vice-President, IPU
 LARSSON, Dag (Mr.)
 Bureau, Standing Committee on Democracy
 and Human Rights
 KARLSSON, Mattias (Mr.)
 HULTBERG, Johan (Mr.)
 SONDÉN, Björn (Mr.)
 Acting Secretary to the delegation
 HERMANSSON, Ralph (Mr.)
 Deputy Acting Secretary to the delegation
 (M: Moderate Party / Parti modéré)
 (SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)
 (SD: Sweden Democrats / Démocrates de Suède)

Member of Parliament (M)
 Committee on Foreign Affairs

 Member of Parliament (SDP)

 Member of Parliament (SD)
 Member of Parliament (M)
 International Adviser

 International Adviser

SWITZERLAND – SUISSE

JOSITSCH, Daniel (M.)
 Chef de la délégation
 Président du Groupe

Membre du Conseil des Etats (SP/PS)
 Commission de politique extérieure
 Commission des affaires juridiques
 Commission de la politique de sécurité
 Commission des institutions politiques

HURTER, Thomas (M.)
 Vice-Président du Groupe
 Membre, Groupe de travail sur la science et la
 technologie
 FEHLMANN RIELLE, Laurence (Mme)

Membre du Conseil national (SVP/UDC)
 Commission de la politique de sécurité
 Commission des transports et des télécommunications

SCHWAB, Philippe (M.)
 Membre de l'ASGP
 EQUEY, Jérémie (M.)
 Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation
 GNÄGI, Anna Lea (Mme)
 Secrétaire adjointe du Groupe,
 Secrétariat de la délégation

Membre du Conseil national (SP/PS)
 Commission des affaires juridiques
 Commission de l'immunité
 Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée fédérale

 Relations internationales

 Relations internationales

(M/C: Die Mitte / The Centre / Le Centre)
 (SP/PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)
 (FDP/PLR: The Liberals / Les Libéraux-Radicaux)
 (SVP/UDC: Swiss People's Party / L'Union démocratique du centre)

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC – REPUBLIQUE ARABE SYRIENNE

ABDALJALIL, Akram (Mr.)	Member of the People's Assembly
AL AZBAH, Faiza (Ms.)	Member of the People's Assembly
AL SALLOUM, Salloum (Mr.)	Member of the People's Assembly
ALALOU, Nedal (Mr.)	Member of the People's Assembly
MAHMOUD HAMDO, Omar (Mr.)	Member of the People's Assembly
MOHAMMAD SALEH, Maysa (Ms.)	Member of the People's Assembly
DIAB, Abdul Azim (Mr.)	Adviser

THAILAND – THAILANDE

WICHITCHOLCHAI, Pornpetch (Mr.)	President of the Senate
Leader of the Delegation	
TONTISIRIN, Kraisid (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
Member, Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development	
TOHMEENA, Pechdau (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives (BJT)
Member, Advisory Group on Health	
SUWANMONGKOL, Anusart (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
Member, High-level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism	
ROOPKHAJORN, Natchtanun (Ms.)	Secretary to the Vice-President of the National Assembly
BAMRUNGPON, Tanukom (Mr.)	Director of the IPU Division
Secretary to the Delegation	
SATAWEDIN, Saritpon (Mr.)	Foreign Affairs Officer (Senior Professional Level)
Assistant Secretary to the Delegation	
SAIKRACHANG, Chulatas (Mr.)	Foreign Affairs Officer (Professional Level)
Assistant Secretary to the Delegation	
(BJT: Bhumjaithai Party)	

TIMOR-LESTE

LONGUINHOS GUTERRES LOPES, Aniceto (Mr.)	Speaker of the National Parliament (FRETILIN)
Leader of the delegation	
BARRETO FREITAS XIMENES, Isabel Maria (Ms.)	Member of the National Parliament (FCP)
CARVALHO, Elvina Sousa (Ms.)	Member of the National Parliament (DP)
DA COSTA, Aderito Hugo (Mr.)	Member of the National Parliament (CNTR)
AMARAL, João Rui (Mr.)	Secretary General
DIAS FERNANDES, Ambrósio (Mr.)	Advisor to the Speaker
AMARAL SARMENTO, Alicia (Ms.)	Head of Office of the Speaker
CARVALHO VICENTE, Egídio (Mr.)	Adviser
GONZAGA VIDIGAL, Maria Isabel (Ms.)	Secretary/Technical Support of IPU Group
ALEXIO DA CRUZ, Filomeno (Mr.)	Ambassador

(CNRT: National Congress for the Reconstruction of Timor-Leste / Congrès national pour la reconstruction du Timor)

(DP: Democratic Party / Parti démocratique)

(PLP: People's Liberation Party / Parti de libération populaire)

(FRETILIN: Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor / Front révolutionnaire pour l'indépendance du Timor-Leste)

(FCP: Front Change Party)

TÜRKİYE

KAVAKCI KAN, Ravza (Ms.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (AK)
President of the Group	
Leader of the delegation	
Member, Committee on Middle East Questions	
POLAT DÜZGÜN, Arife (Ms.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (AK)
YILDIZ, Zeynep (Ms.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (AK)
KARAKAYA, Mevlut (Mr.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (MHP)
ANDICAN, Abdul Ahat (Mr.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (İYİ)
OZSOY, Hisyar (Mr.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (HDP)
KUMBUZOĞLU, Mehmet Ali (Mr.)	Secretary General of the Grand National Assembly
Member ASGP	
Secretary of the Group	
GÜNER, Mumtaz (Mr.)	Deputy Head of the External Relations and Protocol Department, Adviser
Secretary to the delegation	

TÜRKMEN, Elif (Ms.) External Relations and Protocol Department, Adviser
 DENERI, Hande (Ms.) External Relations and Protocol Department, Adviser
 (AK : Justice and Development Party / Parti de la justice et du développement)
 (HDP : People's Democratic Party / Parti démocratique populaire)
 (MHP : Nationalist Movement Party / Parti d'action nationaliste)
 (İYİ: İyi Parti)

UGANDA – OUGANDA

RUHUNDA, Alex (Mr.) Member of Parliament
 Leader of the delegation
 President of the Group
 ACORA ODONGA, Nancy (Ms.) Member of Parliament
 NABAGABE KALULE, Flavia (Ms.) Member of Parliament
 KATO, Mohamed (Mr.) Member of Parliament (NRM)
 MUTUMBA, Abdul (Mr.) Member of Parliament (NRM)
 NSANJA, Patrick (Mr.) Member of Parliament
 AMERO, Susan (Ms.) Member of Parliament
 KAGANZI, Martha (Ms.) Principal Clerk Assistant, Parliament
 Secretary of the Group
 FOX OYWELOWO, Odoi (Mr.) Adviser
 BAH SIR, Lubega Sempa (Mr.) Adviser
 NINSIIMA, Catherine (Ms.) Adviser
 BIRIBONWOHA ; Pius (M.r) Adviser

(NRM : National Resistance Movement / Mouvement de la résistance nationale)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES – EMIRATS ARABES UNIS

ALNUAIMI, Dr. Ali Rashid (Mr.) Member of the Federal National Council
 Member, Executive Committee
 Leader of the delegation
 FALKANAZ, Sara Mohammad (Ms.) Member of the Federal National Council
 ALMHARI, Marwan (Mr.) Member of the Federal National Council
 ALTENEIJI, Dr. Shaikah Obaid (Ms.) Member of the Federal National Council
 Member, Committee on Middle East Questions
 ALAMERI, Mouza Mohammed (Ms.) Member of the Federal National Council
 SULTAN ALSUWAIDI, Meera (Ms.) Member of the Federal National Council
 Member, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians
 ALBASTI, Afra Rashid (Ms.) Assistant General Secretary for Parliamentary
 Member of ASGP Communication
 ALAQILI, Ahmed Mohammad (Mr.) Adviser
 Secretary of the delegation

UNITED KINGDOM – ROYAUME-UNI

BALDWIN, Harriett (Ms.) Member of the House of Commons (C)
 Leader of the delegation
 BRADLEY, Karen, Rt Hon (Ms.) Member of the House of Commons (C)
 RENNARD, Chris, Lord (Mr.) Member of the House of Lords (Lib Dems)
 MCMORRIN, Anna (Ms.) Member of the House of Commons (L)
 HOLDEN, Richard (Mr.) Member of the House of Commons (C)
 CARDEN, Dan (Mr.) Member of the House of Commons (L)
 NIMMO, Rick (Mr.) Director of BGIPU
 Secretary of the Group
 REES, Dominique (Ms.) BGIPU Deputy Director
 Secretary of the delegation
 EDWARDS, Rhannon (Ms.) BGIPU International Project Manager
 Secretary of the delegation
 DAVIES, Sarah (Ms.)
 ASGP representative from the House of Commons
 BURTON, Simon (Mr.)
 ASGP representative from the House of Lords
 GARVIE-ADAMS, Elektra (Ms.)
 Joint Secretary of the ASGP
 MOELLER, Daniel (Mr.)
 Assistant to the ASGP Secretariat
 (C : Conservative / Parti conservateur)
 (L : Labour / Parti travailliste)
 (Lib Dems : Liberal Democrats / Démocrates libéraux)

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA – REPUBLIQUE-UNIE DE TANZANIE

ACKSON, Tulia (Ms.)	Speaker of the National Assembly (CCM)
Leader of the Delegation	
MHAGAMA, Joseph Kizito (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (CCM)
MATIKO, Esther Nicholus (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (CHADEMA)
KINGU, Elibariki Immanuel (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (CCM)
ULENGE, Mwanaisha Ng'azi (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (CCM)
RAMADHAN, Ramadhan Suleiman (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (CCM)
KIHANGE, Zainab Issa (Ms.)	Adviser
Secretary to the delegation	
KILEO, Mathew Nionzima (Mr.)	Adviser
SAPALI, James Nyengwa (Mr.)	Adviser
EGIDIO, Deogratias Bitigunga (Mr.)	Adviser
LYAFUMILE, Martha Obeid (Ms.)	Adviser
MBOGGO, Emmanuel (Mr.)	Adviser, Assistant to the Speaker
MSOMBE, Michael (Mr.)	Adviser, Information officer
SIMBA, Deonius (Mr.)	Adviser, Information officer

(CCM: CHAMA CHA MAPINDUZI)
(CHADEMA: CHAMA CHA DEMOKRASIA NA MAENDELEO)

URUGUAY

LOZANO, Raul (Mr.)	Member of the Senate (CA)
Leader of the delegation	
MONTERO, José Pedro (Mr.)	Secretary General, Senate
Vice-President of the ASGP	
GALVALISI, Carina (Ms.)	Head of International Relations, General Assembly
Secretary of the Group and of GRULAC	
PIQUINELA, Oscar (Mr.)	
Secretary of GRULAC	
(CA : Open Cabildo / Cabildo ouvert)	

VIET NAM

VU, Hai Ha (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
Leader of the delegation	
President of the Group	
THAI, Quynh Mai Dung (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly, Standing member, Foreign Affairs Committee
NGUYEN, Ngoc Son (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly, Standing member, Science, Technology and Environment Committee
NGUYEN, Truong Giang (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary General of the National Assembly
TRAN, Kim Chi (Ms.)	
Secretary of the Group	
VU, Dai Phuong (Mr.)	Protocol Officer
TRAN, Thi Ninh (Ms.)	Adviser
Secretary of the delegation	
(CPV: Communist Party of Vietnam / Parti communiste vietnamien)	

YEMEN

AL-SHADADI, Mohamed Ali (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
Leader of the delegation	
ALSALIH, Mohamed (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
ALBARHMI, Saleh (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
BAN- MALIK, Mohamed Abdulmalik (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
AL-AHMAR, Hamid Abdullah (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
BIN-MADI, Mabkhout (Mr.)	Acting Secretary General of the House of Representatives
Member of ASGP	
NASSR ALI AL-SHAMIRI, H.E. Dr. Abdulghani (Mr.)	Ambassador
AL- HAMAD, Ali Asaad (Mr.)	Secretariat

ZAMBIA - ZAMBIE

MUTTI, Nelly B K (Ms.)	Speaker of the National Assembly
Leader of the delegation	
KATUTA, Given (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (I)
President, Advisory Group on Health	
MANDANDI, Kaliye (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (UPND)
ANAKOKA, Mubita (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (UPND)
KAZIMETE, Harry K (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (UPND)
NG'ANDWE, Jean C (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (PF)
SABAO, Jacqueline (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (UPND)
NGULUBE, Roy (Mr.)	Secretary General
JERE, Sibonelo (Ms.)	
Secretary of the Group	
KAWIMBE, Stephen (Mr.)	Adviser, National Assembly
SAMUWIKWA, Sage (Mr.)	Adviser, National Assembly
MONGA, Pauline (Ms.)	Adviser, National Assembly
Secretary of the group	

(FDD: Forum for Democracy and Development / Forum pour la démocratie et le développement)

(UPND: United Party for National Development / Parti uni pour le développement national)

(PF: Patriotic Front / Front patriotique)

(I : Independent)

ZIMBABWE

MUDENDA, Jacob Francis Nzwidamilimo (Mr.)	Speaker of Parliament
Leader of the delegation	
Member, Executive Committee	
MNANGAGWA, Tongai Mafidi (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
MUZENDA, Tsitsi Veronica (Ms.)	Member of the Senate
TSVANGIRAI, Vincent (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
CHOKUDA, Kennedy Mugove (Mr.)	Secretary general
Member of the ASGP	
MUSHANDINGA, Martha (Ms.)	Principal Executive Assistant to the Speaker of the National Assembly
NYAMAHOWA, Frank (Mr.)	Director, Adviser
CHISANGO, Rumbidzai Pamela (Ms.)	Principal External Relations Officer
Secretary to the delegation	
JENJE, Asha (Mr.)	Director in the Clerk's Office

II. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS - MEMBRES ASSOCIES**ARAB PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT ARABE**

AL-ASOOMI, Adel (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	President of Parliament
RAHMANIA, Youcef (Mr.)	Member of Parliament
AL AIFAN, Abdullah (Mr.)	Member of Parliament
AL-DOUSARI, Nasr (Mr.)	Member of Parliament
HAJJIOUBI, Khadija (Ms.)	Member of Parliament
ALSHUROOQI, Nabeel (Mr.)	Assistant Secretary-General
ABD EL AZIZ, Ashraf (Mr.)	Adviser
ADEL, Ahmed (Mr.)	Adviser
HASSABALLA, Ahmed (Mr.)	Media Adviser
AL-SEIDY, Ashraf (Mr.)	Adviser

**PARLIAMENT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)
PARLEMENT DE LA COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST (CEDEAO)**

TUNIS, Hon. Sidie Mohamed (M.) Leader of the delegation	Speaker of Parliament
SNOWE Edwin Melvin (Mr.)	Member of Parliament
CARAMA, Camaro (M.)	Member of Parliament
AZUMAH, John (M.)	Secretary General
SOME, K. Bertin (M.) Secretary of the group	Adviser, Director
KOMLAN, Gninevi G. (M.)	Adviser
FWANGDER, Ezekiel Friday (M.)	Adviser

ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE (APF)

GAHOUCHI, Latifa (Mme)	Députée
CESSELIN, Damien (M.)	Secrétaire général
EZA, Mireille (Mme)	Directrice
LECI, Fatmir (M.)	Conseiller

III. OBSERVERS - OBSERVATEURS**UNITED NATIONS**

PATTEN, Pramila (Ms.), UNSG Special Representative on sexual violence in conflict
CARRERA, Gloria (Ms.), UN Team of experts, Rule of law/ Sexual violence in conflict

JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS (UN AIDS)

BOOTON, Krittawawan (Ms.)

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

CHAUVEL, Charles (Mr.), Global Lead and Asia-Pacific Focal Point, Inclusive Processes and Institutions

UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (UN WOMEN)

KAZI, Jamshed M. (Mr.)
ANGGRENI, Hosianna (Ms.)

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO)**ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE (OMS)**

SILBERSCHMIDT, Gaudenz (Mr.), Director, Health and Multilateral Partnerships
SURYANTORO, Ludy (Mr.), Head of Unit, Multisectoral Engagement for Health Security Preparedness

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY ORGANIZATION (CTBTO)

FLOYD, Robert Bruce (Mr.), Executive Secretary
BERRENS, Marion (Ms.), Liaison and Coordination Officer
MCGRATH, Keegan (Mr.), Strategic Communications Officer

AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION (APU)**UNION PARLEMENTAIRE AFRICAINE**

IDI GADO, Boubacar (Mr.), Secretary General
CHEROUATI, Samir (Mr.), Director

ARAB INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (AIPU)**UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE ARABE**

AL-SHAWABKEH, Fayez (Mr.), Secretary General
NIHAWI, Samir (Mr.)

ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA)

DEWONO, Mario Pandu (Mr.), Deputy Secretary General, Leader of the group
VAN, Nguyen Tuong (Ms.), Secretary General
LIMA, Putri Maha (Ms.), Director of Committees
NURSAHAMDANI, Sandi (Mr.), Committees Officer

ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)**ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE ASIATIQUE**

HASHEMI, Seyed Javad (Mr.), Director of International Affairs

FORUM OF PARLIAMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION (FP- ICGLR)**FORUM DES PARLEMENTS DE LA CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE SUR LA RÉGION DES GRANDS LACS (FP-CIRGL)**

KAKOBA, Onyango (Mr.), Secretary General
BOTH, Jeni (Mr.), Programme Manager

GLOBAL ORGANIZATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION (GOPAC)**ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES PARLEMENTAIRES CONTRE LA CORRUPTION (GOPAC)**

ZON, Fadil (Mr.), Vice-Chair
HYDE, John (Mr.), Secretary

INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK FOR EDUCATION (IPNED)**RÉSEAU INTERNATIONAL DES PARLEMENTAIRES POUR L'ÉDUCATION (IPNED)**

BALDWIN, Harriett (Ms.), Co-Chair
O'NEILL, Deborah (Ms.), Member

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF TURKIC SPEAKING COUNTRIES (TURKPA)**ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DES PAYS DE LANGUE TURCQUE**

ER, Mehmet Süreyya (Mr.), Secretary General
MAMMADOV, Azar (Mr.), Legal Officer

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM)
ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE (APM)
CASINI, Pier Fernando (Mr.), Member

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY – UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (PA-UfM)
COIMBRA, Bruno (Mr.), Member

PARLIAMENTARY UNION OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES (PUIC)
UNION PARLEMENTAIRE DES ETATS MEMBRES DE L'OCI (UPCI)
NIASS, Mouhamed Khouraiichi (Mr.), Secretary General
MOHAMMADI SIJANI, Ali Asghar (Mr.), Deputy Secretary General

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (SADC PF)
FORUM PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA COMMUNAUTE (SADC)
SEKGOMA, Boemo Mmandu (Ms.) Secretary General
MARIMO, Ndamuka (Mr.), Coordinator
LILUNGWE, Agnes (Ms.), Executive Secretary to the Secretary General

LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL
TANGUY, Liliana (Ms.), Member

Executive Committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

ANYAKUN, Esther (Ms.), Member of Parliament (Uganda)
Member, Executive Committee

**ADVISERS AND OTHER PERSONS TAKING PART IN THE WORK OF THE 144th ASSEMBLY
CONSEILLERS ET AUTRES PERSONNES PARTICIPANT AUX TRAVAUX DE LA 144^e ASSEMBLEE**

CHAD - TCHAD

ALGHASSIM, Khamis (M.)
BEYOM MALO, Adrien (M.)
Member of ASGP

Secrétaire général
Secrétaire général

MONGOLIA – MONGOLIE

LUVSANDORJ, Ulziisaikhan (Ms.)
Member of ASGP
YADAMSUREN, Battogtokh (Mr.)

BAYARTOGTOKH, Enkh-Undram, (Ms.)
Secretary of the Delegation

GANJAMBAL, Bulgan (Ms.)

Secretary General of the State Great Hural (Parliament)
of Mongolia
Head of the Internal Audit Unit at the Secretariat of the
State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia, Adviser
Senior Advisor of the Foreign Relations Department at
the Secretariat of the State Great Hural (Parliament) of
Mongolia
Officer of the Foreign Relations Department at the
Secretariat of the State Great Hural (Parliament) of
Mongolia

PALESTINE

AL-SHIN, Zuhair (Mr.)
Ambassador

**SPECIAL GUESTS TAKING PART IN ACTIVITIES FORESEEN ON THE OCCASION OF THE
144th ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
INVITES SPECIAUX PRENANT PART A DES ACTIVITES PREVUES A L'OCCASION DE LA
144^e ASSEMBLEE DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE**

Assembly

CHOWDHURY, Saber (Mr.), Honorary IPU President

BAN Ki-moon (Mr.), Former Secretary-General of the UN; Founder of the Ban Ki-moon Center for Global Citizens

WIJSEN, Melati (Ms.), Co-founder, Bye Bye Plastic Bags

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

KAZI, Jamshed M. (Mr.), Representative and Liaison to ASEAN, UN Women Indonesia

BOONTO, Tina (Ms.), Country Director of UNAIDS

ANGGRENI, Hosianna (Ms.), UN Country Team, Indonesia

Other Events

KILADZE, Sophie (Ms.), IPU focal point at the Committee on the Rights of the Child

MOECHTAR, Ali (Mr.), UNICEF, Indonesia

SYARIF, Laode (Mr.), Member of the Integrity Initiatives International Asia Pacific Sub-Committee

HYDE, John (Mr.), GOPAC Secretary

ZAHARIEVA, Rositsa (Ms.), UNODC, GlobENetwork

GLOSSARY / GLOSSAIRE**English****Titles/Functions:**

Speaker of Parliament
President of the Group

Adviser
Chair/Chairman/Chairperson
Clerk
Deputy Speaker
Head
Leader of the Delegation
Officer
Researcher
Secretary of the Group/delegation
Spokesman

Parliaments:

House of Commons
House of Representatives
National Assembly
People's Representatives

Parliamentary Committees:

Abroad
Agreements
Broadcasting
Building
Citizenship
Complaint Reception
Computer Science
Cross-cutting Issues
Directive Board
Elderly
Fishery
Food
Foreign Affairs
Freedoms
Funding
Gender Equality
Growth
Health/Healthcare
Heritage
Home Affairs
Housing
Human Rights
Intelligence
Investigation/Inquiry
Joint Committee
Labour/Work
Law
Legal
Local Self-government
Missing, Adversely Affected Persons
Oversight
People with Disabilities
Physical Planning, Land Use Planning, Country
Planning
Public Expenditure
Public Works
Rehabilitation
Social Welfare
Standing Committee
Standing Orders/Rules
State Device

Français**Titres/Fonctions :**

Président du Parlement
Président(e) du Groupe

Conseiller
Président(e)
Secrétaire général/Greffier
Vice-Président(e)
Chef
Chef de la délégation
Fonctionnaire
Chercheur
Secrétaire du Groupe/ de la délégation
Porte-parole

Parlements :

Chambre des Communes
Chambre des représentants
Assemblée nationale
Représentants du peuple

Commissions parlementaires :

A l'étranger
Approbations
Radiodiffusion
Bâtiment
Citoyenneté
Instruction des plaintes
Informatique
Matières transversales
Comité directeur
Aînés
Pêche
Alimentation
Affaires étrangères
Libertés
Financement
Egalité entre les sexes
Croissance
Santé
Patrimoine
Affaires internes
Logement
Droits de l'homme
Renseignement
Enquête
Comité mixte
Travail
Lois
Juridique
Autonomie locale
Personnes disparues ou lésées
Surveillance
Personnes handicapées
Aménagement du territoire

Dépenses publiques
Travaux publics
Réinsertion
Protection sociale
Comité permanent
Règlement
Dispositif étatique

Sustainable Development
Trade
Training
Truth
Underprivileged
Ways and Means
Wildlife
Women, Children and Youth

Développement durable
Commerce
Formation
Vérité
Défavorisés
Voies et moyens
Faune
Les femmes, les enfants et les jeunes

IPU Committees:

Advisory Group on Health
Bureau of Women Parliamentarians
Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians
Committee on Middle East Questions
Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL)
Executive Committee
Forum of Young Parliamentarians
Gender Partnership Group
Group of Facilitators for Cyprus
Standing Committee on Peace and International Security
Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade
Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights
Standing Committee on UN Affairs

Commissions et Comités de l'UIP :

Groupe consultatif sur la santé
Bureau des femmes parlementaires
Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires
Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient
Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire (DIH)
Comité exécutif
Forum des jeunes parlementaires
Groupe du partenariat entre hommes et femmes
Groupe de facilitateurs concernant Chypre
Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale
Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce
Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme
Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies