



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# 145th IPU Assembly and related meetings

Kigali, Rwanda  
11 – 15 October 2022

## Results of the proceedings



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## 145th Assembly

### 1. Inaugural ceremony

*The inaugural ceremony of the 145th IPU Assembly took place at the Kigali Convention Centre, Rwanda at 11:00 on Tuesday, 11 October 2022.*

**Ms. Hadija Murangwa, Member of the Senate of Rwanda, Master of Ceremonies**, welcomed delegates to Kigali.

*Upon the arrival of His Excellency President Paul Kagame, a choir sang the national anthem of Rwanda.*

**Ms. Donatille Mukabalisa, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of Rwanda**, thanked President Kagame for his presence and warmly welcomed delegates from around the world to the 145th IPU Assembly. Assemblies were key moments in the IPU's commitment to bring a parliamentary dimension to international cooperation, global governance and the resolution of major international issues. An important element of the IPU's primary goals of peace and democracy was its strong commitment to ensure that women could participate in politics on an equal footing with men.

The theme of the Assembly, *Gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers of change for a more resilient and peaceful world*, was intended as a wake-up call to parliamentary institutions to reflect and take stock on the current state of gender equality, and to identify ways to advance gender mainstreaming in the political and economic spheres of every country. In Rwanda, the promotion of gender equality, women in leadership and women's empowerment more generally, were constitutional imperatives. The political commitment to those values was strong at the highest level. The women of Rwanda were playing an active role, equal to men, in the socio-economic transformation of the country. She thanked delegates for the trust they had placed in the Parliament of Rwanda to host the Assembly and reiterated her strong commitment to ensuring that the event met delegates' expectations.

In a video message, **Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations**, said that IPU Assemblies were a crucial bridge between the local and the global, allowing people's concerns to be brought into the international arena. He commended the focus of the Assembly on gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers of change and congratulated Rwanda for being the world's first country with a female majority in parliament. Parliaments should work to ensure women had the same opportunities to sit at the decision-making table as men, and should take action to protect women in politics against the growing threat of violence. Working together, parliaments, governments and the United Nations had the opportunity to move further and faster towards a world of peace, equality and opportunity for all.

**Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**, conveyed his heartfelt gratitude to the Parliament of Rwanda for hosting the Assembly. It was a matter of great personal pleasure for him to be back at the heart of his native continent of Africa. The IPU had worked over many years with the Parliament of Rwanda to build one of the most forward-looking and gender-sensitive parliaments in the world. Rwanda provided proof that gender equality and gender-sensitive institutions were drivers of peace and resilience. No country could claim to have achieved full gender equality and no parliament could claim to be 100% gender sensitive, so the General Debate at the present Assembly must look at ways to accelerate progress to achieve the goal of gender equality.

Regrettably, Africa was currently experiencing an epidemic of instability and coups. The IPU could never condone any assumption of power by military force. The *Call of the Sahel* initiative was one way in which the IPU was responding to the situation. He called on all Member Parliaments to strive to identify dynamic and innovative solutions to bring back lasting peace, discourage military responses to instability, and support sustainable development throughout Africa. He also called upon the IPU's governing bodies to consider forging a new partnership with various institutions on the African continent to identify pathways to address Africa's chronic instability.

The founding fathers of the IPU had articulated the importance of deploying the potential of parliaments and parliamentary diplomacy as a contribution to conflict resolution. He hoped that the Assembly in Kigali would be remembered for the unequivocal commitment of the global parliamentary community to spare no effort in complementing traditional diplomacy in order to bring peace to a troubled world.

**Mr. Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**, thanked the Parliament of Rwanda for its hospitality and work in preparing for the Assembly, and noted that the presence of the President of Rwanda was testament to his commitment to multilateralism and parliamentarism. He congratulated the President on the economic success of Rwanda in rebuilding after the 1994 genocide, and the spirit of reconciliation and dialogue that pervaded not only Rwanda's parliament but the country in general.

The world continued to face many of the same challenges as at the previous Assembly: climate change, growing poverty and inequality, terrorism, and migration crises. The war in Ukraine was having a global impact and the recent annexation of further Ukrainian territory by the Russian Federation was yet another violation of international law. Human rights continued to be violated around the world, notably the rights of women, such as in the Islamic Republic of Iran, where lessons must be learnt from the tragic case of Mahsa Amini. Nonetheless, several causes for hope stood out: increased interfaith dialogue as evidenced by recent and forthcoming meetings, sport as a means of uniting people, as would be evidenced by the upcoming FIFA World Cup tournament in Qatar, and the growing participation of young people in politics.

The representation of women in politics was also on the rise and Rwanda provided a shining example in that regard, with over 60% of members of its Chamber of Deputies being women. The IPU endeavoured to set a good example on gender equality through measures to ensure gender balance in every aspect of its work. As well as the present Assembly, the IPU's three previous Assemblies had been hosted in countries with a woman Speaker of Parliament, and it looked likely the next two would follow suit.

The international community had failed Rwanda in the 1990s; a mistake it must never repeat. Parliamentarians needed to work together, engage in dialogue and identify solutions to the many problems the world was facing, in order to leave behind a more peaceful, inclusive and sustainable world for the next generation.

**His Excellency Mr. Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda**, welcomed delegates to Rwanda and thanked them for choosing his country as the host of the 145th Assembly. He noted that the primary objective of parliaments was to protect the interests of citizens and that objective could not be met without the full and active participation of women, especially in leadership positions. Gender equality was easier to achieve when it was acknowledged as a right for everyone, everywhere. Women were the backbone of resilient and peaceful societies. Women had played and continued to play a critical role in Rwanda's transformation journey. There were no quick fixes for inclusive communities, but gender equality was a shared responsibility in which men had a duty to speak up and not just be bystanders.

Parliaments also had an important role to play in fighting against genocide ideology. Genocide denial and revisionism were fast becoming growing threats to peace and security globally. Parliaments needed to step up efforts to criminalize all forms of dehumanization and racism around the world. No region of the world could claim to have it all. It was the responsibility of everyone to work for democracy and peace through cooperation. Solidarity in the fight against genocide ideology constituted a recognition of a shared humanity for the betterment of societies and the protection of future generations. He hoped that that message would permeate the discussions in the coming days and wished delegates a pleasant stay in Rwanda.

*President Paul Kagame declared the 145th IPU Assembly open.*

## 2. Participation

Delegations from 119 Member Parliaments took part in the work of the Assembly\*

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Eswatini, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia (The), Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Libya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa,

\* For the complete list of IPU Members, see [page 42](#).

South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Representatives of Afghanistan and Tunisia also participated in the proceedings of the Assembly in a non-voting observer capacity.

The following eight Associate Members also took part in the Assembly: the Arab Parliament, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA-CIS), the Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO), the Pan-African Parliament, the Parliament of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), and the Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Observers included representatives of:

(i) the United Nations and related organizations: United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), World Health Organization (WHO);

(ii) parliamentary assemblies and associations: ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, African Parliamentary Union (APU), Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), Commonwealth Parliamentary Assembly (CPA), Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR), Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC), International Parliament on Tolerance and Peace (IPTP), Maghreb Consultative Council, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries (TURKPA), Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM), Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia, Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member States (PUIC), Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF);

(iii) Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;

(iv) International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), Sovereign Order of Malta.

Of the 959 delegates who attended the Assembly, 573 were members of parliament (552 from Member Parliaments and 21 from Associate Member delegations). Those parliamentarians included 39 Presiding Officers, 39 Deputy Presiding Officers, 207 women MPs (36.1%) and 130 young MPs (22.7%).

In continuation of practices established at the 144th Assembly, the 145th Assembly was an in-person event with adaptations for hybrid participation. All of the session rooms were equipped for external engagement and remote interpretation and these technical capacities were well used throughout the Assembly.

The proceedings of the Inaugural Ceremony, Forum of Women Parliamentarians, Assembly General Debate and all sittings of the Governing Council were live streamed in English and the original language, with a total of 16,800 views, well above the 10,000 views that were recorded at the previous Assembly in Nusa Dua, Indonesia. See the [Media and Communications](#) Section for more details.

All the official side events, as well as all sittings of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (CHRP) allowed remote participation.

### 3. Choice of an emergency item

On 12 October 2022, the IPU President informed the Assembly that the following four requests for the inclusion of an emergency item had been submitted:

- *Creation of a global fund or financing facility for climate-vulnerable countries to address loss and damage associated with climate change* (Pakistan)
- *Condemnation of the invasion of Ukraine and of the subsequent annexation of territories in defence of the territorial integrity of all States* (Chile and the members of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC))



- *Preserving Iraq's sovereignty, rejecting repeated attacks and not interfering in its internal affairs* (Iraq)
- *Condemnation of the illegal annexation of the Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk and Luhansk regions by the Russian Federation, the targeting of civilians and other war crimes resulting from the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine* (Ukraine, co-sponsored by Canada, New Zealand and Poland)

Before listening to the authors of the proposals, a delegate from South Africa questioned the proposals on Ukraine, given that the IPU Assembly in Nusa Dua had debated the same topic. An IPU Task Force had been established and it had undertaken a fact-finding mission to the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Its report was yet to be presented to the Assembly.

Zimbabwe requested clarification on the acceptability of proposals that are similar to one another according to Rule 11.2(a) of the Rules of the Assembly. The IPU Secretary General clarified that the Assembly Steering Committee had confirmed the admissibility of all four proposals in accordance with the same rule. He added that if a delegation did not agree with a proposal it could vote against it.

Both the delegations of Iraq and Ukraine withdrew their proposals.

As a point of order, a delegate from Türkiye requested that her concern on Iraq's proposal be put on the IPU records. The IPU President invited her to send a statement in writing so that Türkiye's concern could be duly registered in the Assembly records.

The Assembly proceeded with a roll-call vote on the two remaining items (see [pages 52-53](#)). The proposal from Chile and GRULAC, which received the required two-thirds majority of the vote, was adopted and added to the agenda as Item 7.

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

- (a) General Debate: Gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers of change for a more resilient and peaceful world (Item 3)

During the three days of deliberations, some 144 legislators and representatives from 106 Member Parliaments, five Associate Members and six permanent observers, including 26 Presiding Officers and 19 young parliamentarians, contributed to the General Debate. The proceedings of the Debate were livestreamed, and many of the good practices and recommendations that emerged were reflected in the outcome document.

**Ms. D. Mukabalisa, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of Rwanda**, opened the General Debate on 12 October, noting that the 145th Assembly in Rwanda would give delegates the opportunity to see for themselves how the country had changed since the tragic events of 1994. The women of Rwanda had shown remarkable resilience in rebuilding their lives and country. Rwanda had made an irreversible commitment to working for a society in which equality and justice prevailed in all dimensions.

The Parliament of Rwanda remained committed to keeping equality high on the agenda, but such a commitment would only pay off through working with other parliaments and sharing best practices in view of building a more resilient and peaceful world. Gender-sensitive parliaments were necessary to keep pace with the diverse needs of the different sectors of the societies they served. The approach to gender issues in parliaments must serve as an example and inspiration for wider society. The Assembly would offer an opportunity for Members to come up with realistic actions to make parliaments more gender-sensitive.

She ended by quoting President Paul Kagame, who had said on International Women's Day earlier that year: "Equality is a right not a favour. We must challenge ourselves to do even more and better to ensure that the next generations of our daughters and granddaughters inherit a nation where their aspirations have no limits."

**Mr. D. Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**, emphasized that the 145th Assembly was already shaping up to be unique, being the first to be held in a country whose parliament had a female majority. The global proportion of women in parliament had doubled since 2000 to reach 26%, but it would take another 40 years at the same pace to reach gender parity. Parliaments needed to follow the example of countries that had already successfully achieved gender-balanced parliaments.



Gender equality in the economy meant equal pay, financial inclusion, social protection for all, value being placed on care work, and protection from discrimination and violence. History had shown that, when faced with crises, societies were better off when they invested in gender equality for peace and resilience. The General Debate would give parliaments a valuable opportunity to learn from one another on those important topics.

In a video message, **Ms. S. Bahous, Executive Director, UN Women**, expressed her deep appreciation for the IPU's long-standing efforts to advance gender equality, a commitment further evidenced by the theme chosen for the Assembly. The partnership between the IPU and UN Women was going from strength to strength and the IPU was also a powerful leader in the Generation Equality Forum.

The IPU [Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments](#), celebrating its 10th anniversary, emphasized that parliaments can and must lead by example, challenge outdated gender roles and reinforce gender equality through gender-sensitive legislation and allocation of resources. At the current rate of progress, the removal of discriminatory laws could take another 300 years. Parliamentarians needed to consider three key areas of action. First, achieving gender balance in decision making to ensure that women MPs and their staff had equal access to decision-making. Second, ending discriminatory laws and practices, drawing on the [Handbook on gender-responsive law-making](#) recently published by the IPU and UN Women. Third, work to reduce the impact of the global recession on women and girls and ensure they were not further left behind. She urged parliamentarians to use their power to legislate a better future for women.

**Mr. W. Van den Berg, MenCare Officer, Equimundo**, said that he first wished to celebrate the progress made in the representation of women in parliament and congratulate Rwanda on remaining at the top of the IPU's ranking of the proportion of women in parliaments around the world. In addition to being gender-sensitive, parliaments needed to become caring, adding an ethic of care to the ethics of democracy and justice.

The MenCare Fatherhood campaign was a global initiative calling for men to do 50% of care work and become part of a movement for gender equality. In 2020, only 47% of women participated in the paid formal workforce compared to 74% of men. The achievement of care equality would facilitate women's participation in the economy.

Male politicians needed to become allies for the cause of care, voting for and enacting policies in support of care equality. Three specific actions they could take were: provide high-profile and proactive support for gender equality, lead by modelling equality in their personal and working lives, and conduct an audit of bills to establish the level of influence of women MPs. Action should also be taken on issues such as parental leave, childcare, national care policies, increased involvement of fathers through birth and childhood and mainstreaming men's support for care equality across all sectors.

**Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians**, said that she was proud that the IPU had decided to focus the agenda of the 145th Assembly on gender equality. She paid tribute to women around the world who had to go the extra mile to take their place at the decision-making table and called on delegates to stand in solidarity with the women and girls who had taken on the challenge to fight violence and inequalities in their societies.

As a woman MP from a country at war, she called upon Member Parliaments to stand with women MPs everywhere who had to carry out their responsibilities in turbulent environments. The resilience of women representing their people in times of crisis needed to be recognized and appreciated. Parliaments must aspire to be gender-sensitive and all barriers to equal participation must be lifted. The problem of abuse and violence against women in parliament must not be forgotten and efforts to implement the IPU's [Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments](#) must continue.

In a video message, **Ms. J. Wickramanayake, United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth**, highlighted the crucial role that young people could play in advancing gender equality in politics. Democratic institutions could and should be more inclusive and diverse. Independent young women should enjoy full rights to participate in gender-sensitive political spaces. The gender-sensitive approach needed to include a youth lens, with a view to shaking up traditional norms and modernizing parliaments to improve their attractiveness to young people.

In particular, parliaments as workplaces needed to acknowledge the life cycle of young people. Building a career and a family life could no longer be mutually exclusive. Her office had recently launched the *Be Seen Be Heard* campaign, aimed at promoting young people's participation in political life. She encouraged parliaments to identify strategies and concrete actions for gender equality and youth participation, both of which were imperatives for democracies.

In a video message, **Ms. S. Albazar (Egypt), President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians**, said that she was speaking on behalf of the younger generation, who often viewed parliaments as old, outdated institutions. Parliaments needed to evolve constantly and adapt to change in society. The role of parliamentarians in legislation and policymaking was essential to correct imbalances and inequalities.

Parliaments needed to be more inclusive of all groups of society and better attuned to the interests of women and men from different groups and generations. Young people wanted to see greener, more inclusive and more efficient parliaments. Parliaments also needed to become more attractive workplaces, with family-friendly policies, such as the provision of childcare and the use of hybrid meetings. Finally, parliaments needed to ensure that they kicked out misogyny, sexism, harassment and any form of violence against women.

**Exhibition entitled *Parliaments free from sexism, harassment and violence against women*:**

Delegates were invited to view the exhibition, which was set up in the main lobby of the Kigali Convention Centre. It showcased posters and other communication and awareness-raising materials from parliaments and parliamentary assemblies to prevent and address sexism, harassment and violence against women on parliamentary premises.

**(b) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security**

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security held its sittings on 13 and 14 October.

In its first sitting, the Committee held two panels back-to-back. The first one on the theme *The impact of war and atrocity on civilian populations* started with a moderated round table featuring three experts who spoke on the impact of war on women, children, and especially child soldiers, the use of explosive weapons in densely populated areas, and the question of compliance with international humanitarian law. The 17 delegates who took the floor referred to current conflicts which had global consequences and tried to identify parliamentary action towards their peaceful resolution.

The second panel on the theme *War and climate change as triggers of global food insecurity* also featured a three-expert moderated round table who provided an overview of the catastrophic food situation worldwide and identified the factors that led to the fragility of food security. They also suggested actions MPs could take to build resilient and empowered communities for a sustainable food supply at the national level. In the debate that ensued, eight delegates took the floor and proposed recommendations for greater parliamentary involvement in resolving the issue.

At its last sitting, the Committee debated the subject item of the next resolution *Cyberattacks and cybercrimes: The new risks to global security*. The two co-Rapporteurs on the resolution, Ms. S. Falaknaz (United Arab Emirates) and Mr. J. Cepeda (Spain) shared their perspectives on the matter and explained the work they had undertaken since their appointment as co-Rapporteurs. Three experts took the floor to explain the relevance, importance and risks associated with increased utilization of cyberspace in day-to-day human activities and presented good practices on building resilience. The debate, during which six delegates took the floor, addressed the role of parliamentarians in protecting citizens and critical infrastructure in that new domain. Participants benefited from the sharing of examples of national initiatives in that regard.

The Committee held elections to fill vacancies on the Bureau. It also adopted its work plan for the next Assembly whereby it was decided that the Committee dedicate all the time allocated to the drafting of the resolution. The Bureau meeting held on 13 October, was attended by 12 members. They discussed current conflict situations in Ukraine and Armenia following presentations by Bureau members from those countries. The Bureau took note of the Secretariat's proposal to better align the Committee's work with the IPU Strategy and members were encouraged to provide feedback to that end.

**(c) Standing Committee on Sustainable Development**

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development held its sittings on 12 and 14 October.

In its first sitting, the Committee debated the subject item of the next resolution, *Parliamentary efforts in achieving negative carbon balances of forests*. The theme was introduced by two academics and Mr. C. Hoffmann (Germany), the co-Rapporteur. Twenty-nine parliamentarians took part in the debate, stressing the importance of securing budgets for forest protection initiatives, rejuvenating forests by establishing planting cycles, raising awareness of the importance of forests for green development and

disaster reduction, and engaging local communities in decision-making processes in forest protection. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and the concept of climate justice were also evoked during the debate.

The Committee discussed preparations for the Parliamentary Meeting to be held on 13 November in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27). The Parliamentary Meeting was being organized jointly by the IPU and the Egyptian House of Representatives. Mr. K. Darwish, the meeting Rapporteur appointed by the Egyptian House of Representatives, briefed the Committee about the main elements to be included in the meeting's draft outcome document. The ensuing debate provided further input to the document. Emphasis was placed on climate finance, and loss and damage.

In its second sitting, the Committee held a panel discussion on *Reconnecting local communities with a local sustainable inclusive economy to achieve the targets of SDG 8*. Mr. J. Chirove, an expert of the International Labour Organization (ILO), highlighted the need to empower micro, small and middle enterprises, translate economic growth into jobs for local people, acknowledge the importance of local communities for national economies, and target vulnerable populations such as women, youth and low-income people.

The Committee also organized a workshop on climate change jointly with the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights. The event provided an interactive platform for delegates to share their experiences on climate action. Parliamentarians from 23 countries shared their concerns about climate change, focusing on food security, adaptation and climate finance. Public engagement and regional and global cooperation and solidarity were identified as practical solutions to these problems.

The Committee held elections to fill a vacancy on the Bureau. It also adopted a work plan for the next Assembly. It was decided that all Committee sittings would be dedicated to the drafting of the resolution. The Bureau took note of the Secretariat's proposal to better align the Committee's work with the IPU Strategy and members were encouraged to provide feedback to that end.

(d) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

The Standing Committee held two sittings, on 12 and 14 October, with the President of the Standing Committee, Mr. A. Gajadien (Suriname), in the Chair.

The Committee considered the draft resolution on *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 resolution was introduced by the co-Rapporteur Mr. F. Zon (Indonesia) and Mr. P. Beyer (Germany), on behalf of Mr. J. Wadehul (Germany) who was not able to be present in person. The third co-Rapporteur, Ms. S. Nane (Uruguay) was also not able to attend the Assembly.

When examining the draft resolution, the Committee considered 91 amendments submitted by 18 parliaments (Belgium, Canada, Chad, Czech Republic, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa, South Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom). Two amendments were proposed by the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. The Standing Committee voted on whether or not to adopt the amendments to the resolution.

The President of the Standing Committee presented the revised draft resolution to the Committee at its final sitting on 14 October. The draft resolution was adopted by consensus. No objections were raised in the Standing Committee. After the adoption of the resolution, a number of delegations expressed reservations:

- **Czech Republic** on operative paragraph 3; **India** on preambular paragraph 21; **Kazakhstan** on preambular paragraphs 9 and 10 and operative paragraph 9; **Qatar** on the reference to labour mobility in operative paragraph 5; **Syrian Arab Republic** on preambular paragraph 9; and **Türkiye** on preambular paragraph 19.
- **Hungary** and **Indonesia** on the entire resolution.

The **Russian Federation** expressed its opposition to the resolution.

The Bureau met on the morning of 14 October. It considered proposals for the future work programme of the Committee. Three proposals for the subject item of the Committee's next resolution had been submitted before the deadline by Australia, France and Morocco.

Following a unanimous recommendation by the Bureau, the Committee approved the proposal put forward by Australia entitled *Orphanage trafficking: The role of parliaments in reducing harm*. It also approved the nomination of Ms. L. Reynolds (Australia) as one of the co-Rapporteurs. A preparatory debate would take place at the 146th Assembly and a resolution on the theme would be finalized at the 147th Assembly in October 2023.

The Committee approved the Bureau's unanimous recommendation to hold a panel discussion at the 146th Assembly on the theme *Parliamentary impetus in favour of the fight against disinformation and hateful and discriminatory content in cyberspace*.

The Bureau took note of the Secretariat's proposal to better align the Committee's work with the IPU Strategy and members were encouraged to provide feedback to that end.

The resolution on *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* was presented by Mr. Gajadien to the Assembly at its plenary sitting in the afternoon of 15 October and was adopted by consensus. Mr. Gajadien noted for the record the reservations that had been formulated by the delegations of the Czech Republic, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye, as well as the opposition of the Russian Federation to the resolution.

#### (e) Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

The Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs met on 14 October with the Vice-President Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland) chairing the meeting. The session consisted of two panel discussions with high-level UN officials. The first panel focused on the UN response to growing hunger and worsening famine around the world. Mr. S. Krishnaswamy, Head of Research, Analysis and Monitoring for the World Food Programme's (WFP) East Africa Region, and Ms. B. Lazarus, Economist at the Nairobi Regional Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), presented the 2022 Global Report on Food Crises. Ms. E. Heines, the WFP's Representative and Country Director in Rwanda, and Ms. C. Sow, FAO Country Representative in Rwanda, presented their work with the people and Government of Rwanda.

Hunger and starvation were worsening around the world because of growing conflict and insecurity; there were weather extremes from run-away climate change and economic shocks, including the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine had added to this dramatic outlook. Almost 202 million people, most of them living in 45 countries, are classed at or above Phase 3 in the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, which has a total of five phases. This was the highest number of acutely food-insecure people in the history of the Global Report on Food Security.

The WFP noted that 20% of Rwandans were currently food insecure, with the most vulnerable populations spending 65% of their income on food each month. The Rwandan government had started a school feeding programme supported by the WFP, which linked together farmers around schools who benefited from purchases made in the framework of the programme and, overall, helped enhance resiliency and increase nutrition quality. FAO was collaborating with the government to enhance food production and develop export markets. Delegates, some of whom had visited a WFP project in Rwanda, engaged with the panel to better understand how they could work to avoid the current devastating world situation and support their citizens in having better food security.

The second panel focused on the UN field presence in support of national development. The case of Rwanda helped parliamentarians gain a better understanding of the reality of the UN-advocated closer relationship between UN field operations led by the Resident Coordinator and the host country, including its Parliament, to build more accountability and "buy-in".

Mr. O. Ojielo, United Nations Resident Coordinator, described his role and that of the UN Country Team vis-à-vis the Government and Parliament. He described the UN's work in helping Rwanda realize its Vision 2050 with policy support and building national capacity. Drawing on his experience as the Resident Coordinator in Kyrgyzstan, he enthusiastically supported a strong role for parliaments. Delegates discussed with Mr. Ojielo their own experiences with their UN country teams and agreed with the importance of parliamentary engagement for more successful outcomes.

(f) Debate on the emergency item

*Condemnation of the invasion of Ukraine and of the subsequent annexation of territories, in defence of the territorial integrity of all States*

The debate on the emergency item was held in the morning of 13 October, with Ms. C.G. Hara, Speaker of the National Assembly of Malawi, in the Chair. The IPU President and Secretary General were also present.

In all, 20 speakers took the floor during the debate, namely Chile (the author of the proposal), Canada, Poland, France, Viet Nam, South Africa, Peru, Ireland, Ukraine, Portugal, United Kingdom, Türkiye, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Islamic Republic of Iran, Cambodia, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone and Iraq.

The delegate from Chile explained that the draft resolution had been the result of a long negotiation within the Chilean Congress, as reflected in its three abstention votes during the decision on the emergency item on 12 October. He invited the Drafting Committee to add a paragraph to recognize the IPU Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine and encourage it in its work.

Many delegates expressed their support for Ukraine and its territorial integrity. A delegate underscored the need to respect the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances. Others underscored the necessity to redouble efforts to end the war through diplomatic means. Some delegates added that the Russian Federation's invasion was a clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international humanitarian law, as well as the principles of the IPU.

Other delegates condemned the Russian Federation's attacks on Ukraine, which had killed many civilians, including women and children. Several delegates lamented that the war had escalated with the Russian Federation's annexation of four regions of Ukraine, which the General Assembly of the United Nations had condemned with a clear majority on 12 October.

Some delegates raised the issue of the serious impacts of the war in Ukraine on other countries. The energy and food crises were negatively affecting many developing countries, in particular in Africa, which had been importing wheat from the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The refugee crisis, with winter approaching, was also a matter for concern.

Delegates raised the principle of non-interference, citing the Charter of the United Nations, and urged both the Russian Federation and Ukraine to de-escalate tensions, and the IPU to work actively on resolving the crisis. Some delegates also stated that the international community needed to address the Russian Federation's concerns, referring particularly to NATO's expansion. They condemned international sanctions on the Russian Federation as well as on their own countries, adding that people were dying. The supply of arms to one party (Ukraine) must stop.

Another delegate stated that Russian Federation had supported her country during its civil war and criticized the United States and other western countries for inciting war in Ukraine.

A delegate from Iraq referred to its own invasion of Kuwait in 1991, stating that it had been a major mistake. The region was still suffering from that war and he urged the international community to prioritize meaningful dialogue to resolve the war in Ukraine as soon as possible.

The Assembly referred the emergency item to a drafting committee made up of representatives of Canada, Chile, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, New Zealand, Oman, Peru, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania.

(g) Adoption of the resolution on the emergency item

In the afternoon of 14 October, the plenary sitting of the Assembly adopted the resolution by consensus (see [page 54](#)).

After the adoption of the resolution, the following delegations took the floor to abstain from supporting the resolution: India, Mozambique, South Africa, South Sudan and Yemen.

Numerous delegates took the floor to confirm support for the resolution, the drafting of which had demonstrated true dialogue and reaffirmed that the collective ideals held in 1889 by the IPU's founders remained at the core of its work today.

## 5. Special accountability segment

The General Debate included a special accountability segment, chaired by the IPU President, where Members were encouraged to share their good practices and the specific actions they had undertaken towards implementation of IPU resolutions and other decisions.

Ms. A. Filip, IPU Director for Member Parliaments and External Relations, presented the main findings contained in the [Reporting by Members on IPU-related activities](#) document. She reaffirmed the importance of accountability at all levels, as reflected in the IPU Statutes and Rules, as well as in the IPU Strategy for 2022-2026. The Organization was keen to actively engage the membership in that important exercise.

During the Special Accountability Segment, 18 delegations took the floor to report on their good practices and the activities they had undertaken in follow-up to the decisions taken at recent IPU Assemblies, including the Nusa Dua Declaration *Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change*, the resolution *Peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, respecting international law, the Charter of the United Nations and territorial integrity* (144th Assembly), the resolution *Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace* (144th Assembly), and the decisions related to violations of the human rights of parliamentarians. Delegations also reported on their work in follow-up to IPU campaigns to promote gender equality and youth participation in public life.

Specific examples of parliamentary actions were shared by the delegations of:

- Fiji: The climate change bill was passed by Parliament into law. This comprehensive piece of legislation mandates all government ministries' action plans and national policies to be mindful of climate change, sets up clean energy environments and introduces carbon trading.
- Canada focused on the recent laws passed by the Parliament on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and highlighted how parliamentarians can hold the government accountable for its work in sustainable development.
- Guyana organized several youth activities such as the annual Christmas outreach Programme, the annual Speaker's National Youth Debating Competition and the annual Youth Parliament.
- United Arab Emirates: The Federal National Council reviewed the 144th IPU Assembly declaration *Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change*. It adopted a digitalization strategy based on a paperless approach.
- Zambia: Parliament organized a workshop for its members on the importance of revegetation in areas of heavy densities and mass construction. MPs were requested to go back to their constituencies to implement local and regional vegetation strategies, such as tree plantations, and advocate for them in schools.
- Switzerland suggested strengthening provisions in the IPU Statutes and Rules on implementation of IPU decisions. The Twelve Plus Group had set up a working group to examine those issues. Developing a community peer review mechanism and the empowerment of Standing Committees could, for example, help to strengthen the annual review process.
- Belgium: Parliament voted on a series of bills related to the COVID-19 pandemic to enhance access to health, including a funding mechanism for universal social protection, as recommended in the IPU resolution entitled *Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health*, adopted at the 141st IPU Assembly in Serbia.
- Gabon: Following his participation in a panel discussion on the theme of weapons diversion at the 143rd IPU Assembly, a Gabonese MP met with the Ministry of the Interior and, with the support of the IPU, championed the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty in both chambers of Parliament. The instrument of ratification was deposited on 21 September 2022.

Other delegates who took the floor during this segment were from (in alphabetical order): Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Peru, Qatar, Serbia, Seychelles, South Sudan and Uruguay.

In closing, the President thanked the delegates who had taken the floor for their good work, and encouraged all Members to actively engage in the upcoming reporting exercise. A similar accountability segment would be convened in the context of the 146th IPU Assembly, to be held in Bahrain in March 2023.



## 6. IPU Cremer-Passy Prize ceremony

At the concluding sitting of the Assembly on 15 October, Ms. Cynthia López Castro of Mexico, and Chairman Ruslan Stefanchuk and all the Members of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine were awarded the first Cremer-Passy Prize.

The prize is named after the IPU founders William Randall Cremer and Frédéric Passy, visionary parliamentarians from Great Britain and France, who convened the first meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Paris in 1889.

The prize is for parliamentarians who make an outstanding contribution to the defence and promotion of the IPU's objectives, as well as those who contribute to a more united, fair, secure, sustainable and equitable world.

Exceptionally, the 2022 prize went to two nominees: one woman and a group led by a man, to underscore the importance of gender equality at the IPU, as demonstrated by the theme of the 145th IPU Assembly.

The IPU President gave each winner an engraved trophy.

### The winners

**Cynthia López Castro** has been a member of the Mexican Chamber of Deputies since 2018. She is a firm believer in the power of youth and a resolute activist on the strengthening of democracy through youth representation.

In 2017, at the age of 30, Ms. López Castro participated in the drafting of a new Constitution for Mexico City. She was also one of the main proponents of the inclusion of a youth quota in the city's electoral law.

Today, Ms. López Castro's work in Mexico focuses on ensuring that a minimum of 25% of candidates for public office at the federal level are under 29 years old.

At the IPU, Ms. López Castro actively promotes the engagement of youth in politics through her membership of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU.

She is an active member of the IPU Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs and has represented the IPU in several high-level meetings at the UN.

**Chairman Ruslan Stefanchuk and the 450 members of the Ukrainian parliament** were nominated in recognition of their commitment to their parliamentary duties despite the ongoing war in Ukraine.

The parliamentarians have continued to represent their constituents as well as debating and making laws in a time of national emergency.

Special mention went to the IPU office holders in the Ukrainian Parliament, including Ms. Lesia Vasylenko, President of the Forum of Women MPs and ex officio member of the Executive Committee, who have continued their IPU duties despite formidable challenges.

## 7. Concluding sitting of the Assembly

At the concluding sitting on 15 October, **Ms. E. Nyirasafari (Rwanda)** and **Mr. I. Flores (Chile)** introduced the Kigali Declaration on *Gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers of change for a more resilient and peaceful world* (see [page 44](#)). In the General Debate, Members had agreed that the theme had been a pertinent and timely choice, and had recognized that gender equality was key in confronting a wide range of crises. The Kigali Declaration set out five courageous, ambitious and game-changing actions for gender equality to drive resilience and peace. It also set out 10 further actions for the next 10 years, aimed at renewing and revitalizing parliaments' commitment to the IPU's [Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments](#), originally adopted in 2012. The Assembly unanimously endorsed the Kigali Declaration.

**Mr. A. Gajadien (Suriname), co-Rapporteur of the resolution of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights**, presented the 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* (see [page 47](#)). The Assembly adopted

the resolution by consensus and took note of the reservations that had been expressed during the adoption process by Czech Republic, India, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye on specific paragraphs, and by Hungary and Indonesia on the whole resolution, as well as of the opposition of the Russian Federation to the resolution.

The Assembly took note of the Reports of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, presented by its President, **Mr. M.B.M. Al-Ahbabi (Qatar)**, of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, presented by its President, **Ms. A. Mulder (Netherlands)**, and of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs presented by member of the Committee, **Mr. M.T. Bani Yassin (Jordan)** (see [pages 56-61](#)).

The Assembly approved the subject item for the resolution to be drafted by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, for adoption at the 147th IPU Assembly, together with the rapporteurs who would be working on the draft resolution (see [page 38](#)).

**Mr. J. Fakhro, First Deputy Chairman of the Shura Council of Bahrain**, warmly invited all IPU Members to attend the 146th IPU Assembly, which would be taking place from 11 to 15 March 2023 in Manama. A short promotional video was shown.

At the conclusion of the Assembly, the representatives of the geopolitical groups took the floor: **Ms. T. Ackson (United Republic of Tanzania)** on behalf of the Africa Group, **Ms. Pham Thi Hong Yen (Viet Nam)** on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, **Mr. E. Bustamante (Peru)** on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, **Ms. A. Gerkens (Netherlands)** on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group, and **Mr. J. Fakhro (Bahrain)** on behalf of the Arab Group. They conveyed their thanks to the Parliament of Rwanda for its hospitality and to Speaker Mukabalisa for her leadership, and congratulated Rwanda on the progress it had made since 1994 towards becoming a modern and prosperous country. They further expressed thanks to the IPU President, Secretary General and Secretariat. They announced the various outcomes and decisions of the geopolitical group meetings, pledged their commitment to follow up on the important decisions of the Assembly and looked forward to meeting again in Bahrain in March 2023.

In his concluding remarks, **Mr. D. Pacheco, President of the IPU** congratulated the Parliament of Rwanda for its organization of the Assembly, and thanked Ms. Mukabalisa for her personal commitment to its success, as well as all the staff of the Rwandan Parliament and KCC. He called upon delegations to take the Assembly outcomes back to their parliaments and implement concrete actions. He commended the Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine for its important and ongoing work. Over 200 bilateral meetings had been held during the Assembly, presenting valuable opportunities to build trust and understanding. The award of the first Cremer-Passy Prize had also been a particular highlight. He had taken note of requests to consider a revision of the IPU Statutes and Rules, in particular in relation to establishing a mechanism to acknowledge topical emergency item proposals not selected for adoption, and the enthusiasm shown for the idea of establishing IPU regional offices. In the coming months, a particular focus would be placed on measures to address the democracy crisis in Africa and to prepare for COP27 in Egypt. He thanked all delegates for their participation.

In her concluding remarks, **Ms. D. Mukabalisa, President of the 145th Assembly and Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of Rwanda**, expressed her thanks to the previous speakers and said that it had been a pleasure and an honour to host the 145th IPU Assembly in Rwanda. The dedication of all involved had ensured a productive meeting with passionate and lively debates leading to sound outcomes, which parliaments must now take concrete measures to implement. Among the many issues discussed, the General Debate on gender equality and the emergency item on Ukraine particularly stood out. The Assembly had been a prime example of democracy in action, in which all participants had been given an opportunity to have their voices heard. The proceedings had been conducted in a spirit of respect, new friendships had been forged and delegates would undoubtedly leave Kigali richer than when they arrived. Finally, she repeated her gratitude to President Paul Kagame for his attendance at and support of the Assembly.

She thanked delegates for their participation, looked forward to seeing them again at the 146th Assembly in Bahrain and declared the 145th IPU Assembly closed.

## 210th session of the Governing Council

### 1. Election of the President of the 145th Assembly

At its first sitting on 12 October, the Governing Council proposed that Ms. D. Mukabalisa, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of Rwanda, be elected President of the 145th IPU Assembly.

### 2. Report of the IPU President

The Governing Council took note of the report of the President of the IPU on his activities over the last six months. In the course of 22 visits, 45 bilateral meetings and 10 online meetings in that period, he had sought to promote the values and strategy of the IPU, achieve universal membership and reinforce the IPU's visibility. The Governing Council was appreciative of the President's efforts, especially those related to the achievement of universal membership, as no parliament should be left outside the parliamentary community.

### 3. Report of the Secretary General on the activities of the IPU

The Governing Council took note of the IPU Secretary General's report on activities carried out by the IPU over the past nine months to implement the IPU Strategy. Since January 2022, 36 national support activities to build capacity in 16 countries had been held; 45 regional and global events to mobilize and leverage parliamentary action and facilitate learning had been organized, and more than 10 publications and tools had been released. A more comprehensive report on the impact of the IPU's work in 2022 will be presented to Members at the next Assembly, as per usual practice.

### 4. IPU Personal Data Protection Policy and Procedures

The Governing Council approved the [\*IPU Personal Data Protection Policy and Procedures\*](#), as recommended by the Executive Committee upon the proposal of the Working Group on Transparency, Accountability and Openness. The purpose of this policy was to define the key principles in personal data processing and outline the roles and responsibilities of the IPU Secretariat, its Members and third parties, in a bid to ensure adequate protection of the data held and processed by the Organization. The policy was consistent with prevailing international standards.

### 5. Policy to prevent harassment, including sexual harassment, at IPU Assemblies and other IPU events

Further to a recommendation of the Gender Partnership Group, which was also discussed by the Executive Committee, the Governing Council approved the following approach with regard to the development of an IPU framework to prevent harassment, including sexual harassment, at IPU Assemblies and other events. The approach consists of three commitments:

- I. The IPU agrees to make use of the *UN Code of Conduct to prevent harassment, including sexual harassment, at UN system events* as the basis for the IPU's anti-harassment policies;
- II. The IPU Secretariat draws up and implements a plan of practical measures, in line with the UN Code of Conduct;
- III. The Gender Partnership Group regularly monitors and reports on the implementation plan to the IPU membership.

The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed a reservation on the references to gender identity and sexual orientation in the *UN Code of Conduct to prevent harassment, including sexual harassment, at UN system events*.

### 6. Financial situation of the IPU

The Governing Council received a report on the financial situation of the IPU as at 31 July 2022 and an updated list of unpaid assessed contributions. As at 10 October 2022, six Member Parliaments (Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)) and two Associate Members (the Andean Parliament and the Parliament of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC)) were in arrears for three full years and therefore liable for suspension of their membership rights under Article 5.3 of the IPU Statutes. Three Members (Central African Republic, Haiti and Vanuatu) were two full years in arrears and were subject to participation and voting sanctions.

Reporting on behalf of the Executive Committee, Ms. C. Widegren (Sweden) took note that the current financial situation of the IPU was healthy and that income, expenses and reserves were on target. The Assembly in Nusa Dua had been delivered slightly under budget thanks to savings achieved. The Secretary General was making continuous efforts to follow up with all the Members subject to payment sanctions, and progress had been made despite the challenging global financial situation. Voluntary funding was on target and remained at around one quarter of total revenue, avoiding the risk of over-dependence on external support. The Governing Council took note that the income and expenditure of the IPU were on track and were projected to remain so until the end of the year.

## 7. Consolidated budget for 2023

The consolidated draft budget for 2023 was presented to the Governing Council. The draft budget had been prepared under the supervision of the Sub-Committee on Finance and in accordance with its guidance. Reporting on behalf of the Executive Committee, Ms. Widegren described how the budget was designed to support the objectives of the Strategy to develop parliamentary ecosystems while building a financially stable and strong organization. As key priorities, the 2023 budget focused on support to democracy, peace and security, climate change, development and gender, with the IPU's digital transformation facilitating the delivery of the Strategy. Income and expenditure of CHF 18.5 million was budgeted to achieve this. The Secretariat worked very hard to make savings and efficiencies and to keep costs to a minimum every year. At the same time, successful efforts were being made to attract external funding for the IPU's programmes, which represented approximately one quarter of the total budget income in 2023. Ms. Widegren thanked the Secretary General and the Secretariat finance team for their work and for the high quality of the documents prepared, ensuring full transparency and accountability.

After 133 years, the IPU was financially healthy but this should not be taken for granted. Along with budget approval for 2023, the Executive Committee recommended a long-term financial commitment. The current generation of parliamentarians had a duty to ensure that the next generation would also have stable and strong finances to continue the work of the Organization. Members' assessed contributions to the IPU were still at the same level in 2022 as they had been in 2007 and remained patterned on the UN scale of assessment, with adjustment for different membership. Ms. Widegren relayed the Executive Committee's recommendation that the level of IPU contributions should be rebalanced to meet the challenges of future needs and inflation. As the IPU's agenda had been expanded, it was prudent to bring the IPU gradually back to its contribution level of 2010 by adding 3% per year to total contributions during the Strategy period 2023-2026. Beyond that time, from 2027 onwards, the Executive Committee recommended to plan for annual increases of 2% to maintain the capacity of the IPU. Additional amounts would also be obtained from Associate Members (by raising the minimum contribution to 0.02%) and certain observers (by charging a token fee).

The Governing Council agreed on the long-term contribution recommendations and approved the 2023 consolidated budget.

## 8. The IPU political project at the United Nations

The Governing Council considered and endorsed a report on [\*The IPU political project at the United Nations\*](#).

This document had been prepared by the IPU following a year-long process which had started with an evaluation of its work with the UN over the past twenty years. The Executive Committee had discussed several iterations of this report since February 2022. The report takes into consideration the 2022-2026 IPU Strategy and provides a roadmap to enhance the IPU's work on behalf of parliaments at the UN. Members were pleased to hear that the Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the UN would continue, with the 2023 hearing expected in February, and that the Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs would meet in January to discuss strategies to make the Committee's work more effective.

The Executive Committee will consider the recommendations from the Bureau at its meeting during the 146th Assembly in Bahrain.

## 9. Questions relating to IPU Membership and observer status

The Governing Council discussed the question of IPU membership and observer status. Regarding the situation of IPU membership, the Governing Council took note with appreciation of the progress made by the President and the Secretary General of the IPU in their efforts to achieve universal membership

of the IPU, particularly concerning non-Member Parliaments in the Caribbean region. The Governing Council expressed its gratitude to the Speaker of Guyana for his unwavering support for this initiative. It expressed the hope that Belize and Bahamas would join the IPU shortly.

As for the United States of America, the Governing Council commended the efforts of certain Members in favour of the return of the US Congress to the IPU. The Governing Council took note of the President's reminder to every Member to show support for the goal of universal membership.

The Governing Council took note of the four-yearly review of the situation of observers and, as per the recommendation of the Executive Committee, adopted the recommendations made in the evaluation note.

The Governing Council approved the requests for observer status received from the Collective Security Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly (CSTO PA) and the UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health.

The Governing Council was apprised of the outcome of the Executive Committee's deliberations on the question of whether to establish IPU regional offices across the world. The document circulated to the members of the Governing Council provided clarification on several points including the rationale for opening a regional office, the requirements and challenges related to the establishment of such an office. It referred to the offers of Uruguay and Egypt to host regional offices for the GRULAC and Arab Group regions respectively. The Secretary General reiterated the clarifications in the note on the nature of IPU regional offices, which should be administrative units of the IPU, not political organs. They would be intended to help the IPU implement its Strategy in terms of work plans and programme. The regional offices would work in cooperation with the geopolitical groups and under the authority of the Secretary General of the IPU, who would retain ultimate responsibility for establishing administrative structures according to the needs of the IPU. On the basis of those clarifications, the Governing Council endorsed the conclusions of the Executive Committee on the following four points:

- (a) the principle of opening regional offices (with the opposition of Sweden);
- (b) the requirements for opening those offices;
- (c) taking note of the offers from Uruguay and Egypt (with reservations expressed by Nigeria);
- (d) the request of the Secretary General to undertake consultations with those two countries and to report on the outcome at the next session of the Governing Council.

Some members expressed concerns about the intention for the proposed office in Egypt to represent the Arab Group, when Egypt was geographically located in Africa. They suggested that this concern be factored into the consultations the Secretary General was going to hold with the Egyptian authorities.

The Governing Council expressed its concern about the current chronic instability in Africa after a series of military coups, especially in West Africa. While condemning any forms of accession to power other than through transparent, inclusive and popular elections, the Council gave a mandate to the Secretary General to initiate broad consultation with indigenous African institutions, including the Pan African Parliament, Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), SADC Parliamentary Forum, etc., that would enable the IPU to reflect on how to contribute effectively to efforts intended to stem the tide of instability in Africa.

The Governing Council took note of and endorsed the proposal by the Secretary General that he and the President be mandated to engage with the parliaments of Armenia and Azerbaijan in order to mediate between the two countries at the parliamentary level to promote dialogue with the view of peaceful resolution to the current conflict in the region.

The Governing Council was apprised of the situation of certain parliaments and adopted a number of recommendations from the Executive Committee.

In **Afghanistan**, the Governing Council expressed regret that the situation was worsening, as was the human rights situation of parliamentarians. In such a situation, the Governing Council decided to maintain its previous decision to continue showing solidarity with the former members of the dissolved parliament and involve them in the IPU in a non-voting observer capacity.

The Governing Council expressed its deep concern about the situation in **Burkina Faso**, where two coups had occurred within the space of eight months. The Governing Council was informed about the IPU Secretary General's preliminary contact with the Speaker of the Transitional Legislative Assembly, as per the mandate entrusted to him by the governing bodies to provide assistance to the country in

view of a speedy return to constitutional rule. The Governing Council was also informed that the new authorities would keep the commitment of the previous Head of State to hold elections in 2024. The Governing Council took note with regret of the recent developments but hoped that in the coming days or weeks a transitional legislative authority would be established and there would be confirmation of the transitional calendar of 2024 including the deadline for organizing elections. On the basis of this understanding, the membership of Burkina Faso would not be suspended.

In **Guinea-Bissau**, the Governing Council was informed that little had changed. There continues to be in-fighting between the Parliament and the head of the executive, the President. The Governing Council learned that the parliament had been dissolved in view of new elections in December 2023 while the outgoing parliamentarians remained members of parliament. The Governing Council took note of this development and encouraged the Secretariat to push the authorities towards the normalization of the situation as soon as possible.

As for **Myanmar**, the Governing Council noted with regret that no significant development had occurred since the last Assembly. The situation had worsened, as the execution of some parliamentarians had occurred. The junta had said that it would organize elections by August 2023. In this light, the Governing Council decided to maintain the stance adopted in Nusa Dua not to recognize the military regime in Myanmar, in solidarity with the elected MPs. The Governing Council also acknowledged that for the moment those MPs were not able to function as a fully fledged parliament. It therefore maintained its decision that the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continue to attend IPU Assemblies in an observer capacity.

The parliament of **Tunisia** remained suspended, with no parliamentary dialogue at present. The President had moved to organize a referendum on constitutional amendments that would grant him extensive powers and limit the role of Parliament. That referendum had been approved and there were therefore plans for elections to take place by December 2022 for a fully fledged Parliament. The Secretary General informed the Governing Council that, pursuant to its request, he had approached the President's office in Tunis as well as the Tunisian Ambassador in Geneva. The Tunisian President had indicated that he would welcome IPU involvement after the planned elections. The Governing Council urged the authorities to work speedily towards normalization of the situation. The Governing Council gave a mandate to the Secretary General to continue discussions with the Tunisian authorities. In the same vein, the Governing Council expressed the strong hope that constitutional order would be restored in Tunisia by the end of 2022.

The Governing Council was also informed of the situation in other transitional parliaments including:

In **Chad**, elections had now been scheduled for 2024, instead of October 2022 as originally scheduled. The delays were explained by the need to carry out broad-based consultations between the political stakeholders in that country. Only recently had there been some agreement arrived at by various political factions in the country. Consultations were still ongoing. The Governing Council was also informed about the assistance the IPU was providing. The IPU had continued to provide support to the transitional parliament in Chad, focusing on the parliamentary staff and making sure that capacity was built for when a fully-fledged Parliament in Chad was established. The Governing Council took note of the developments in Chad and expressed the hope that the calendar for elections to be held by 2024 will be complied with. The Governing Council mandated the Secretary General to continue to provide support to the transitional parliament in order to build its capacity for a future fully fledged parliament.

The Governing Council has not suspended **Guinea**, whose situation is similar to Mali and Burkina Faso (prior to the recent coup). It had indicated that the IPU should engage robustly with the transitional parliament in order to restore constitutional order. A 36-month transition period had been established, which would be followed by elections in 2025. The Governing Council was informed about the exchange the Secretary General had had with the Ambassador of Guinea in Geneva, in which he had conveyed the concerns of the IPU and indicated that the IPU would like to work with the transitional parliament with a view to the speedy restoration of constitutional order. The Governing Council agreed to maintain the position previously adopted, i.e. to retain the membership of Guinea, on that understanding.

Concerning **Mali**, the Governing Council was informed that elections were foreseen for February 2024, as confirmed by the Speaker of the Parliament in a meeting with the Secretary General at the current Assembly. The country was under pressure from ECOWAS. The IPU had been engaged with Mali, upon the request of the governing bodies, to work with the transitional Parliament there in order to establish the foundations for a return to constitutional rule. In this light, the IPU has helped them to organize meetings on national reconciliation. The IPU will continue with these transition efforts and also help



them explain the constitution to the communities. A transitional parliament has been established with a view to the conclusion of the transitional period. The Governing Council agreed to maintain the decision it had adopted in Nusa Dua to maintain Mali's membership, on that understanding.

Concerning the **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**, the Governing Council was informed that there had been no change in the situation since the stalemate in the talks held in Mexico. The Ambassador in Geneva had not responded to the invitation of the Secretary General to meet. In view of that situation, the Governing Council agreed to maintain its previous decision to not recognize either one of the two competing parliaments, but could envisage reviewing its position whenever the situation evolved.

The Governing Council took note of the Secretary General's report on his discussion with the Speaker of the Parliament of **Eswatini** during the current Assembly. The Speaker had welcomed possible IPU involvement in efforts to resolve the ongoing political crisis in his country. The Governing Council welcomed this openness and mandated the Secretary General to follow up with the authorities.

The Governing Council recommended that the Secretary General continue to monitor the situation in the following countries and provide an update during the next session: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Haiti, Iraq, Libya, Palestine, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.

## 10. Future inter-parliamentary meetings

The Governing Council approved the list of future meetings and other activities to be funded by the IPU's regular budget and by external sources (see [page 83](#)). The 146th Assembly would take place in March 2023 in Manama, Bahrain. Pending confirmation of the preliminary offer of the Angolan Parliament to host the 147th Assembly and deliberations thereon by the Executive Committee, that Assembly was tentatively scheduled to take place in Geneva in October 2023.

## 11. Report on the work of the IPU Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine

Mr. A.R. Al Nuaimi, President of the IPU Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, presented his report on the work of the Task Force since its establishment in early April 2022 (see full report on [page 77](#)).

As per its terms of reference, the primary objectives of the Task Force were to encourage dialogue, through its good offices, between the parliamentarians of the Russian Federation and Ukraine, and to support diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving the conflict that are in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, including national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and refraining from the threat and use of force. Three objectives have been set for the immediate, medium and long term: 1) a complete ceasefire, 2) to contribute to confidence-building measures and humanitarian assistance where possible, and 3) to establish and strengthen mechanisms for dialogue between the parliaments of the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

The Task Force had undertaken a first mission to Kyiv and Moscow in mid-July 2022 with the objective of engaging in political dialogue with the parliamentary leadership in both countries. The Task Force members had tried to get a better understanding of the situation on the ground and identify modalities conducive to the cessation of hostilities and a return to diplomacy. The visit had been a valuable opportunity to engage with both parliaments, to listen to their perspectives and to urge practical steps for the cessation of military operations and a return to diplomacy.

At its meeting on 13 October, the Task Force discussed recent developments and deplored the escalation of the situation in the region. The Task Force also held individual consultations with the delegations of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation during the ongoing Assembly in Kigali. Both sides reconfirmed their commitment to continue to work closely with the Task Force in seeking a peaceful resolution of the war. The Task Force, in turn, strongly called for de-escalation and for the identification of measures conducive to the restoration of political dialogue. This included, for example, the resumption of talks on prisoner exchange.

People were suffering all over the world because of the war, which must be brought to an end. Parliaments had a distinct role and responsibility to put pressure on their respective governments to find peaceful solutions to conflicts, for the good of the people that they represent. Both parties were urged to identify issues that they would be willing to discuss with the other side as a starting point in establishing a dialogue. In the interim, the Task Force would redouble its efforts in carrying out its mandate. The Governing Council took note of this report and the recommendations therein and encouraged the Task Force to pursue its important mission.

## 12. Reports of committees and other bodies

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

The Governing Council adopted decisions concerning 413 parliamentarians in 13 countries submitted by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (CHRP).

# 288th session of the Executive Committee

## 1. Debates and decisions

The Executive Committee held its 288th session across four sittings: the first in Montevideo, Uruguay on 28 June, the second online on 26 September, and third and fourth in Kigali, Rwanda on 9 and 10 October.

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

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

The Secretary General attended all sittings, assisted by staff members of the Secretariat.

### Activities report by the President

The President of the IPU presented a report on his activities to the Executive Committee. These activities were conducted in accordance with his commitment to promote the values and strategy of the IPU, to achieve universal membership and to reinforce the IPU's visibility. Regarding universal membership, he informed the Executive Committee of his meeting in Halifax, Canada, together with the Secretary General, with non-Member Parliaments from the Caribbean. The Executive Committee expressed its thanks for the commitment of the President and the Secretary General on this matter.

### Interim report of the Secretary General on the activities of the IPU since the 209th session of the Governing Council

The Secretary General informed the members of the Executive Committee that his report was an interim activity report and not the *Impact report*, which would be presented during the 146th IPU Assembly in Bahrain. The interim report aimed to give members an insight into what the Secretariat had done since January 2022 to implement the new Strategy through the strategic objectives. The Secretary General highlighted the coordination of action with the President of the IPU who had also worked to promote the values and strategy of the IPU. The Secretary General stressed the need to secure the integrity of parliamentarians, as the number of cases of violations of the human rights of parliamentarians was increasing, concerning some 731 members of parliaments in 43 countries. The Executive Committee reiterated its support for the work of the Secretary General and encouraged him to strengthen actions on climate change and food security.

### Report on the work of the IPU Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine

The Executive Committee was apprised of the report on the work of the Task Force set up in March 2022 and composed of eight members, all high-level members of parliament. The core mission of the Task Force was to pave the way towards a peaceful solution to the war in Ukraine, which could only possibly end through peace negotiations. In that view, the IPU could play a role by bringing together the two parliaments and governments to engage in potential solutions. The Task Force had held several

online meetings and organized a mission to the Russian Federation and Ukraine in July 2022. The Executive Committee expressed its thanks to the members of the Task Force for their commitment and dedication. The Committee also emphasized that the report reflected the independent manner in which the Task Force was undertaking its work. The report was therefore under the sole responsibility of the Task Force. Following that clarification, the Executive Committee took note of the report and encouraged the Task Force to continue its good work.

### **Questions relating to IPU membership and the situation of certain parliaments**

The Executive Committee took note of the update on initiatives relating to the achievement of universal membership, regarding more specifically the non-Member Parliaments of the Caribbean and the United States of America. The Executive Committee was pleased to learn of possible future membership applications from Bahamas and Belize.

As for the US Congress, the Executive Committee was pleased to hear that progress was being made, as some members were doing their best to accelerate the return of the US Congress to the IPU. The Executive Committee reminded the IPU Members that universal membership was a common goal. It therefore called for the support of every Member to reach that objective.

As per the Executive Committee's request to the Secretariat on the occasion of the 144th IPU Assembly in Nusa Dua, and in light of the *Practical modalities of the rights and responsibilities of observers at the IPU meetings*, which specifies an evaluation of the situation of observers by the Executive Committee every four years, the Secretariat submitted a note for the consideration of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee examined this note thoroughly and decided to approve the recommendations made therein.

In the same vein, the Executive Committee examined several requests for observer status at the IPU. These requests were considered on case-by-case basis to confirm the parliamentary nature of these organizations and, more specifically, their shared values and objectives with the IPU. The Executive Committee therefore decided to endorse the requests for permanent observer status from the following organizations:

- the Collective Security Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly (CSTO PA), and
- the UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health.

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

### **Regional offices of the IPU**

Pursuant to their discussion in June 2022 in Montevideo concerning offers from the Parliament of Uruguay to host an IPU office for Latin America and the Caribbean, and of the Parliament of Egypt to host an IPU office for the Arab countries, the members of the Executive Committee tasked the Secretariat of the IPU with preparing a note to explain the rationale for the possible establishment of such offices. In principle, the members of the Executive Committee were in favour of decentralization through the establishment of IPU regional offices, as they would bring the IPU closer to the regions, their people and MPs. Based on the modalities provided in the explanatory note of the Secretariat, the President and the Secretary General agreed to engage in consultation with those two parliaments with a view to ascertaining to what extent the expected requirements could be met. Needless to say, any regional office would also need to meet with the support of the respective geopolitical group. It was suggested that the IPU examine the possibility of proceeding with the implementation of a pilot project for a GRULAC regional office in Uruguay. The Executive Committee highlighted that the process was still ongoing.

### **The IPU political project at the United Nations**

The Executive Committee examined the revised draft of the roadmap for the IPU political project at the United Nations. This version had given rise to some comments from the members of the Executive Committee during their sitting in Montevideo. A further revised version provided more clarity to confirm its status as a Member-driven roadmap, as parliamentarians were the main stakeholders in implementing the political project at the United Nations. The new version also provided some recommendations related to the need to align the IPU Strategy and communications strategy with the roadmap for political engagement with a view to making sure that there was greater visibility and awareness of the purpose of the UN political project.

The Executive Committee deemed it necessary to share this revised version with the stakeholders concerned, i.e. the members of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, for comments and input, as part of the follow-up to the report. The Executive Committee decided to set a deadline of 15 November for their feedback.

### **Data protection policy**

The Executive Committee endorsed the *IPU Personal Data Protection Policy and Procedures*, as proposed by the Working Group on Transparency, Accountability and Openness.

### **IPU policy on harassment**

Further to a recommendation of the Gender Partnership Group, the Executive Committee discussed and endorsed a series of proposals with regard to the development of an IPU framework to prevent harassment, including sexual harassment, at IPU Assemblies and other events.

### **Reporting by Members on IPU-related activities**

The Executive Committee was apprised and took note of the reporting by Members. It endorsed the recommendations contained therein.

### **Future meetings**

The Executive Committee was informed of and adopted the list of future meetings submitted for its attention. This list now includes information on the policy goal to which each proposed event relates. The Secretary General informed the Executive Committee that all the meetings proposed on the list had secured funding.

The Executive Committee was also informed about the flexibility of the Parliament of Viet Nam regarding the date of the Ninth Conference of Young Parliamentarians. The Executive Committee entrusted the Secretary General with the mandate to engage in discussion with the Parliament of Viet Nam on that issue.

The Executive Committee was also informed of the proposal of the National Assembly of Angola to host an IPU Assembly in October 2023. However, the IPU had yet to ascertain if the Parliament of Angola was in a position to meet all the requirements for hosting an IPU Assembly. The Executive Committee decided to take a decision on the location of this Assembly during its session to be held before the end of this year.

### **Cooperation between the IPU and the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP)**

The Vice-President of ASGP, Mr. Jose Pedro Montero, had an exchange with the members of the Executive Committee. Mr. Montero shared an overview of the ASGP's activities with Executive Committee. During the restrictions arising from COVID-19, the ASGP had put in place arrangements – online meetings – to keep business going among their members. He informed the Executive Committee of the work of the Centre for Innovation in Parliaments, an important tool for the staff of parliaments. He also informed the Executive Committee that the Association was working on creating a guide for digital parliaments. Mr. Montero highly valued the collaboration with the Executive Committee and called for further enhancements.

The members of the Executive Committee shared this view and invited the ASGP, through Mr. Montero, not to hesitate to contact them should need be.

### **The IPU Anthem**

The President informed the Executive Committee that the deadline to receive proposals was set for 31 December 2022. The Executive Committee took note of this update.

### **Cremer-Passy Prize**

The President of the IPU briefed the Executive Committee on the process for selecting a winner of the prize. This year, the selection board had opted to select two winners in the interests of gender balance. The President said that this was not a precedent for future years; the selection board may nominate either a man or a woman. For this year, Ms. Cynthia López Castro (Mexico) and the Chairman and the parliament of Ukraine would be awarded the prize. The Executive Committee congratulated the winners and suggested that an explanatory note on the laureates be shared with the members of the Executive Committee.

## **Election of IPU Vice-Presidents and of the Vice-President of the Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee re-elected Ms. A.D. Mergane Kanouté (Senegal) as Vice-President of the Executive Committee and Vice-President of the IPU representing the African Group.

Ms. B. Argimón (Uruguay) representing the GRULAC, Ms. P. Krairiksh (Thailand) representing the Asia-Pacific Group; Mr. A.R. Al Nuaimi (UAE) representing the Arab Group, and Mr. A. Saidov (Uzbekistan) representing the Eurasia Group were elected Vice-Presidents of the IPU. Mr. J.I. Echániz (Spain) was subsequently nominated by the Twelve Plus Group and elected Vice-President of the IPU representing that group.

## **2. Sub-Committee on Finance**

The Sub-Committee on Finance had met on 3 October 2022 to prepare and facilitate the Committee's consideration of the financial situation of the IPU, the draft programme and budget for 2023 and the voluntary funding situation. The Sub-Committee advised the Executive Committee to recommend the 2023 budget to the Governing Council, having been closely involved in overseeing its preparation throughout the year.

The Chair of the Sub-Committee on Finance, Ms. C. Widegren (Sweden), noted that the Secretary General had made every effort to follow up with all those Members and Associate Members subject to sanctions due to arrears of payment. Improvements had been achieved in collecting arrears from previous years and Members had paid 90% of the contributions for 2022. Heads of geopolitical groups were nevertheless encouraged to follow up on any arrears of the Members within their respective groups.

It was noted that the Executive Committee recommended strengthening the IPU's financial position by proposing a steady increase in total Members' assessed contributions of 3% per year until 2026. This decision came after the Governing Council had taken note in Madrid and Nusa Dua that the total assessed contributions of 2022 were at the same level as those of 2007.

# **Forum and Bureau of Women Parliamentarians**

The 34th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was held on 11 October. It brought together 191 participants, including 139 parliamentarians (128 women and 11 men) from 78 countries and representatives from various international organizations.

The President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine) opened the session. The Forum elected Ms. E. Nyirasafari, Vice-President of the Senate (Rwanda), to the Presidency of its 34th session. The Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of Rwanda Ms. D. Mukabalisa and the IPU President Mr. D. Pacheco welcomed the participants to the Forum and to the 145th IPU Assembly. The IPU Secretary General was in attendance.

As their contribution to the Assembly, the participants examined, from a gender perspective, the draft resolution before the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights 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 discussion opened with the introductory presentation by Mr. P. Beyer (Germany), co-Rapporteur of the resolution. The Forum recommended a human-rights based and gender-sensitive approach to migration; addressing the root causes of the trafficking of women and girls, including for sexual exploitation, and combating human trafficking with focus on the rights and needs of survivors. The Forum subsequently proposed amendments to the draft resolutions of the Standing Committee and expressed support for amendments proposed by national delegations. All the proposed amendments were included in the draft resolution.

The Forum also held a panel discussion on *Gender-sensitive parliaments: Parliaments free from sexism, harassment, and violence against women*. Participants called for action to combat discrimination, sexist culture and all forms of sexist violence that still prevail in parliaments. Among other measures, they recommended the following: training to prevent sexism and harassment in parliament, independent reporting and complaint mechanisms, and the putting into place of confidential spaces where victims can get information and support. They also recommended applying sanctions when a complaint procedure reveals poor conduct.

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

The Forum of Young Parliamentarians held its meeting on 12 October. It brought together 125 participants, including 84 parliamentarians (26 young women and 58 young men MPs) from 62 countries, as well as representatives from various international organizations. In the absence of the President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, the meeting was presided over by Mr. M. Rakotomalala (Madagascar), as the youngest Member of the Board in attendance at the Assembly. The IPU President and Secretary General welcomed the participants and stressed the roles young MPs can play in bringing innovation to parliaments and making them more gender-sensitive.

The members of the Forum reported on key developments on youth in their respective countries, including the creation of youth caucuses and youth wings of political parties, empowerment opportunities for young MPs, and events held to engage with youth. They highlighted efforts they had taken to promote and implement the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign in their home countries. Exchanging good practices in implementing the campaign, the young MPs held a question and answer session on mentoring young aspirants to politics. They highlighted youth parliaments, the engagement of young people in dialogues, and the reservation of seats in parliament for representatives of youth councils, among other the good practices.

The members of the Forum discussed the main theme of the General Debate of the Assembly. They reiterated that youth and innovation went hand in hand, including for more gender-sensitive parliaments. Too many parliaments were still ill-equipped to support the participation of young people given their stage of life, including parents of young children. They celebrated young MPs championing innovations, such as feeding rooms for mothers and childcare services.

Contributing youth perspectives to the resolution on migration, young MPs called on countries to implement a rights-based approach in legislating and policymaking to combat human trafficking. The Forum appointed Mr. U. Lechte (Germany) and Mr. M. Rakotomalala (Madagascar), to prepare youth overview reports to the resolutions under consideration at the 146th Assembly.

During the meeting of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, Board members expressed particular concern about the absence of many of their fellow elected Board members at the Assembly. They urged parliaments that have members holding elected office in the Board to prioritize the participation of these young MPs.

## Subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council

### 1. Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

The Committee held its 169th session from 10-14 October. Ms. A. Reynoso (Mexico), President, Mr. S. Cogolati (Belgium), Vice-President, Mr. N. Bako-Arifari (Benin), Mr. E. Blanc (France), Ms. L. Quartapelle (Italy), Mr. A. Caroni (Switzerland), and Ms. C. Asiaín Pereira (Uruguay) participated in the session. Mr. B. Mbuku Laka (Democratic Republic of the Congo) was unable to attend.

During the session, the Committee examined the situation of 428 parliamentarians (26% of which were women) in 17 countries. Ninety-eight per cent of the situations examined concerned parliamentarians from the opposition. New cases concerning 36 parliamentarians were declared admissible in the following countries: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Somalia, Tunisia and Zimbabwe. The Committee also held 12 hearings (four of which took place online) with several delegations and complainants, as well as one independent expert and one United Nations Special Rapporteur.

The Committee submitted decisions to the Governing Council for adoption on the situation of 413 parliamentarians in the following countries: Brazil, Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Eswatini, Gabon, Myanmar, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe.



## **2. Committee on Middle East Questions**

Two sittings of the Committee were held, on 28 July and 11 October, with at least eight members in attendance at each. The Committee agreed on the importance of its mandate in achieving peace through working together, building relationships through parliamentary diplomacy, and uniting to find solutions to common challenges.

Members heard a report from the IPU Secretariat on the Committee's activities since the 144th IPU Assembly. The IPU Secretariat had worked in collaboration with the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) on developing the IPU Science for Peace Schools, an advanced training programme allowing parliamentary staff from around the world to work together on addressing global challenges and to experience models of scientific cooperation. The first session would be held at CERN in December 2022, focusing on the exploration of new and renewable sources of water.

The Committee heard a briefing on recent developments in the Middle East, including both positive and worrying developments for peaceful relations. It was important to emphasize positive developments and demonstrate how these could be built upon to find solutions. The Committee agreed that focus should be placed on elements that united them, notably all peoples' desire for peace and freedom. Neither Israelis nor Palestinians were benefiting from the current situation; both were suffering, with women and children most affected. Members welcomed recent statements by both Israeli and Palestinian leaders in support of the two-State solution.

The Committee was briefed on developments in Yemen by the Speaker of the Yemeni Parliament, Mr. S.S. Al Barkani. The Yemeni people were suffering immensely despite a truce. International law and agreements were not being respected by the Houthis militias. Yemen was undergoing an alarming food crisis. More action from the international community in terms of mediation and the provision of humanitarian aid was needed. The IPU Secretariat had engaged in discussions with the Parliament of Yemen to establish its needs regarding technical assistance to support its rehabilitation.

The Committee was briefed on developments in Libya by the Deputy Speaker of the Libyan House of Representatives, Mr. F. Salim, and the Secretary General of the Libyan House of Representatives, Mr. A. Mussa. Libya was experiencing strong internal tensions between institutions as well as foreign interference. The Libyan population wanted to live in peace and had a right to a Libyan-led solution. The Libyan representatives asked that the IPU support Libya in finding political stability through technical assistance. The Committee agreed that Libya should continue to maintain meaningful communication on the support it needed for a Libyan-led solution, notably in the rebuilding of functioning institutions.

Members heard a briefing by Mr. S. Nakouzi from the Food and Agriculture Organization on the food security crisis in the Middle East caused by the Ukraine conflict. Mr. Nakouzi explained that the region was facing multifaceted food security challenges, but current responses were neither proactive nor sufficient. An enhanced focus to transform agrifood systems through policies and fiscal allocations was needed. The Committee commended Türkiye for its role in enabling a grain export deal between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, establishing hope for future peaceful solutions to such global crises.

Mr. M. Burchard from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), briefed members on UNRWA's role in providing aid to Palestinian refugees in the region. UNRWA's presence had prevented refugees from falling into deeper poverty and resorting to radicalization. In recent years, the situation had deteriorated in several countries in the region, entailing an increased reliance on UNRWA. Despite the indisputable value of the Agency's work, it was not matched with adequate financial resources to allow UNRWA to fulfil its mandate. Members agreed that the parties involved and the international community were responsible for finding a solution to the conflict, while UNRWA's humanitarian mandate was to protect refugees.

## **3. Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law**

The Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) met on 12 October. The Committee elected Mr. J. Kiarie from Kenya as its new President for a one-year term, renewable once.

The Committee heard a brief update on recent developments with regard to specific IHL and refugee crisis situations in Afghanistan, Myanmar and Ukraine. In general, Committee members noted with concern the multiplication of situations of conflict and the growth in the numbers of men and women, boys and girls having to flee to escape from violence and persecution. The Committee strongly expressed a call for wars to stop, for international humanitarian law to be respected and for

humanitarian assistance to be provided in support of refugees and internally displaced populations. It called on parliaments to discuss support for such efforts as there was a strong need to build multilateral cooperation to respond to these dramatic situations. Committee members also highlighted the need to provide support to host countries.

The Committee reiterated its support to parliaments mobilizing to end statelessness. It noted that the UNHCR *#IBelong* campaign to end statelessness by 2024 was entering its last phase. The Committee will hold a separate meeting with UNHCR to be briefed on that subject and develop a workplan for the years to come.

The Committee was briefed on the follow-up to the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) and the implementation of the pledges made. IPU Members were invited to follow up on their country's pledges (see <https://globalcompactrefugees.org/index.php/>). The Committee also agreed to hold an information session on the Global Compact for Refugees and the GRF at the next Assembly in Bahrain.

The Committee welcomed the organization by the IPU and UNHCR of the virtual global event on climate change and displaced populations, held in September 2022 and attracting more than 600 participants. This theme will be pursued and factored into the IPU parliamentary meeting at COP27 in Egypt. The Committee also welcomed the proposed organization of a global webinar on *Refugees and education*.

The Committee discussed its cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), including preparations for a webinar for parliamentarians on the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions in 2022 to mark the 45th anniversary of the Protocols. The Committee also agreed to develop work towards the universalization and implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

#### 4. Gender Partnership Group

The Group held its 46th session on 14 October. In attendance were the Chair, Mr. A.R. Al Nuaimi (United Arab Emirates), and members Mr. A. Saidov (Uzbekistan) and Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine). The IPU Secretary General also attended part of the deliberations.

The Group reviewed the state of women's participation in national parliaments, as well as at the IPU. It examined in particular the composition of delegations at the 145th Assembly. As at 15 October, 36.2% of the delegates at the Assembly were women (see [page 78](#)) which was above the average of the past decade, but lower than the past two Assemblies, where a record 38.9% women delegates had been achieved twice in a row. Gender-balanced delegations attending the 145th Assembly were commended. In Kigali, 35 delegations out of 119 (or 29.4%) were gender-balanced, namely composed of 40 to 60% women or men. This is a slight decrease from the last Assembly, when 29.7% of delegations were gender-balanced (30 out of 101 delegations). The aforementioned 35 gender-balanced delegations attending the 145th Assembly are listed on [page 79](#).

Of the 119 delegations present, 110 were composed of at least two delegates, of which 14 were all-male (12.7%). In addition, four delegations of two or more delegates were composed entirely of women. These 17 single-sex delegations were from the parliaments of the following States: Argentina, Armenia, Denmark, Gabon, Hungary, Iceland, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Seychelles, Somalia, Spain, Suriname, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Yemen. In addition, there were nine single-member delegations attending the Assembly. All in all, 11 delegations are subject to sanctions at this Assembly, up from 8 at the last Assembly. All sanctioned delegations contained solely male members for a second consecutive Assembly.

The Group reviewed the proportion of women delegates by geopolitical group for the first time. Progress has been uneven, with great disparities among the groups. The Group will look more closely into the matter and consider measures to encourage further and more consistent progress. Efforts will aim to highlight delegations and geopolitical groups that have made good progress in this regard.

The Group also pursued discussions on how to support parliaments with few or no women members. To that end and as a follow-up to a prior dialogue at the 144th Assembly, it held a dialogue session with the Nigerian delegation attending the 145th Assembly, led by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The delegation highlighted the steps taken to redress women's historically low participation in politics in the country. These include allocating leadership positions to women and holding debates on the topic in parliament. Civil society organizations have also been mobilizing to build momentum in the lead-up to the constitutional review process prior to the 2023 elections. Despite such efforts, the bills that have been tabled to amend the constitution to provide for reserved seats for women in the National Assembly

and gender quotas on appointed positions have been defeated in Parliament. The National Assembly later decided to rescind the decision to reject the bills. At the time of the Group's meeting, no date had been set for a new vote on these bills.

The representation of women in the Nigerian National Assembly has historically been low. Currently, women occupy 3.6% of seats in the House of Representatives and 7.3% in the Senate. Persistent challenges that women face in politics in the country include entrenched traditional, social, cultural and religious norms, lack of resources and lack of support from political parties. Indeed, very few women have been nominated to contest seats at the February 2023 elections.

The Group welcomed the exchanges and encouraged continued mobilization on the constitutional amendment bills on women's political empowerment so that they could eventually be passed in time for the 2023 elections. The Group insisted on the importance of education and raising awareness on the importance of women's political participation and leadership. Women leaders may serve as role models but support from male public figures was also particularly important. The Group stands ready to support the Nigerian National Assembly's efforts.

## **5. Advisory Group on Health**

The IPU Advisory Group on Health met on 12 October, with five out of eight members in attendance. It also welcomed technical partners from the World Health Organization, the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, UNAIDS, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The Advisory Group was briefed on the collaboration between the IPU and the Parliament of Rwanda in the area of women's, children's and adolescents' health. It congratulated the Parliament of Rwanda on the results it had achieved in passing legislation on reproductive health and civil registration, and the improvements made in terms of maternal and child health indicators. As the focal point for the implementation of the health component of the IPU Strategy, the Advisory Group discussed effective strategies to identify and reach vulnerable and marginalized populations. It highlighted the cultural and social barriers limiting the dissemination of information on sexual and reproductive health and access to related services. It was crucial to build trust among the population by working with relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, youth organizations and religious leaders. The Advisory Group also identified quality of care and women's empowerment as important factors for better health outcomes.

The IPU Secretariat presented its work on health and climate change under the IPU Strategy for 2022-2026. The Advisory Group agreed on the importance of strengthening synergies between these two areas, in particular with regard to nutrition, the impact of climate change on health, and climate-induced migration.

Finally, the Advisory Group was briefed on the work of GAVI, The Vaccine Alliance, and its collaboration with the IPU to promote parliamentary engagement on immunization and universal health coverage.

The Advisory Group decided to hold a field visit in 2023 to help it continue to provide recommendations to parliaments on how to improve access to health. It also proposed to hold a side event on comprehensive sexuality education at the 146th IPU Assembly.

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

A sitting of the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG) was held in camera on 12 October in Kigali, Rwanda, during the 145th IPU Assembly, following its eleventh meeting on 15 July (virtual). The present report summarizes the discussions and decisions reached by the HLAG during these meetings.

The HLAG was briefed on the Secretariat's areas of work, including the development and launch of interactive tools, the *Call of the Sahel* initiative and its thematic meetings, and the initial stages of a context analysis report on the Sahel. HLAG members stressed the importance of addressing the grave situation in the Sahel and the need to find an accurate definition of terrorism for the purpose of effective counter-terrorism legislation.

At the eleventh (virtual) meeting of the HLAG, the Secretariat presented the first phase of its new IT tools, namely the mobile application, and the interactive map. The aim of the tools was to connect parliamentarians and facilitate connectivity between the IPU and national parliaments, as well as to coordinate information on legislation on countering terrorism around the world. The Secretariat

presented the advances made in the *Call of the Sahel* initiative, as well as the initial stages of a context analysis of the region in support of the initiative. Members expressed their willingness to lead the thematic meetings of the *Call of the Sahel*.

At the HLAG's twelfth meeting in Kigali, members discussed the importance for its mandate of finding a working definition of terrorism to be able to propose effective counter-terrorism legislation to the IPU Member Parliaments. The definition must be formulated on the basis of a consensus and not on personal political agendas.

The IPU Secretariat briefed the members on the latest updates regarding the *Call of the Sahel* and its upcoming meetings. Mr. N. Tankoano, Executive Secretary of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the G5 Sahel (CIP-G5 Sahel), also shared information with the HLAG about the situation in the Sahel region. Members agreed that the situation was grave and that urgent action was needed.

Mr. S. Stroobants, expert of the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP), gave a presentation on the Global Terrorism Index 2022, analysing the impact of terrorism on the increasingly deteriorating situation of the Sahel region, which has become the global hotspot for terrorist activities. Mr. Stroobants warned that the environmental situation of the Sahel was worsening, and that food and water scarcity would increasingly lead to more violence.

Mr. M.N. Hounkonnou, President of the Network of African Science Academies, gave a briefing on the state of education in the Sahel countries and its relation to the increase in violence and radicalization. He emphasized that the population of the Sahel was mostly composed of youth with varying degrees of literacy. Illiteracy and lack of schooling were important issues that must be tackled, as they exposed children to organized crime, recruitment by armed groups and radicalization. Better education alone would not be enough to eradicate terrorism from the Sahel. Yet, the Sahel without education would not be free from terrorism.

The HLAG members noted that the *Call of the Sahel* was one of the most important projects of the IPU. They pointed out that the tragedies of the war in Ukraine should not overshadow the tragedies in other parts of the world, especially in the Sahel countries. The global attention given to the war in Ukraine had shown that there was the need to take the same humanitarian stance in all cases, as victims were victims the world over.

## 7. Working Group on Science and Technology

Two sittings of the Working Group were held, in Quy Nhon, Viet Nam on 13 September and in Kigali, Rwanda on 14 October. Eight or more members attended these sittings.

During its sitting on 13 September, the Working Group discussed its role in the implementation of science in the IPU's work in the context of the IPU 2022-2026 Strategy. Members agreed that they should determine specific objectives and approaches related to science and technology to strengthen the IPU's work on science. A coherent strategy would ensure the Working Group's continued success, which could be further strengthened by building links with other IPU bodies.

The Working Group agreed that a core element of its work should be the improvement of channels of dialogue between science and politics, ensuring that science was considered throughout political decision-making at all levels. The Working Group heard a briefing from Dr. Ross Smith, Former President of Science and Technology Australia, on the ways in which dialogue between scientists and parliamentarians had been improved and institutionalized in Australia. The weight placed on this dialogue ensured that parliamentarians had the evidence to guide their policymaking, empowering both sides. Members shared best practices in their respective countries regarding the strengthening of engagement between parliamentarians and the scientific community. Nonetheless, a shortage of financial resources could hinder this institutionalization in other countries. In countries where financial resources were scarce, the catalyst could come from the enthusiasm of individuals in building these channels of communication, thereafter gaining momentum.

At both of its sittings, the Working Group also examined the proposed International Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology. The Charter is intended to serve as an ethical framework on the application and use of science and technology and could be used as a starting point for countries wishing to establish legislation in the field. Members discussed amendments related to equal access to scientific research for citizens, notably in the provision of special measures for access to science for women and youth. The Charter should also include more input from several key stakeholders, including social scientists and experts in technology and gender mainstreaming, which could be gathered during stakeholder consultation workshops in the coming months, based on a strict timeline.



Members agreed that the ethical norms outlined in the Charter were based on the wellbeing of humanity, which should be at the centre of both science and politics. It was important to ensure the principles set out in the Charter were applicable in contexts across the globe. The way in which the Charter would be promoted and used should also be a central consideration of the Working Group in drafting it, and practical guidelines on the implementation of the Charter's principles at a national level should be determined. An IPU campaign should be established to promote the Charter and make it known to parliamentarians around the world.

The Working Group discussed the outcome of its participation in the international conference entitled *Science, Ethics and Human Development* in Viet Nam in September 2022, organized by the *Rencontres du Vietnam* in collaboration with the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), the Parliament of Viet Nam, and the organizers of the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development 2022. Several members had been present and some had participated in panel discussions held during the conference. Members commended this opportunity for dialogue between parliamentarians and the scientific community.

At the Working Group's second sitting, members suggested future activities related to the way in which science and technology could be used to reduce inequalities as well as the establishment of databases on key topics for the sharing of legislation and scientific research between countries. Members also suggested a discussion on determining indicators which could help assess how science and technology were used in efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Other activities and events

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

On 11 October, the IPU President and Secretary General met with the Chairs of the Geopolitical Groups and the Presidents of the Standing Committees. The meeting was attended by: Ms. T. Ackson (United Republic of Tanzania), Chair of the African Group; Mr. J. Fakhro (Bahrain) on behalf of the Arab Group; Ms. A. Kuspan (Kazakhstan), Chair of the Eurasia Group; Mr. B. Llano (Paraguay), Chair of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC); Ms. A. Gerkens (Netherlands), Chair of the Twelve Plus Group; as well as by Mr. M.B.M. Al-Ahbab (Qatar), President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security; Ms. A. Mulder (Netherlands), President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development; Mr. A. Gajadien (Suriname), President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights; and Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland), Acting President of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs.

The IPU President provided an overview of his main activities and initiatives over the past six months since the previous Assembly, including in terms of raising the visibility of the Organization and advancing towards universal membership. All Geopolitical Groups and Standing Committees were encouraged to continue their work beyond and in-between Assemblies. The sharp increase in the use of information and communication technologies as a result of the pandemic had greatly facilitated dialogue and interaction. It was also important to enhance IPU accountability at all levels, including in terms of implementation of IPU resolutions and other decisions. Ms. A. Filip, IPU Director for Member Parliaments and External Relations, presented the 2022 IPU report on follow-up action by Members, and encouraged all delegations to participate in the special accountability segment in the Assembly plenary.

The Chairs of the Geopolitical Groups provided an overview of their recent activities. Among others, the Twelve Plus Group had set up a working group to examine the desirability of amending the IPU Statutes and Rules on matters pertaining to the conditions for IPU membership. The review was ongoing. GRULAC had organized and contributed to a number of events, including a regional seminar on climate change and a parliamentary meeting in the context of the Fourth Inter-American Summit, and was keen to proceed with the establishment of a regional IPU office in Montevideo. The Eurasia Group had drafted a new set of Rules of Procedure for the Group; had held an online session to designate its representatives to the IPU Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine and the Selection Board for the newly established Cremer-Passy Prize; and had discussed the matter of political sanctions against MPs. The Arab Group was coordinating the translation and dissemination of all official IPU documents, ensuring full and active participation by members of the Group in the various IPU

activities, and was working to mobilize engagement in the region in the context of the International Day of Democracy. As for the African Group, it was holding discussions on the need to review the IPU Statutes and Rules so as to ensure greater effectiveness and flexibility in the work of the Organization.

The Presidents of the Standing Committees, in turn, provided an overview of their planned activities in the context of the Kigali Assembly. Mr. A. Richardson, Secretary of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, introduced a concept note prepared by the Secretariat on the contribution of the Standing Committees to the implementation of the IPU Strategy. This included recommendations for a more strategic approach by the Standing Committees when establishing their agendas and programmes of work, including in terms of identifying broad focus areas for 2023 and beyond. The President of the IPU encouraged all Standing Committees to discuss these matters within their respective Bureaus and to report back on the feedback received.

## **2. Parity debate: Rejuvenating parliaments: Why younger and gender-sensitive parliaments are more effective and efficient institutions**

On 13 October, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians organized a parity debate with 33 participants, including 18 MPs (13 women and 5 men). The debate examined the needs, expectations and aspirations of a more diverse generation of men and women parliamentarians. It was organized in the context of the series of meetings that took place during the 145th Assembly to take stock of advances made by parliaments in implementing the [Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments](#) that was adopted by the 127th IPU Assembly, in Québec City in 2012.

The discussions were enriched by contributions from several speakers: Ms. M. Ruiz Flores (Bolivia); Mr. J. Kiarie (Kenya), Chair of the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law; Ms. A. Larouche (Canada); Mr. J. Fakhro (Bahrain); and Ms. S. Childs, Professor of Politics and Gender, University of Edinburgh.

Participants shared the progress made in their parliaments to better include women, youth, indigenous people and people living with disabilities. They agreed that parliaments should adapt to the new generation of MPs by changing their rules and structures as well as their institutional culture to become gender-sensitive, diversity sensitive and inclusionary.

The debate focused on improvements in responding to the caring needs of parent MPs. It centred on practical measures implemented in parliaments to help reconcile parliamentary activities with family responsibilities, such as crèches and family rooms within the premises of parliaments; policies that entitle MPs to travel with their babies and a carer; comprehensive medical cover for MPs, their spouses and children; recognizing MPs' spouses in selected parliamentary programmes and activities; and a gender-sensitive parliamentary dress code.

In addition to the material and organizational challenges they face, some of the young women participants also spoke about the social and political prejudices that affect women parliamentarians when they become mothers.

The debate also opened a new field of discussion on the use of new technologies in parliament, in particular for remote working and remote voting, and how those technologies can support, rather than undermine, equality.

## **3. Open session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law**

The IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law held an open panel debate on 14 October to discuss *Parliamentary good practices: Inclusion of refugees, internationally displaced persons and stateless persons*. The event brought together as panellists members of parliament from Djibouti, Rwanda, Türkiye, as well as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The debates highlighted the fact that by the end of 2021, there were 89.3 million forcibly displaced persons worldwide as a result of persecution, violent conflict, human rights violations or events seriously disturbing public order. This unprecedented number included 27.1 million refugees around the world, 83% of whom were hosted in low- and middle- income countries facing their own economic and development challenges. In addition, 4.3 million people were known to be stateless.



Past years have witnessed a steady increase in the number of forcibly displaced people – men and women, boys and girls. While the vulnerability of displaced populations is a major concern, efforts to facilitate their inclusion and build their autonomy have proven to be a powerful way to alleviate the impact of these dramatic situations both on those that have left everything behind as well as on communities that host them.

By enabling inclusion in national systems, States ensure a more holistic, effective and coordinated response that can benefit both host and refugee populations and stateless people. In return, it is expected that host countries receive greater support from development actors to be able to provide inclusive and strengthened national services.

The debate included presentations of concrete initiatives taken in countries to facilitate the inclusion of refugees, their autonomy and contribution to the host community. These shed light on mechanisms to facilitate legal status, civic registration, access to health and education. Participants praised the approach of countries that facilitated inclusion and highlighted the need to host refugees in such a way as to allow them a life of dignity. A call to address the root causes of forced displacement, whether war, persecution or climate change related movements, was also made. For change to happen, MPs were urged to show political will in favour of refugees and to oversee and ensure that sufficient budgetary resources were allocated for their inclusion, which would also benefit host communities.

#### **4. Panel discussion: The Call of the Sahel: Addressing environmental degradation and its effects on the proliferation of terrorism**

The IPU's High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG) organized a panel discussion on 13 October on the *Call of the Sahel* initiative on the theme *Addressing environmental degradation and its effects on the proliferation of terrorism*. Building on the plan of action of the *Call of the Sahel*, the panel focused on understanding the link between ecological degradation and the rise of terrorism across the region of the Sahel in recent years. The panel discussion was well attended. The discussion and question and answer session were animated. The initiative was highly praised and the IPU was thanked for having scheduled a panel discussion on the topic.

The panel was moderated by Mr. M. Omar, Senior Advisor to the IPU Secretary General, and Mr. B.N. Tankoano, Executive Secretary of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the G5 Sahel (CIP-G5 Sahel). The panellists had different expertise and insights into the regional security situation. Mr. M.N. Hounkonnou, President of the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC), addressed the status of education in the Sahel region in view of environmental degradation and its impact on the proliferation of terrorism.

Mr. S. Stroobants, Director of Europe and the MENA region at the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), delivered a presentation entitled *The Sahel: Hotspot of ecological threats*, explaining the effects of environmental degradation on the proliferation of terrorism. Mr. Y. Nassef, Director of the Adaptation Division at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), joined remotely in order to introduce the concept of resilience and adaptation to climate change, including mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. M. Karimipour, Chief of the Terrorism Prevention Branch at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), who also joined remotely, pointed out the security and development challenges in relation to environmental degradation. Mr. K. Darwish (Egypt), Member of the House of Representatives and member of the HLAG, stressed the link between environmental degradation and food and water security, which was a basic human right for the people of the Sahel.

The question and answer session touched on the impact of food and water insecurity on communities and the role that different stakeholders can play in tackling the conditions conducive to terrorism. The panellists and participants acknowledged that while climate change and environmental degradation were not direct causes for terrorism on their own, they were key factors for understanding the rise of terrorism across the Sahel in recent years. In this regard, multiple references were made to the Ecological Threat Report of the Institute of Economics and Peace, which stressed the cyclical relationship between conflict and ecological degradation. The discussion was also based on the *Theory of Change for The Call of the Sahel* and the Concept Note on Environment, both of which emphasized the need to include local stakeholders that were relevant for the African experience.

The panel discussion addressed two of the strategic objectives in the IPU 2022-2026 Strategy. In the context of the first objective, *Building effective and empowered parliaments*, the discussion focused on supporting the parliaments of the Sahel as they were the key actors in representing and protecting the

rights of the citizens. Regarding the second objective *Catalysing collective parliamentary action*, the *Call of the Sahel* initiative would be guided by a joint secretariat composed of the IPU and various regional parliamentary organizations, including CIP-G5 Sahel.

In closing, the panellists and the members of the HLAG expressed their commitment to support the *Call of the Sahel*.

## **5. Panel discussion: Towards gender equality: Celebrating and understanding the accomplishments of women's parliamentary caucuses**

The panel discussion held on 14 October, was moderated by Ms. H. Faye (Bahrain), First Vice-President of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians. Thirty-four participants attended (31 women and 3 men), representing 21 countries. The meeting objectives were to familiarize parliamentarians with the important work of women's parliamentary caucuses, examine the links between such caucuses and the transformation of parliaments into more gender-sensitive institutions, and to share good parliamentary practices.

The meeting began with a presentation on women's parliamentary caucuses by Ms. Z. Hilal, Manager of the IPU Gender Partnership Programme and Youth Participation Programme. She emphasized the importance of caucuses as bodies that brought women parliamentarians across party lines together to strengthen their cooperation to advance gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments. The presentation also highlighted case studies of good practices in the work of gender caucuses from countries around the world.

Ms. F. Hamadou (Djibouti), spoke about the recent creation of the Caucus of Women Parliamentarians in her country in 2019. Strong leadership from the National Assembly Speaker was a key ingredient in providing the necessary political will to form the caucus, as was the support received from partners like the IPU. Ms. L. Clifford Lee (Ireland) emphasized the importance of working across party lines in solidarity and as a sisterhood to advance women's issues through the Irish Women's Parliamentary Caucus. Their hard work had contributed to new maternity leave practices. Ms. H.N. Murangwa (Rwanda), reiterated the solidarity among political parties and between women and men parliamentarians in contributing to the success of the country's Forum of Rwandan Women Parliamentarians. She also highlighted the role of caucuses in following implementation of gender-related laws and gender-responsive budgeting.

In the ensuing discussion, 11 delegations took the floor to contribute their respective countries' experiences. Additional points raised included the role of caucuses in contributing to civil society engagement and outreach, gender-neutral language in parliamentary standing orders, empowerment opportunities for women MPs, and the role of men in promoting caucuses and gender equality. The importance of capitalizing on opportune moments when political leadership was strongly in favour of caucuses, especially in parliaments with women Speakers, was also raised.

## **6. Workshop on climate change**

The workshop aimed to facilitate an open and critical dialogue on climate change between parliamentarians from around the world. The event provided an interactive platform for delegates to share their concerns about climate change as well as national and regional experiences on climate action within their parliaments. The workshop was jointly moderated by the Presidents of the IPU's Standing Committee on Sustainable Development and Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights.

Parliamentarians from 23 countries contributed their views. Direct engagement with communities on the ground that promotes national dialogue on climate action and helps convert the scientific evidence into practical action on the ground is a parliamentary practice that shows results. Reaching out to the communities vulnerable to climate change must be an integral part of public engagement, in addition to outreach to women and young people.

Several participants identified food security as an issue of primary concern. Rain patterns were changing, resulting in floods and droughts, which added an element of unpredictability to efforts to legislate and make policies in that area. The participants were unanimous in highlighting that climate change did not recognize borders and that there was a need for effective regional and global cooperation, including in the areas of financing and loss and damage.

## **7. Workshop on nutrition: *How parliamentary action can help safeguard nutrition gains* (organized jointly by the IPU, the SUN Movement and AUDA/NEPAD)**

The workshop was organized by the IPU, the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA/NEPAD) to discuss how parliaments can help implement nutrition commitments in their countries and contribute to better nutrition outcomes. It was moderated by Ms. S. Mbaya (Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health), and opened by Mr. M. Chungong, IPU Secretary General. They highlighted the current context marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and conflicts, which were putting nutrition gains at risk. Within that context, there was a need to mobilize parliamentary powers and build partnerships to stimulate action at the country level and find pathways to better nutrition.

Ms. G. Verburg (SUN Movement) stressed the importance of nutrition for individual and national development, for which mothers and children needed to be targeted as a priority. She called on parliaments to ensure that access to nutrition services was part of emergency and social security packages as an investment in resilience; to mobilize around the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) to drive the debate on food systems; and to advocate for a nutrition-informed revision of the definition of the poverty line.

Mr. K. Tontisirin (Thailand) spoke of the strategies to improve food security and nutrition, laying emphasis on community-based approaches. The latter required the provision of basic services, the engagement of community leaders, and the identification of actions based on community targets and indicators. Parliaments' key roles were: to promote legislative frameworks backed by adequate resources; to oversee policies that directly and indirectly affected nutrition; to represent people by reflecting their nutrition needs in decision-making processes; and to build partnerships for putting in place social safety nets, and social and environment development at the local level.

The debate highlighted the role of both parliamentarians as champions for nutrition and institutional action for the promotion of people's well-being and a rights-based approach to nutrition. Partnerships with governments, the international community and local civil society organizations could help in implementing short-term solutions such as disaster and emergency response, as well as in advancing long-term policies and anchoring them in legislation. Participants agreed that women, including elderly women, and children were particularly vulnerable to malnutrition and its consequences. Gender-sensitive action included the promotion of breastfeeding, awareness raising among men and women, and workforce nutrition programmes. The workshop ended with an appeal to move from words to actions.

## **8. Workshop on the Rights of the Child: *Child-friendly parliaments: The case for stronger parliamentary action in support of child rights***

On 14 October, the IPU in collaboration with the Parliament of Rwanda, organized a workshop on the theme *Child-friendly parliaments: The case for stronger parliamentary action in support of child rights*. While child rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, are mostly ratified, the reality does not reflect this engagement as many child rights are still being violated. A child-friendly parliament is one of the best approaches to implement child rights fully.

The workshop aimed at sensitizing parliamentarians to the "child-friendly" concept and providing the participants with the different components of this approach. The panel also sought to promote a better understanding of child-friendly parliaments, sharing lessons and good practices.

In her opening remarks, Ms. S. Kiladze, the IPU focal point with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), said that parliaments had a huge responsibility to develop a holistic approach to child rights and to mainstream child rights. Parliaments' oversight mechanisms gave them the possibility not only to oversee the activities of the executive and judicial branches, but also to identify gaps and to address those gaps to better protect children.

The main issue raised by the panellists was how to strengthen parliaments so that the protection of children and their rights did not depend on single enthusiastic parliamentarians but was rather a matter for the institution.

Mr. P. Katjavivi (Namibia) highlighted the importance of creating an environment conducive to the realization of the aspirations of children and youth, and most importantly, to allow their voices to be heard so that they did not talk in a vacuum. It was therefore important that children and young people's views were communicated to the executive which should take decisions accordingly and in the best interests of children. Parliaments should be accessible to children and young people. The Namibian children's parliament was meant to serve as a platform to speak on issues affecting children. Many

current Namibian officials, including the deputy minister for information, had a background in the children's parliament. That parliament was a very important vehicle in creating a sense of responsibility and accountability, and in promoting the culture of democracy.

Mr. L. Dushimimana (Rwanda) said that a number of policies related to child rights were in place in Rwanda. These included: the early childhood development policy; the national integrated child rights policy; and the national food and nutrition policy. In addition to the parliamentary bodies in charge of the promotion of the rights of the child, Parliament had set up a Network of Rwandan Parliamentarians for Population and Development, which was in charge of ensuring the maternal health of the mother and child. In its efforts to promote child rights, the Parliament of Rwanda had created a specific commission called the National Commission for Children. The main mission of that body was to strengthen the protection of children's rights by coordinating, implementing and monitoring the protection system to be granted to children to give them the opportunity to develop in a productive and responsible manner.

The Q&A session offered an opportunity to the participants to share some good practices, as follows:

- Malawi: A children's parliament was also in place with 193 members. The children's parliament worked to facilitate access to education for Malawi children regardless of their religious affiliation.
- The Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran had taken several measures in order to realize the comprehensive rights of persons under the age of 18, who constituted more than 22 million of the country's population.
- The National Assembly of Benin had tackled child labour, which was a critical issue in the country.
- The Parliament of India closely linked its actions on child rights to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Parliamentarians took up problems confronted by children, especially those relating to their health, education, nutrition, recreation, and protection from exploitation and abuse.

It was pointed out that, in view of the rapid progress of technology, children must be protected from the internet, which exposed them to multiple hazards. Also, child labour should be analysed through a cultural perspective. In Africa, for example, children started working at an early age in preparation for adulthood. The "invisibility" of children in Africa was one of the main challenges.

## 9. Workshop organized jointly by IPU and ASGP

This joint IPU-ASGP session held on 15 October was based around the preliminary version of the new [Indicators for democratic parliaments, based on SDG Targets 16.6 and 16.7](#). The 25 Indicators provide a framework to help parliaments assess their capacity and performance in all areas of parliamentary work and identify priorities for change. They are intended to be a tool to support parliamentary learning and development.

The joint session was opened by the Vice-President of the ASGP, Mr. J.P. Montero, and Mr. A. Richardson (IPU Programme Manager, Parliamentary Standards). A short introduction to the Indicators was followed by feedback from the United Kingdom on the online focus group held with Secretaries General in September 2022, and a notification that the Senate of Pakistan intends to carry out an assessment of parliament using the Indicators.

The main focus of the joint session was a practical exercise to test *Indicator 1.1. Parliamentary autonomy*. This indicator consists of four dimensions, on the institutional, procedural, budgetary and administrative autonomy of parliament. Participants worked in small groups to consider how they would assess these dimensions in their own parliamentary context. They used the opportunity to reflect on practices in their own parliament and to learn about parliamentary autonomy in other parliaments.

In their feedback from the group work, participants provided suggestions about how to refine the Indicator on parliamentary autonomy. They also discussed ways in which the Indicators could be used by parliaments to support their business processes. It was for example suggested by the representative of Canada that the Indicators could form the basis for an internal audit of parliament, and that an assessment could be carried out by both the national parliament and sub-national parliaments in the same country.

## 10. Field visit to Gikondo Community Centre in Kigali (organized by UNHCR)

A half-day visit to the Gikondo Community Centre in Kigali was organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Members of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law and the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians took part.

Rwanda has been welcoming refugees for several decades, maintaining an open-door policy and favorable protection environment. As of 31 August 2022, Rwanda hosted over 127,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, the majority of which reside in refugee camps (90%). The remaining 10% reside in urban areas. Most reside in Kigali (9,880) and some (2,214) reside in Nyamata and Huye (850). Most of the refugees in Kigali are from Burundi and over 60% of them are female.

To provide multi-faceted services to the urban refugee and asylum seeker population, UNHCR and partners run a community centre in Gikondo, one of the areas with a concentrated refugee population. An average of 823 people visit the Gikondo Community Centre every month. The Community Centre is also accessible to the Rwandan host community, providing comprehensive support to all those who approach it.

Services and support available to refugees and asylum seekers at the Gikondo Community Centre include community engagement services (assistance with registration, ID collection, enrollment in health insurance schemes, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response); skills training, etc.

The IPU delegation had an opportunity to engage directly with refugees and witness first-hand some of the initiatives and small enterprises they had been able to develop in Rwanda – phone repair, soap production, jewellery production, bakery, etc. The delegation also took part in focus group discussions with women refugees on their experience in Rwanda, challenges faced and opportunities. The field visit provided a concrete example of initiatives for inclusion of refugees and was greatly appreciated by participants.

## Elections and appointments

### 1. Executive Committee

The Governing Council elected the following three members to the Executive Committee:

- *Group of Latin America and the Caribbean*  
Mr. I. Flores García (Chile) to replace Mr. J.P. Letelier (Chile) who is no longer a member of parliament. He will complete the latter's term which expires in October 2023.
- *Asia-Pacific Group*  
Ms. A. Sarangi (India) to replace Mr. Chen Guomin (China), whose term had ended. Ms. Sarangi will serve a four-year term ending October 2026.
- *Twelve Plus Group*  
Mr. F. Marchand (France) to replace Mr. M. Grujic (Serbia) who is no longer a member of parliament. Mr. Marchand will serve a four-year term ending October 2026.

### 2. Vice-Presidents of the IPU

The following members of the Executive Committee were designated as IPU Vice-Presidents representing:

#### *African Group*

- Ms. A.D. Mergane Kanouté (Senegal) – Vice-President of the Executive Committee

#### *Arab Group*

- Mr. A.R. Al Nuaimi (United Arab Emirates)

#### *Asia-Pacific Group*

- Ms. P. Krairiksh (Thailand)

#### *Eurasia Group*

- Mr. A. Saidov (Uzbekistan)

#### *Group of Latin America and the Caribbean*

- Ms. B. Argimón (Uruguay)

#### *Twelve Plus Group*

- Mr. J.I. Echániz (Spain)



### 3. Sub-Committee on Finance

Mr. I. Flores García (Chile) replaces Mr. J.P. Letelier (Chile) who is no longer a member of parliament. He will complete the latter's term which expires in October 2023.

### 4. Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

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

#### *African Group*

- Ms. C. Mumma (Kenya) to replace Ms. S. Kihika (Kenya) who is no longer a member of parliament. She will complete the latter's term which expires in April 2023.

#### *Twelve Plus Group*

- Ms. R. Kavakci Kan (Türkiye) to replace Ms. L. Wall (New Zealand) who is no longer a member of parliament. She will complete the latter's term which expires in April 2023.

### 5. Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU

The vacancy announced for a member representing the Arab Group was not filled at this Assembly.

### 6. Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

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

- Ms. M.G. Odhiambo (Kenya)
- Ms. A. Gerkens (Netherlands)
- Mr. M. Hussain Sayed (Pakistan)
- Mr. H. Kamboni (Zambia)

### 7. Committee on Middle East Questions

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

- Mr. H. Julien-Laferrrière (France)
- Ms. N.H.M. Kaky (Iraq)
- Ms. L. Fehlmann Rielle (Switzerland)
- Mr. A. Niffouri (Uruguay)

Mr. M. Hadid (Palestine) was nominated as the ex-officio member representing Palestine on the Committee to replace Mr. F. Za'ir.

A vacancy remains for one member.

### 8. Group of Facilitators for Cyprus

The Governing Council elected two Facilitators for a four-year term ending in October 2026:

- Mr. S. Cogolati (Belgium)
- Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland)

### 9. Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

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

#### *Group of Latin America and the Caribbean*

- Ms. M. Brawser (Argentina)
- Mr. A.A. Paredes González (Peru)

#### *Twelve-Plus Group*

- Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka (Poland)

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

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

#### *African Group*

- Ms. S. Ntakirutimana (Burundi)

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



## 11. Working Group on Science and Technology

The Working Group on Science and Technology elected Mr. D. Naughten (Ireland) as its next Chair.

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

### *Twelve Plus Group*

- Mr. V. Vojtko (Czech Republic)

## 12. Internal Auditors for the 2023 accounts

The Governing Council appointed the following Internal Auditors for the 2023 accounts:

- Ms. A. Habibou (Niger)
- Mr. H. Carneiro (Portugal)

## 13. Bureaux of the Standing Committees

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

### Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

#### *Group of Latin America and the Caribbean*

- Mr. J. Rathgeb Schifferli (Chile) will replace Mr. R.M. García (Chile) to complete the term which will end in April 2023.

#### *Twelve Plus Group*

- Mr. L.-J. de Nicolaÿ (France) will replace Mr. E. Blanc (France) to complete the term which will end in October 2023.

### Standing Committee on Sustainable Development

#### *Eurasia Group*

- Mr. S. Gavrilov (Russian Federation) elected for a first term which will end in October 2024.

### Standing Committee on Democracy on Human Rights

#### *Arab Group*

- Ms. W. Fahad (Iraq) will replace Ms. A. Talabani (Iraq) to complete the term which will end in April 2023.
- Mr. S. Al Dosari (Qatar) will replace Mr. A.F. Al Marri (Qatar) to complete the term which will end in April 2023.

#### *Twelve Plus Group*

- Sweden will nominate a new member of the Bureau to complete the mandate of Mr. D. Larsson (Sweden), who is no longer a parliamentarian.

### Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

#### *African Group*

- Ms. R. Tonkei (Kenya) will replace Ms. S. Abdi Noor (Kenya) to complete the term which will end in April 2023.

#### *Group of Latin America and the Caribbean*

- Mr. E. Bustamante (Peru) elected for a first term which will end in October 2024.

The Committee decided to postpone the election for the President of the Committee to the 146th Assembly in Bahrain, requesting Mr. Wehrli to continue to serve as acting President until then.

## 14. Rapporteurs to the 147th Assembly

The Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights appointed Ms. L. Reynolds (Australia) as co-Rapporteur for the subject item *Orphanage trafficking: The role of parliaments in reducing harm*.

One or two more co-Rapporteurs will be appointed by the IPU President following consultations as per Rule 13.4 of the Rules of the Standing Committees.

## Media and communications

### *Press and traditional media*

The 145th IPU Assembly was covered extensively by the media, particularly media based in Africa and all the Rwanda national outlets.

A media advisory, a press release specifically on the emergency resolution on the war in Ukraine and a closing press release were sent to the IPU database of thousands of journalists, which also helped generate more international coverage. The IPU communications team organized an opening press conference, which was attended by around 30 representatives of the media, mostly national press as well as a few international correspondents.

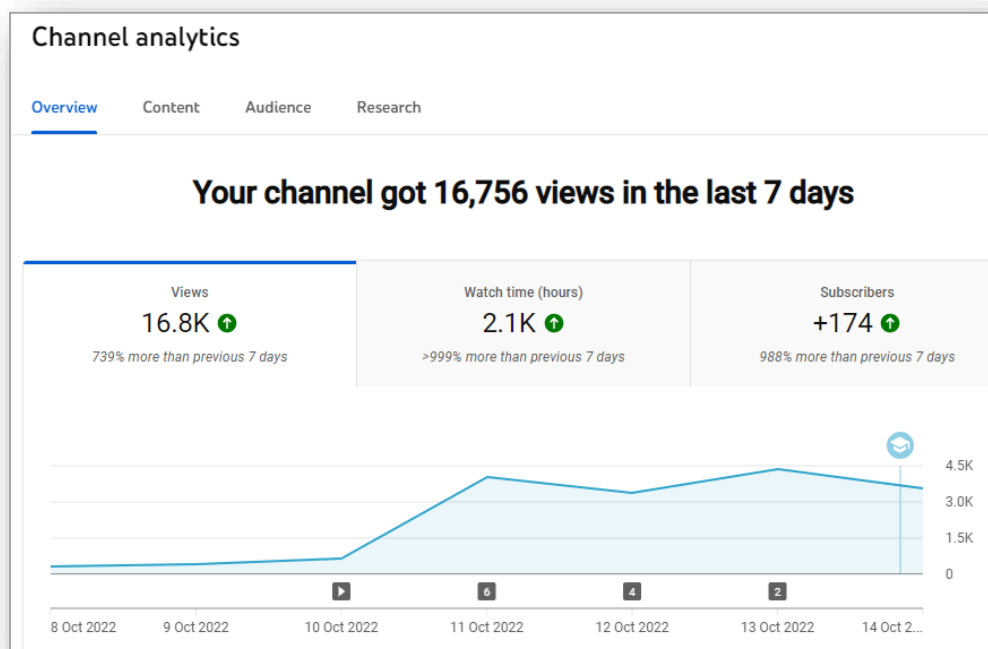
National media delegations also covered the Assembly from their own country perspectives, leading to extensive coverage in Algeria, Bahrain, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Mali, Namibia, Spain, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe. The IPU Assembly was also commented on extensively in the Ukrainian and Russian press. The Secretary General was interviewed by the main national television network as well as being the subject of an in-depth interview with UN News.

### *Livestreaming and YouTube statistics*

Livestreaming of the Assembly, the Governing Council and the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, as well as IPU editorial coverage of the Assembly, generated a record number of hits on the IPU website and YouTube channel.

Some 16,800 views were recorded of the livestreams and videos, a significant increase on the 10,000 recorded in Nusa Dua, Indonesia for the 144th IPU Assembly and the 4000 views for the 143rd IPU Assembly in Madrid, Spain. The IPU YouTube channel also recorded 174 new subscribers.

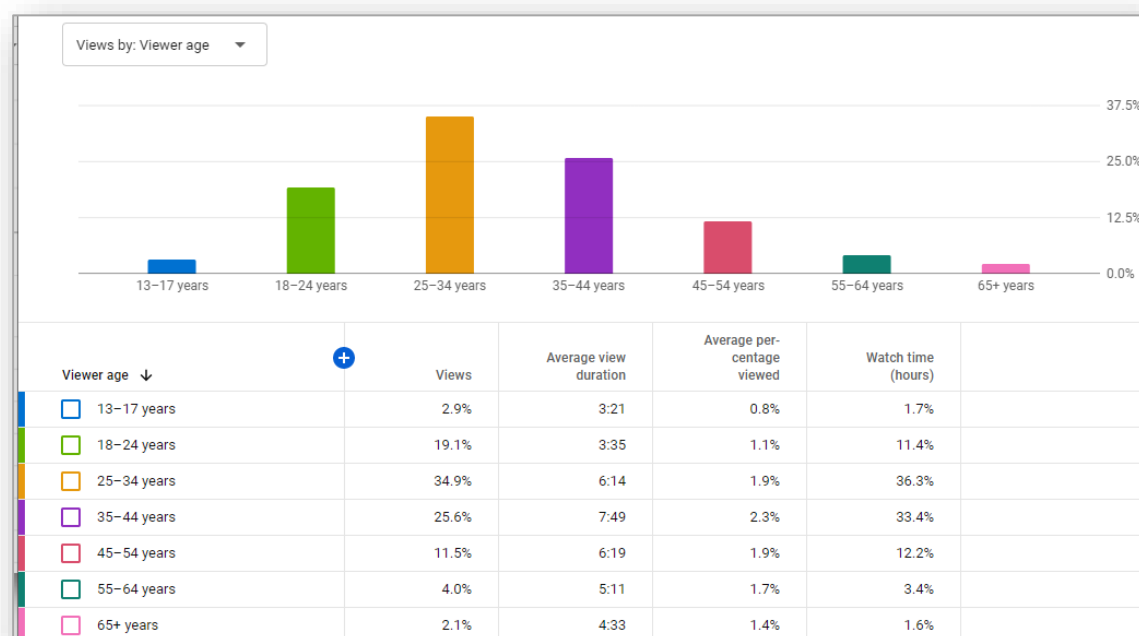
Viewing times were as below, with a peak on Thursday, 13 October:



*Top ten countries watching the five-day Assembly – predominantly African and Asian countries:*

Geography	Views ↓	Watch time (hours)	Average view duration
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Total</b>	<b>16,756</b>	<b>2,051.5</b>	<b>7:20</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Thailand	3,091 18.5%	375.5 18.3%	7:17
<input type="checkbox"/> Rwanda	2,836 16.9%	400.5 19.5%	8:28
<input type="checkbox"/> Indonesia	1,009 6.0%	86.6 4.2%	5:08
<input type="checkbox"/> India	633 3.8%	70.9 3.5%	6:43
<input type="checkbox"/> South Africa	449 2.7%	60.5 3.0%	8:05
<input type="checkbox"/> United States	337 2.0%	19.7 1.0%	3:30
<input type="checkbox"/> Côte d'Ivoire	192 1.2%	11.2 0.5%	3:29
<input type="checkbox"/> Uganda	149 0.9%	6.1 0.3%	2:26
<input type="checkbox"/> United Kingdom	146 0.9%	14.5 0.7%	5:58
<input type="checkbox"/> Bangladesh	139 0.8%	3.6 0.2%	1:32

The gender breakdown of viewers was 60% male, 40% female. More women watched than in Nusa Dua, Indonesia, where 69% of viewers were male.

*Relatively youthful audience with the majority of viewers under 34 years old:**Video on demand (VOD)*

The IPU was able to offer video extracts of specific plenary performances. This service proved immensely popular and an effective way for Members to amplify the messages of the Assembly through their own communications and social media platforms. Some 62 video extracts were requested and sent to the delegations for national amplification, compared with 30 at the last Assembly.

*Web and social media*

Despite multiple attempts to hack the website (so-called DDOS attacks), the IPU web team managed to keep it up and running. Traffic increased by 105% (32,655 visitors) and new users by 125% (30,376) compared with the previous Assembly.

Page views of the website went up 58%, with viewers staying on average 36% longer on the website compared with the 144th IPU Assembly in Nusa Dua, Indonesia. The top ten 10 visiting countries were France, Portugal, India, Italy, Rwanda, USA, Germany, Kenya, Switzerland and Denmark.

On social media, the IPU communications team conducted an extensive campaign, publishing substantive content on the different events, soundbites, parliamentary case studies and relevant publications. The team actively encouraged engagement and amplification with the parliamentarians present.



On Twitter, the team produced 136 posts, which generated a total of 526,600 impressions (52,900 impressions average per day), double what they were at the last Assembly.

Engagement was four times that of the previous Assembly with more than 3,000 likes, 1,500 retweets, 50 replies and 56,000 clicks through to our content on the website.

The top-performing tweet covered a field visit to the Gikondo refugee centre by the members of the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for Humanitarian Law.

The other IPU social media platforms also performed strongly. The 14 updates on LinkedIn generated 6475 impressions, just under double those at the last Assembly and saw an 25% increase in reactions and direct interactions. On Facebook, engagement increased by 40% compared with the previous Assembly and more than 500 people engaged with IPU content. Instagram figures remained stable compared with the last Assembly.

The team also set up a [social media wall](#) using the hashtag #IPU145 to encourage MPs and participants to engage with the IPU Assembly themes. The MPs responded in kind, posting frequently, which stimulated healthy “competition” between delegates keen to appear on the big screen in the plenary hall.

### *Communications stand*

A small branded communications stand helped give visibility to the latest IPU publications, especially those on gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments. There is still a real demand for hard copies of our publications, particularly from countries in the developing world with limited access to broadband. All of the publications were distributed.

### *Photography and video*

Working closely with the photographers supplied by the host parliament, the IPU communications team processed thousands of photographs each day and posted them on the IPU Flickr channel. Hundreds of pictures were downloaded every day by Member Parliaments and then used to amplify the message of the Assembly to national audiences, as demonstrated by articles in the national media as well as on the social media platforms of attending parliaments and parliamentarians.

The IPU also recruited a video director to produce a compilation video of the highlights of the IPU Assembly, conducting multiple interviews with MPs present.

The interviews will provide content for the forthcoming IPU communications campaign entitled *Parliaments for the Planet*, which will be launched at the next Assembly in Manama, Bahrain in March 2023.

# Membership of the Inter-Parliamentary Union<sup>1</sup>

## Members (178)

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

## Associate Members (14)

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

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<sup>1</sup> As at the close of the 145th Assembly.

\* Non-participating Members (all rights suspended)

\*\* Members participating in the work of the IPU in a non-voting observer capacity

## Agenda, resolutions and other texts of the 145th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 145th Assembly
2. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
3. General Debate on the theme *Gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers of change for a more resilient and peaceful world*
4. *Parliamentary impetus to local and regional development of countries with high levels of international migration and to stopping all forms, including state-sponsored, of human-trafficking and human rights abuses*  
(Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights)
5. Reports of the Standing Committees
6. Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 147th IPU Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs
7. Emergency item: *Condemnation of the invasion of Ukraine and of the subsequent annexation of territories, in defence of the territorial integrity of all States*



## Kigali Declaration

### *Gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers of change for a more resilient and peaceful world*

*Endorsed by the 145th IPU Assembly  
(Kigali, 15 October 2022)*

We, Members of Parliament from around the world, gathered at the 145th IPU Assembly in Kigali, Rwanda to discuss the theme *Gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers of change for a more resilient and peaceful world*, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the IPU's Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments, and to recommit to advance gender equality in our institutions and in society.

We recognize that we live in a special time, wrought with global challenges. After two years of confronting the COVID-19 pandemic, we know that crises are never gender neutral. On the contrary, crises exacerbate existing gender-based inequalities and create new ones, and put vulnerable populations in an even more precarious situation. Women and girls pay a heavy toll in situations of crisis, since gender-based discrimination and violence increase, holding back gender equality and our societies in general.

However, we take confidence knowing that our collective commitment to the Sustainable Development Goal of gender equality has led to greater attention to and respect for equal rights among men and women, and women's and girls' empowerment. We also believe that the current generation of parliamentarians is more diverse and is therefore showing even more support for the advancement of gender equality and inclusivity.

We affirm that gender equality is essential in confronting pandemics, conflicts, economic recessions and climate change. From the perspective of the economy, gender equality means equal pay, financial inclusion, universal social protection, valuing care work, and protection from discrimination and violence. Equality in the economy also means that more women participate in the work force, leading to greater prosperity and productivity. Gender equality in politics allows us to respond better to crises by taking into account the diverse and intersectional needs of all, thereby delivering more effective results. From the perspective of peace-building and diplomacy, women's leadership is a driving force, as peace agreements signed by female delegates lead to more durable peace. From the perspective of political decision-making, women leaders have been proven to drive more stringent climate action. In short, when responding to global challenges, it is more likely that no one is left behind if women participate and lead.

We note, as seen through our General Debate, that there are advancements in parliaments from around the world from which we can draw inspiration. In Kigali, at this 145th Assembly, we acknowledged that gender equality is a right for everyone, everywhere and agreed to make a step change for gender equality and to make our parliaments gender-sensitive for a more resilient and peaceful world.

To step up our action for gender equality, we will look to address profound structural gender inequalities that are driving vulnerabilities instead of building resilience. To do so, we commit to take the five following key actions:

1. Achieve parity in political decision-making, including by using electoral gender quotas and ensuring that other electoral quotas always have a gender parity provision.
2. Ensure our law-making, law-enforcement, and budgeting are gender-responsive across all policy fields.
3. Put vulnerable populations at the centre of our parliamentary functions of legislation, oversight, resource allocation and representation.
4. End gender-based discrimination, violence and other harmful practices, and ensure access to sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice for all women and girls.

5. Advance equality in caring responsibilities among men and women and set an example in our societies by undertaking 50% of the daily care work for our families, regardless of whether we are male or female MPs.

Driving structural transformational change for gender equality will require us to continue and enhance our action to build gender-sensitive parliaments. It is only by doing so that our parliaments will meet the needs of the modern era, respond to crises and remain resilient. Gender-*ins*sensitive parliaments cannot redress inequalities and vulnerabilities. In contrast, gender-sensitive parliaments, that are by definition more representative and have power, structures and capacities to promote gender equality, are better able to reverse gender inequalities and address vulnerabilities.

In the last decade, we have witnessed progress in gender equality in parliaments, following the roadmap set out by the *Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments*:

- In parliamentary participation and leadership, the proportion of women in parliament has jumped from 20 to 26%. Several parliaments have internal quotas to ensure leadership positions and membership of committees are shared equally among men and women. At present, 23% of Speakers or Presiding Officers of parliament are women.
- Looking at parliamentary infrastructure, 50% of all parliaments currently have a women's caucus and 68% of all parliaments have a women's or gender equality committee.
- In terms of gender-responsive internal policies, 23% of all parliaments now have a gender equality policy in their parliamentary administration.
- There are more family-friendly provisions and measures to facilitate work-life balance such as remote or proxy voting and childcare arrangements.
- The existence, forms and prevalence of violence against women in parliament are now widely acknowledged, and some parliaments have started taking action to eliminate such violence, including by using the IPU *Guidelines for the elimination of sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament*.

Gender-sensitive parliaments are needed now more than ever against a backdrop of ever more urgent political, economic, social and ecological crises, which are themselves gendered. Facing the reality of the climate crisis, this next chapter of gender-sensitive parliaments must also be green, both in how parliaments undertake their daily work, and in parliamentary outputs and outcomes. New technologies and their rapid development have also opened up new opportunities which must be exploited when they support rather than harm gender equality.

Transformative institutional change towards a gender-sensitive parliament does not just happen by itself. It requires political will, leadership, self-questioning, strategic planning, reform, resources and accountability.

Our commitment to gender-sensitive parliaments today must be more ambitious than it was 10 years ago. Looking forward, we pledge the following 10 actions to make many more parliaments gender-sensitive over the next 10 years:

1. Assess the level of gender-sensitivity of our parliaments twice to ensure progress in-between the two milestones.
2. Create a gender-balanced steering committee to follow up on the findings and recommendations of the gender sensitivity assessments that has the power, resources, and mandate to lead reforms.
3. Recognize the individual differences among women and prioritize the inclusion of underrepresented groups such as young women, indigenous women and women with disabilities.
4. Create, resource and empower a gender equality committee or similar body which can effectively hold government and parliament to account, and a women's caucus that can effectively support women MPs in their parliamentary work.

5. Adopt formal rules to establish gender-balance across all parliamentary leadership positions, ensure the parity of participation of women and men across all parliamentary activities, and prohibit single-sex committees and groups.
6. Engage men MPs and other men active in the parliamentary ecosystem to act as allies for gender equality, including by co-sponsoring bills, initiatives and actions with women MPs, across the legislative, oversight and representation fields.
7. Ensure that gender sensitivity, gender equality and gender mainstreaming and budgeting guide all of a parliament's work at all times.
8. Conduct gender audits of legislative, budgetary and oversight actions but also of initiatives aiming to introduce or reform, inter alia, parliamentary technology, measures to make parliaments greener, initiatives to engage citizens' in the work of parliament, and implement the respective recommendations from such audits.
9. Become caring parliaments by providing fully for the caring needs of men and women MPs and staff as they carry out their parliamentary duties.
10. Introduce stringent policies with the objective of zero tolerance of violence against women, sexual harassment and bullying in parliament, and establish independent and efficient grievance procedures with strong sanctions.

## 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

*Resolution adopted by consensus\* by the 145th IPU Assembly  
(Kigali, 15 October 2022)*

The 145th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*Noting* that the term "migration" generally reflects various means by which people and individuals are displaced across international borders, voluntarily or involuntarily, and that the terms "refugee" and "asylum-seeker" are sub-categories of migration with particular policy and legal frameworks,

*Expressing its deep concern* at the rise of the people smuggling and human trafficking industries as a means of migration, affecting people in vulnerable situations,

*Reaffirming* the objectives and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Conventions, as well as the values and principles of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*Recalling* the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees, endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly,

*Recalling also* the IPU resolutions *Migrant workers, people trafficking, xenophobia and human rights* (adopted at the 118th Assembly, Cape Town, April 2008), *Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration* (adopted at the 139th Assembly, Geneva, October 2018),

*Reaffirming* the sovereign right of States to determine, in accordance with international law, their national migration policy and their prerogative to govern migration within their jurisdiction,

*Reaffirming also that every State must ensure the protection of the human rights of all migrants, particularly unaccompanied migrant children within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, without discrimination of any kind, including in particular on the basis of national origin,*

*Acknowledging* that breaches of humanitarian law by belligerents resulting in war crimes and crimes against humanity, as well as the crime of genocide, are a major cause of forced displacement and the flow of refugees,

*Stressing* that war and violence are among the main drivers of migration and displacement, as has been witnessed following the unjustifiable and unprovoked war of aggression unleashed by the Russian Federation in 2014 and radically escalated by the full-scale military attack on 24 February 2022 against the sovereign nation of Ukraine and its people; and *recalling* the subsequent IPU resolution *Peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, respecting international law, the Charter of the United Nations and territorial integrity* (adopted at the 144th Assembly, Nusa Dua, March 2022), which addresses the migration and displacement that has resulted from that war,

*Regretting* that, apart from massive loss of human life, the ongoing aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine has triggered one of the largest displacement crises in the world, with more than 7 million Ukrainian refugees and more than 6.9 million internally displaced persons so far,

*Underlining* that migration is linked to poverty, climate change, natural disasters, inequitable socioeconomic structures, persecution, armed conflict, human rights violations and identity factors such as race, ethnicity, religion, age, sex and gender; that peace, security and development are closely interlinked; and that people on the move, irrespective of their legal status, are entitled to full access to their human rights, as set out in the relevant international treaties and covenants,

*Noting* the insecurity and the political, economic and social instability and violence that various regions in the world are currently experiencing that forces their populations to flee and seek refuge in other countries,

*Affirming* that intensified international cooperation is needed to address these structural and transnational causes of migration, bearing in mind that women and children are particularly vulnerable in migration crises and that these groups are in need of extra protection and support,

*Noting* the prominently gendered aspect of migration, whereby women and men leave their origin country and move to another for different reasons and under different circumstances, facing different risks during transit and different challenges, including access to legal and social protection and health services,

*Noting also* the high proportion of youth migrants, which rises in an inverse relationship to the level of economic development of the originating country, and that the wide range of reasons for youth migration includes education and employment opportunities,

*Noting further* that youth migrants are heavily represented as refugees and unaccompanied minors, and thereby face particular challenges and risks, increasing their vulnerabilities compared to their adult counterparts,

*Condemning in the strongest terms* the criminal human-traffickers and people smugglers around the world who exploit the vulnerabilities of migrants and refugees, especially women and children, for their own individual purposes,

*Condemning also* the grave abuses committed against migrant women and girls, including all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence, forced labour, exploitation and trafficking,

*Noting with great concern* a worldwide trend towards the exploitation and human rights abuse of vulnerable migrants for political and economic purposes, including to foment xenophobia and to spread misinformation,

*Regretting and condemning* the tragic deaths and disappearances of refugees and migrants along different migration routes,

*Seeking to guarantee* the rights of refugees under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol,

*Recalling* the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which provide a framework to effectively prevent and combat trafficking and the smuggling of persons,

*Reaffirming* the role of the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, as established by the UN Commission on Human Rights (Decision 2004/110), and *calling on* States to cooperate with their mandate,

*Recalling* the various resolutions of the Security Council of the United Nations that condemn any form of human trafficking and people smuggling in the strongest possible terms, and *acknowledging* the partnership work of the International Organization for Migration and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime within the European Union funded initiative *Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants* in Asia and the Middle East,

1. *Requests* that the United Nations makes the topic of human trafficking, people smuggling and modern day slavery a specific point of focus of the next United Nations General Assembly;
2. *Calls on* States and their respective parliaments to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and *also urges* States parties to those instruments to implement them fully and effectively;
3. *Urges* States and their respective parliaments to endorse if they have not done so already and to make full use of the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees as roadmaps for improving international cooperation and migration governance;

4. *Calls on* parliaments, in cooperation with their governments, civil society groups and diverse stakeholders, including women and youth, to promote people's access to comprehensive and up-to-date information on opportunities, limitations, risks and rights in the event of migration, thus enabling prospective migrants to make informed choices based on realistic expectations;
5. *Urges* parliaments, in cooperation with their governments, to secure and to enhance the availability and flexibility of legal pathways and regularization options for regular migration to facilitate labour mobility and skills training, family reunification, and migration for reasons such as armed conflict, gender-based violence, natural disasters and climate change, thereby undermining smuggling and trafficking networks, and to eliminate discriminatory policies that deny migrant children access to essential services, including education and health care; and to protect and respect the basic rights of migrants;
6. *Calls on* parliaments as well as regional and sub-regional inter-parliamentary organizations to actively engage in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to optimize migration governance and address the major drivers of forced and irregular migration that inherently fuel human trafficking – particularly wars, extreme poverty, severe inequalities between and within countries, climate change and natural disasters – and to promote measures aimed at raising awareness and maximizing the development benefits of safe and regular migration;
7. *Urges* States in the Sahel and Sahara regions, in particular the States of the G5-Sahel group, to step up their international solidarity and the coordination of their actions with a view to reducing the numbers of irregular migrants;
8. *Urges* parliaments to ensure that their governments comply with and implement relevant norms of international law and relevant resolutions of the international community and the United Nations Security Council, and contribute to the realization of fundamental human rights worldwide through active engagement and advocacy;
9. *Reaffirms* the right of every human being to be free from arbitrary deportation by a foreign power, such as the Russian Federation's forced displacement of Ukrainian civilians, including thousands of children, from the temporarily occupied territories to the Russian Federation;
10. *Requests* the strengthening of international solidarity with countries where social, economic and security conditions cause people to migrate and equally with those countries in the world hosting a considerable number of refugees;
11. *Calls upon* all parliaments and governments to design and implement development programmes that help eliminate inequality, poverty, lack of opportunities and violence, including gender-based violence, experienced by persons in countries with high levels of international migration and in migrant transit countries in order to develop opportunities in countries of origin so that there are fewer possible causes for people to migrate, and to ensure that such programmes reflect the particular needs of vulnerable groups, including vulnerable women; as it is only by fighting the roots of forced migration that it can be prevented;
12. *Calls on* States and their respective parliaments to take measures to prevent disappearances and deaths on global migration routes, to adopt the necessary laws and policies in order to be able to search for the disappeared, identify the dead and to re-establish family links, and to increase international cooperation on this matter;
13. *Urges* parliaments to promote adoption and implementation of specific programmes protecting the rights of refugees, paying specific attention to the needs of women and children, facilitating employment and ensuring education;
14. *Calls upon* all governments around the world to increase investment and promote international cooperation in youth and women's employment, empowerment and social protection programmes, including vocational training and entrepreneurship, high-quality education, health, to address their particular needs, offer greater opportunities both in countries of origin and in receiving States and to raise awareness on safe migration, and



- also to invest in systematic data collection, management and analysis to ensure reliable, accurate and disaggregated data on migration and human trafficking, and to develop programmes appropriate to gender and age groups;
15. *Calls on* all governments and parliaments to ensure that no obstacles, including immunities legislation or national procedural law, prevent forcibly displaced victims of aggression, war crimes, crimes against humanity or other serious human rights violations from seeking justice in domestic courts or receiving due compensation;
  16. *Also calls upon* all governments and parliaments to take holistic meaningful and coordinated action, including enacting and enforcing legislation criminalizing trafficking and smuggling; raising awareness through media, including social media; and strengthening national law enforcement capabilities, to dismantle global smuggling and trafficking organizations and networks and to strengthen efforts to combat people smuggling and human trafficking as per their commitment outlined in Objective 10 of the Global Compact for Migration and ensure the effective implementation of relevant international conventions and treaties; and also to prevent the use of false passports and/or false entry permits;
  17. *Encourages* governments to provide adequate support to victims of human trafficking and people smuggling, to develop and implement programmes to provide physical and psychological care, shelter and reintegration into society for victims of trafficking, including but not limited to facilitating access to justice, protection of victims, psychological counselling, including by providing access to gender-responsive and child-sensitive measures, and extension of residence permits during their recovery from the effects of their experiences;
  18. *Calls on* parliaments to ensure adequate financial support to key State agencies and units that play an integral part in responding to the scourge of human trafficking, and to conduct awareness campaigns on human trafficking and people smuggling among their broad populations;
  19. *Urges* governments and parliaments to address the demand side of trafficking, including trafficking in women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation, through law-making, law-enforcement and educational measures;
  20. *Encourages* governments to strengthen international cooperation and national and international capacities to equip officials in law enforcement, the judicial process and other agencies concerned with training and the broad-ranging skills and competencies needed to effectively prevent, investigate, prosecute and combat smuggling and trafficking, including the practice of state-sponsored instrumentalization of human trafficking; and to identify and disrupt financial flows related to these activities and all kinds of money laundering related to them;
  21. *Calls on* international organizations to play a more active and bolder role in alleviating the hardships of forcibly displaced persons, as well as in preventing and solving the root causes of such displacement;
  22. *Urges* all governments and parliaments to critically assess the mandates of international organizations and initiate an open discussion on how international organizations, including the United Nations, its Security Council and General Assembly, may be reformed in order to become more effective and inclusive, and to fight the root causes of forced displacement;
  23. *Requests* that countries of origin and transit fully investigate trafficking routes, fully cooperate with States sharing their borders and contribute to stopping the practice of organized human trafficking to other countries, as well as to monitoring social networks and online platforms, which have become facilitators of transnational trafficking activities, and to sharing intelligence on trafficking among countries in migration flows through secured communication channels, in full compliance with applicable national laws;
  24. *Reminds* governments that, in line with the principle of non-criminalization of victims, smuggled migrants must not be prosecuted for having been smuggled;

25. *Urges* parliaments to strengthen legislation to ensure protection and assistance for trafficked persons in migration flows in a human rights-based, gender-responsive and child-sensitive manner by creating conducive legal and policy frameworks to make sure that victims and survivors of this crime are protected from punishment for illegal conduct as a consequence of being trafficked, as well as from stigmatization, racism and xenophobia and from re-victimization and re-trafficking;
26. *Declares* full solidarity with migrants and refugees who are forced by conflicts and security situations to flee and seek safe havens in other countries; *affirms* its support for the victims of human trafficking, and *commits* to provide them with a helping hand and assistance and to take effective measures to prevent and combat human trafficking, especially against women and children, in times of conflict and in line with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and various relevant international covenants and instruments;
27. *Recognizes* the importance of cooperation, solidarity, exchange of experiences and partnerships at the international level between the various relevant authorities, as well as of strengthening governance at all levels, in a manner that achieves the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration;
28. *Urges* parliaments to assume their legislative and supervisory responsibilities and roles in confronting illegal immigration, in strengthening contractual relationship rights and mechanisms, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;
29. *Calls on* all parliaments and governments to take targeted measures to enhance security and stability, and to resolve disputes by peaceful means;
30. *Requests* that the IPU Secretary General transmit the present resolution to the IPU Member Parliaments, the United Nations Secretary-General and all relevant institutions;
31. *Invites* the IPU Member Parliaments to communicate to the IPU Secretariat by the 149th Assembly the measures taken to achieve implementation of this resolution.

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\* A number of delegations took the floor to express their reservations:

- **Czech Republic** on operative paragraph 3, **India** on preambular paragraph 21, **Kazakhstan** on preambular paragraphs 9 and 10 and operative paragraph 9, **Qatar** on the reference to labour mobility in operative paragraph 5, **Syrian Arab Republic** on preambular paragraph 9 and **Türkiye** on preambular paragraph 19
- **Hungary** and **Indonesia** on the entire resolution.

The **Russian Federation** expressed its opposition to the resolution.

# Creation of a global fund or financing facility for climate-vulnerable countries to address loss and damage associated with climate change

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

### Results

Affirmative votes .....645      Total of affirmative and negative votes ... 1,078  
 Negative votes .....433      Two-thirds majority ..... 719  
 Abstentions .....120

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Albania		Absent		Germany		19		Paraguay		Absent	
Algeria		Absent		Ghana	4		10	Peru	14		
Andorra		10		Greece	5	8		Poland		15	
Angola	14			Guinea	13			Portugal		13	
Argentina			16	Guyana		Absent		Qatar	11		
Armenia		Absent		Hungary		13		Republic of Korea		Absent	
Australia		14		Iceland		8		Romania		14	
Austria		12		India	23			Russian Federation	20		
Azerbaijan		Absent		Indonesia	22			Rwanda			12
Bahrain	11			Iran (Islamic Republic of)	19			Saudi Arabia	14		
Bangladesh		Absent		Iraq	15			Serbia	12		
Belarus	8			Ireland		11		Seychelles	10		
Belgium		13		Israel		12		Sierra Leone			11
Benin		Absent		Italy		8		Slovenia		11	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	11		1	Japan			20	Somalia	13		
Botswana			11	Jordan	12			South Africa	14		3
Brazil		Absent		Kazakhstan	10			South Sudan		Absent	
Burundi		Absent		Kenya	15			Spain		16	
Cambodia	13			Liechtenstein		10		Sri Lanka		Absent	
Cameroon	13			Madagascar	12			Suriname	10		
Canada		15		Malawi			13	Sweden		10	
Chad	13			Malaysia	10			Switzerland		12	
Chile	3		10	Maldives	10			Syrian Arab Rep.		Absent	
Côte d'Ivoire	13			Mali	10			Thailand	18		
Croatia		11		Malta		8		Timor-Leste		11	
Czech Republic		13		Mauritius		Absent		Togo		Absent	
Denmark		12		Mexico		Absent		Türkiye	19		
Djibouti		Absent		Monaco		10		Uganda	15		
Ecuador		Absent		Morocco		Absent		Ukraine		17	
Egypt		Absent		Mozambique			13	United Arab Emirates	11		
Equatorial Guinea	11			Namibia	11			United Kingdom		18	
Estonia		11		Nepal		Absent		United Republic of Tanzania	17		
Eswatini	11			Netherlands		13		Uruguay	9		
Fiji	10			New Zealand		12		Uzbekistan		Absent	
Finland		12		Niger		Absent		Viet Nam	19		
France		18		Nigeria	20			Yemen	11		
Gabon		Absent		Norway		12		Zambia	13		
Gambia (The)	11			Oman	11			Zimbabwe	10		
Georgia		11		Pakistan	21						
				Palestine		Absent					

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.

# Condemnation of the invasion of Ukraine and of the subsequent annexation of territories, in defence of the territorial integrity of all States

**Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Chile and the members of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) for the inclusion of an emergency item**

## Results

Affirmative votes..... 706      Total of affirmative and negative votes ..836  
 Negative votes ..... 130      Two-thirds majority.....557  
 Abstentions ..... 362

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Albania		Absent		Germany	19			Paraguay		Absent	
Algeria		Absent		Ghana	14			Peru	14		
Andorra	10			Greece	13			Poland	15		
Angola	7		7	Guinea			13	Portugal	13		
Argentina	16			Guyana		Absent		Qatar	3		8
Armenia		Absent		Hungary	13			Republic of Korea		Absent	
Australia	14			Iceland	8			Romania	14		
Austria	12			India	23			Russian Federation		20	
Azerbaijan		Absent		Indonesia		22		Rwanda	12		
Bahrain			11	Iran (Islamic Republic of)		19		Saudi Arabia			14
Bangladesh		Absent		Iraq	1	14		Serbia			12
Belarus		8		Ireland	11			Seychelles	10		
Belgium	13			Israel	12			Sierra Leone	11		
Benin		Absent		Italy	8			Slovenia	11		
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	1		11	Japan	20			Somalia	13		
Botswana	11			Jordan			12	South Africa	3	10	4
Brazil		Absent		Kazakhstan			10	South Sudan		Absent	
Burundi		Absent		Kenya			15	Spain	16		
Cambodia	8		5	Liechtenstein	10			Sri Lanka		Absent	
Cameroon			13	Madagascar			12	Suriname	4		6
Canada	15			Malawi	13			Sweden	10		
Chad			13	Malaysia			10	Switzerland	12		
Chile	10		3	Maldives	10			Syrian Arab Rep.		Absent	
Côte d'Ivoire			13	Mali			10	Thailand			18
Croatia	11			Malta	8			Timor-Leste	11		
Czech Republic	13			Mauritius		Absent		Togo		Absent	
Denmark	12			Mexico		Absent		Türkiye	19		
Djibouti		Absent		Monaco	10			Uganda			15
Ecuador		Absent		Morocco		Absent		Ukraine	17		
Egypt		Absent		Mozambique			13	United Arab Emirates			11
Equatorial Guinea			11	Namibia			11	United Kingdom	18		
Estonia	11			Nepal		Absent		United Republic of Tanzania			17
Eswatini			11	Netherlands	13			Uruguay	9		
Fiji	10			New Zealand	12			Uzbekistan		Absent	
Finland	12			Niger		Absent		Viet Nam			19
France	18			Nigeria	15	5		Yemen		11	
Gabon		Absent		Norway	12			Zambia			13
Gambia (The)	11			Oman			11	Zimbabwe			10
Georgia	11			Pakistan		21					
				Palestine		Absent					

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. On 15 October 2022, the Yemeni delegation informed the Governing Council that its votes had not been recorded correctly. The IPU President promised to reflect their votes accurately in the Summary Records. After checking the recording, the IPU Secretariat corrected the Results as they appear on this page. The total number of Yes votes for the Proposal 2 decreased from 717 to 706 while the number of No votes increased from 119 to 130. However, these changes did not affect the overall outcome of the vote.

# Condemnation of the invasion of Ukraine and of the subsequent annexation of territories, in defence of the territorial integrity of all States

*Resolution adopted by consensus\* by the 145th IPU Assembly  
(Kigali, 14 October 2022)*

The 145th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*Recalling* that the invasion of the sovereign State of Ukraine has resulted in the death and maiming of thousands of civilians and military personnel, the destruction of cities and infrastructure, and the displacement of millions of people as refugees of war,

*Considering* that the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) works for peace and cooperation among peoples, and for the promotion and defence of human rights, which are universal in nature and whose unrestricted respect is an essential factor for democracy and the development of all nations,

*Noting* the adoption on 23 March 2022 by the 144th IPU Assembly in Nusa Dua, Indonesia, of a resolution in favour of a *Peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, respecting international law, the Charter of the United Nations and territorial integrity*,

*Bearing in mind* that the Charter of the United Nations states that “[a]ll Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state”,

*Having regard to* United Nations General Assembly Resolution ES-11/2 on the humanitarian consequences of the aggression against Ukraine, which calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities, in particular of any attacks against civilians and civilian objects,

*Noting* United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution 49/1 of 4 March 2022 on the situation of human rights in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression, as well as United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution S-34/1 of 12 May 2022 calling for investigations into war crimes committed on Ukrainian territory,

*Attentive to* the content of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, especially the Fourth Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, and their Additional Protocols,

*Aware* that the military aggression against Ukraine has continued for eight months now, despite multiple calls from the international community to put an end to the conflict and the resultant suffering of the civilian population,

*Alarmed by* the profound consequences of the invasion of Ukrainian territory by the Russian Federation, which point to a humanitarian, migration and refugee crisis affecting the entire world and, in particular: the sharp deterioration of the global economy, giving rise to major concerns; the situation in the Horn of Africa, with Somalia alone receiving 92% of its wheat imports from the Russian Federation and Ukraine; the upward spiral of food and fuel prices resulting from the war threatening to plunge the African population into a food crisis of potentially catastrophic proportions; and Europe meanwhile facing a cold winter with reduced gas supplies, with some 41% of this vital energy source coming from the Russian Federation,

1. *Reiterates* its call for an immediate end to the Russian military occupation of sovereign Ukrainian territory, restoring its territorial integrity back to its internationally recognized borders, extending to its territorial waters, and consequently the rule of international law;
2. *Condemns in the strongest terms* the serious violations of human dignity and the flagrant violations of human rights perpetrated in the regions of Kyiv, Kharkiv, Sumy, Chernihiv and others;

3. *Also condemns* the use of extrajudicial executions, sexual and gender-based violence, and inhuman or degrading treatment as a weapon of war, in open violation of the Geneva Conventions relating to the treatment of prisoners of war, the care and assistance of the wounded and sick, and the due protection of the civilian population;
4. *Reaffirms* the importance of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States, in connection with Russia's territorial annexation;
5. *Supports* the resolutions of various international bodies to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of possible war crimes committed in Ukraine, particularly the massacre in Mariupol, the evidence found of clandestine mass graves in Izium, the tragic events in Bucha, the hundreds of attacks on the country's health infrastructure, the use of unguided bombs and cluster munitions against the civilian population in Chernihiv and Okhtyrka, among others;
6. *Also supports* the creation of courts with specific jurisdiction to investigate possible crimes perpetrated in wars of aggression and to hear cases of war crimes and human rights violations committed on Ukrainian territory.
7. *Urgently appeals* to the international community to support the actions of UNICEF and other specialized aid agencies to alleviate the general deprivation suffered by 3 million children inside Ukrainian territory and another 2 million refugee children, who require rapid and life-saving assistance;
8. *Calls on* the parliaments of the world to:
  - raise awareness, as appropriate, among the competent national authorities of their States and civil society of the need to contribute, insofar as they are able, to a solution to the humanitarian crisis involving the migration of 6 million Ukrainian citizens as refugees;
  - encourage the support and cooperation of the international community in the process of reconstructing Ukraine, in solidarity with its people and respecting the principles, values and norms of international humanitarian law;
  - continue their commitment to climate change reduction targets, recognizing that the war of aggression is impacting energy supply;
9. *Calls on* the competent bodies of the United Nations system, the governments and parliaments of the world, and multilateral financial institutions to adopt and support effective and targeted social policies to address decisively global food insecurity resulting from the effects of the war, namely the rising prices of food, fuel and fertilizers, the supply of which has been severely disrupted or discontinued;
10. *Expresses* solidarity with all the victims of the armed conflict in Ukraine and *condemns* all war crimes, crimes against humanity and any other human rights violations;
11. *Urges* all States to address the humanitarian dimension of the conflict, to work together to reduce tensions and to exhaust all peaceful means available through mechanisms of peaceful settlement;
12. *Reaffirms* support for the ongoing work of the IPU Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine; *encourages* the Task Force to continue its efforts to bring the parties concerned to the table of political dialogue for the peaceful resolution of the war, in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations, territorial integrity and international law; and *encourages* both Parliaments to facilitate the Task Force's engagement to achieve its mission.

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\* After the adoption of the Resolution, the following delegations took the floor to abstain from supporting the resolution:

- India, Mozambique, South Africa, South Sudan and Yemen.



## Report of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

*Noted by the 145 IPU Assembly  
(Kigali, 15 October 2022)*

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security held two sittings on 13 and 14 October 2022 with its President, Mr. M. Al-Ahbab (Qatar), in the Chair.

On 13 October, after going through procedural items and official communications, the Committee held the first panel discussion on the theme *The impact of war and atrocity on civilian populations*. A moderated round table featured three experts who addressed the theme from different perspectives. Ms. M. Kiener Nellen, Member of the International Board of the NGO PeaceWomen Across the Globe and former Swiss MP, focussed her remarks on the impact of war on women who bear all consequences of conflicts: a disproportionate burden of care, the mourning of lost ones, and sexualized and gender-based violence. She also addressed the central role of women in conflict prevention and resolution, as well as in peacebuilding as formally recognized by UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Mr. F. Safari, Director of the African Centre of Excellence for Children, Peace, and Security of the Romeo Dallaire Institute, spoke about the large numbers of children forcefully recruited as soldiers who are made to commit violence. The mechanism that aimed to prevent such violations was the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers in armed conflicts. He urged parliamentarians to consider endorsing and implementing those principles. Ms. J. Arman, Regional Legal Adviser for East Africa at the International Committee of the Red Cross, addressed issues related to urban conflict and, more specifically, the use of explosive weapons in densely populated areas and their impact on the civilian population. When war entered cities, it had a disproportionate impact on civilian communities because it destroyed infrastructures and so increased civilian casualties. In such environments there were many challenges regarding compliance with international humanitarian law, in particular the prohibition of indiscriminate attacks and assessments of proportionality.

The debate that followed, moderated by the Committee Chair, addressed the current situation in the world from the point of view of protecting the most vulnerable. The 17 delegates who took the floor referred to the conflicts in Ukraine, Palestine, the Sahel and Yemen, but also to what had happened in the 1990s in the host country, Rwanda. They agreed that war destroyed civilian populations and that the most effective way to protect civilians was to prevent armed escalation and to settle conflicts peacefully. To that end, the speakers called on all countries to have a human rights framework which would help eliminate all forms of conflict. They also urged parliamentarians to create environments that provide protection and social safety for vulnerable groups. Finally, for parliamentarians to contribute realistically to the prevention of violations and breaches of international law that impacted the most vulnerable in conflicts, they must apply international norms and treaties, champion them and ensure that they were signed, ratified and implemented. In this regard, the delegates valued the work undertaken by the IPU to promote treaties that can save lives and protect people.

The second panel on the theme *War and climate change as triggers of global food insecurity* was also organized around a moderated round table with three experts. Ms. E. Heines, Country Director at the World Food Programme (WFP) in Rwanda, provided an overview of the current global food crisis which increased in the last three years to unprecedented proportions. There were three drivers of the current food crisis: conflicts with ripple effects regionally and globally, climate shocks and the threat of global recession. One response to that was to work towards building population resilience and avoid the vicious circle of conflict due to poverty and competition for scarce resources. She elaborated on the Rwanda specific fragile context and its vulnerability to climatic shocks. Mr. W. von Trott zu Solz, Ambassador of the Sovereign Order of Malta to Kenya and South Sudan, referring to the world hunger index, stressed the importance of food security in maintaining peace and international security. War, climate change and food insecurity were the main causes of the displacement of populations. He gave examples of his organization's work in the region and of initiatives that parliamentarians could take on, such as adapting policies to contexts and providing not only money but also know-how to support international assistance. Mr. M. Kapila, Professor of Global Health and Humanitarian Affairs, University of Manchester and Senior Adviser to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), explained that since wars and climate change were not disappearing but rather increasing, countries

should accelerate their work on mitigating the problems and empowering communities. The world can produce enough food for everybody but the problem lay with availability and quality which, in turn, impacted health and increased mortality. He urged parliamentarians to establish agro-food policies based on national criteria and resources rather than on global norms, and to include the right to food in national policies for countries to become self-resilient and more sovereign, and avoid competition for humanitarian assistance that made them dependent.

The eight delegates who took the floor, acknowledged the impact of war and climate change on food security as a result of which the world was facing skyrocketing food prices: growth of crops had decreased because of droughts and floodings, and several supply routes had become inaccessible because of fighting. Food insecurity had a major impact on poor and vulnerable countries. It was necessary to strengthen efforts to find solutions. Parliamentarians must address the root causes and prioritize work on making more resilient communities and on the prevention of humanitarian disasters. The speakers reiterated that peace, security and development must go hand in hand. Recommendations from the debate include: to review the structures towards a green economy; to secure food networks; to implement the Paris Agreement; and to increase peace dialogues and diplomacy to defuse tensions and end conflicts. Participants also requested that more legislative and oversight practices on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and engagement on conflict prevention be shared.

On 14 October, the Committee held a hearing of experts on the theme *Cyberattacks and cybercrimes: The new risks to global security*. The hearing was opened and closed by the co-Rapporteurs of the resolution on the same title, Ms. S. Falaknaz (United Arab Emirates) and Mr. J. Cepeda (Spain) who shared their perspectives on the matter and the work they had undertaken. The hearing featured three experts who all intervened remotely to share their perspectives about the nature, relevance, and importance of crimes in cyberspace, as well as national perspectives on the concrete actions parliamentarians could undertake to address those emerging threats. Ms. A.-M. Buzatu, Vice-President and Chief Operations Officer of ICT4Peace Foundation, in her opening remarks laid down a conceptual foundation for cyberspace and the human nature of the interactions in cyberspace, bringing forward the idea that applying human security to cyberspace could help parliamentarians address cybercrime and cyberattacks. She explained concretely the vulnerability of critical infrastructures and the consequent threat posed to the security of citizens who all rely on basic services like electricity, water, communication, banking, etc. Mr. J. Candau, Head of the Cybersecurity Department of the National Cryptologic Centre in Spain, welcomed the timely relevance of the topic, in the context of dramatic increases in cyberattack occurrences over the past decade and especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Spain had put in place systems of response that anticipate, address, and resolve vulnerabilities and risks. Parliamentarians had an important role in raising awareness, passing and applying legislation, and allocating adequate funds to the cyber resilience of nations. Mr. M. Al-Kuwaiti, Managing Director of the National Data Centre under the Supreme Council for National Security of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), gave an overview of the technological revolution and the digitalization of every aspect of society. In the UAE, the Cybersecurity Governance Framework relies on resilience, protection, awareness, and research while including human perspectives, partnerships and international collaboration.

The debate that followed, moderated by the Chair of the Committee, addressed the critical importance of cyberspace as a vulnerable domain of day-to-day interactions. Six delegates took the floor, mentioning topics ranging from emerging threats, the importance of applying international law in cyberspace, the increase of cyberattacks during the pandemic, the ways in which malicious actors online have ways to operate with impunity, and the inevitability of crimes in such a highly exploited domain. There were multiple references to the work and efforts of various parliaments in addressing cybercrimes and cyberattacks, notably through various private/public partnerships, international cooperation, and to the steps needed to improve resilience, especially regarding critical infrastructure.

The report on the work of the Committee was presented to the Assembly at its last sitting on 15 October by the President of the Standing Committee, Mr. M. Al-Ahbab (Qatar).

The Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security met on 13 October 2022. Thirteen out of 20 members and the representative of the President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians were present.

During the meeting, the Bureau discussed its workplan. It was agreed that the time allocated for the 146th Assembly would be devoted to negotiating the next resolution. This proposal was subsequently approved by the Standing Committee at the end of its last plenary sitting on 14 October.

## Report of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development

*Noted by the 145th IPU Assembly  
(Kigali, 15 October 2022)*

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development held its sittings on 12 and 14 October. Both sittings were chaired by the Committee President, Ms. A. Mulder (Netherlands).

### **Debate on the theme of the next resolution entitled *Parliamentary efforts in achieving negative carbon balances of forests***

The debate was organized around the theme of the next Committee's resolution entitled *Parliamentary efforts in achieving negative carbon balances of forests*. The debate provided the co-Rapporteur with initial information about how IPU Member Parliaments approached the issue and an expert opinion on the resolution's subject matter. The theme and key issues for consideration and discussion were introduced by Mr. B. Kaiser, Rector and professor of Applied Economics at the Rottenburg University of Applied Forest Sciences in Germany; and Mr. P. Boeckx, Head of the Isotope Bioscience laboratory and professor in the Department of Green Chemistry and Technology of the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering at Ghent University in Belgium. Mr. C. Hoffman (Germany), co-Rapporteur for the resolution, was also present.

Mr. C. Hoffman introduced the topic noting that in 2019, the UN Secretary-General, Mr. A. Guterres, had called for action to turn the tide on deforestation. Even with ambitious emission reduction, it was unlikely, if not impossible, to meet the international goals of the Paris Agreement pledged in 2015 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Therefore, negative emissions in terms of carbon sequestration were imperative. Climate goals could not be achieved without reducing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Trees – the solar-powered engines that captured carbon from the atmosphere and stored it in the biomass, played an important role in achieving that goal. The world's forests did not only have a potential for climate change mitigation but were also very important for biodiversity conservation. That potential could be released only by stepping up global efforts. Parliamentarians must step up their legal processes to halt deforestation and forest degradation, as well as their efforts on conservation and afforestation, and sustainable forest management.

According to the panellists, forestry could become a source of income but, in order for that to happen, that income must: first, be as plannable as possible in natural, economic, political, and legal terms; second, be regulated at least annually; third, be sufficiently high for people to earn a living and be competitive with other land uses; and finally, secure the supply for the next stages of the value chain. The sustainable use of wood and the availability of further processing capacities for industrial or energetic wood use must also be guaranteed. To ensure forest protection, parliamentarians must ensure: (1) clear ownership of the forests; (2) the long-term use rights of the owner; (3) if possible, that users who only want to exploit the forest for a short period of time are excluded; (4) that the income function of forests is directly linked to the local population; and (5) that further (industrial) processing capacities for the wood is being promoted.

A total of 29 delegates took the floor to share the good practices their countries had put in place to sustain the forest cover in line with the commitments of the Paris Agreement, and their challenges and concerns in implementing international climate commitments.

It was pointed out that the most acceptable ways to increase carbon absorption were afforestation, sustainable forestry management, and deforestation reduction. Governments and global organizations must strengthen their cooperation and establish more partnerships. It was also important to rejuvenate forests by clearing them out and establishing planting cycles, and to have governments secure budgets for those environmental initiatives. Education on the importance of forests for green development and disaster reduction was underlined. Some parliamentarians said that they were raising awareness to that effect among local communities and on the sub-national levels to ensure that all individuals were equipped with the necessary knowledge to contribute meaningfully to a more sound decision-making process that considered their needs and ideas.

In terms of parliamentary functions, oversight of the commitments enshrined in the Paris Agreement, the allocation of budgets for green initiatives, and the enactment of laws to achieve carbon-negative forests were highlighted. The creation of carbon sinks, the enhancement of forest quality, and the restoration of mangroves were also themes raised in the discussion.

### **Preparations for the Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt**

The Chair recalled that the IPU had been promoting parliamentary engagement in climate change for more than a decade and in line with that, she informed the Committee that the IPU was co-organizing with the Parliament of Egypt a Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27), to give parliamentarians an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on the main issues to be discussed at the Conference. The meeting was to be held on 13 November, in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt. Mr. K. Darwish, the meeting's Rapporteur appointed by the Egyptian House of Representatives, spoke of the practical arrangements for the meeting and shared the main points of the draft resolution to be adopted at the meeting. The Standing Committee was invited to provide comments and ideas to further refine the text before its presentation at the Parliamentary Meeting.

The document would be constructed around the following elements: (1) enhancing the principle of human responsibility in non-human aspects such as the biodiversity of ecosystems; (2) asserting that knowledge and science are rights of humanity; (3) asserting the importance of enhancing the right of access to sustainable ecosystems; (4) increasing the use of tools, such as green budgets; (5) making decisions based on scientific evidence while acknowledging the importance of general policies and their linkages to efforts related to fighting climate change; (6) enhancing the capacities of the different institutions specialized in the field of risk analysis, and in particular in risks related to climate change; (7) enhancing the support provided to countries and communities that are in dire need, including through bridging the gap of climate funding, and also by consolidating collaboration with neighbouring countries to respond to challenges arising from climate change with greater coordination.

A total of nine delegates took the floor to share their ideas on the draft document. The debate highlighted that climate change was a borderless phenomenon. Emphasis must thus be placed on climate mitigation, climate justice, and climate finance. Good practices such as the creation of carbon neutrality laws to be reviewed every five years must be put in place. The impact of climate change on agricultural crops, the livestock sector, and migration were other critical points mentioned during the debate. It was noted that the consequences of climate change were mostly affecting poor countries, and that the commitments pledged during the previous COP meetings were not being respected. As regards parliamentary functions, parliamentarians were called to prioritize action on climate change, ensure appropriate budget allocation, and engage in robust oversight of government implementation of climate change activities. The need for capacity building for parliamentarians to better understand climate change was also emphasized.

### **Panel discussion on the theme: *Reconnecting local communities with a local sustainable inclusive economy to achieve the targets of SDG 8***

The discussion and key issues for consideration were introduced by Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium), and Mr. J. Chirove, employment specialist with the International Labour Organization (ILO).

A sustainable and inclusive local economy was important for prosperity and the local economic system. Mr. Gryffroy recalled that the COVID-19 pandemic had caused the loss of 255 million full-time jobs and that it had particularly affected young people and women with low levels of education working in the informal economy who also lacked a social safety net. During the pandemic, many micro and small businesses had to cease their activities. In the aftermath of the pandemic, many countries were expected to return to pre-pandemic levels as businesses started operating in normal conditions. However, some segments of the population and small local businesses would continue to experience difficulties to survive. Small businesses also had to compete with big companies, which made things even more difficult.

Mr. Chirove said that in order to stimulate more and better jobs in local economies, governments must implement a coordinated and comprehensive approach in the planning for employment creation; introduce macroeconomic policy frameworks that consider employment creation outcomes; allocate budgets for employment creation; provide an enabling environment for private sector growth; and involve employers and workers organizations in the development of socio-economic policies through

social dialogue. The ILO could provide support to parliamentarians by encouraging more intensive discussions with parliamentary committees; providing capacity building on pro-employment macro-frameworks and budgeting; delivering employment measurement tools to assess the employment impacts of public investment programmes; and also assisting parliaments in the development of national employment strategies, policies, and targeted employment plans or strategies, focused on youth and other marginalized groups.

A total of 18 delegates took the floor to share their experiences in reconnecting local communities with a local sustainable inclusive economy. The need of establishing policies that benefitted developing countries with a focus on small and medium enterprises and low-income people was presented as a good strategy to respond to the economic crisis triggered by the pandemic. A mechanism should be established that allowed for regular and meaningful engagement between local communities and central governments to foster local, sustainable economic development. To enable such a mechanism and ensure that economic growth benefitted local communities it was important to have decentralized governments and structures, and to acknowledge the importance of sustainable and inclusive local economic growth for the national economy. In this regard, municipalities and local governments should be given greater independence in decision-making processes related to employment, proper financial funds, and human capital to support their local communities. Gender-based differences in terms of irregular and decent jobs were also highlighted.

The Committee held elections to the Bureau and approved the Bureau's proposal to dedicate the Committee's sessions at the 146th IPU Assembly to drafting the resolution.

## Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

*Noted by the 145 IPU Assembly  
(Kigali, 15 October 2022)*

The Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs met in plenary session on 14 October with the Vice-President Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland) in the chair as Ms. S.A. Noor (Kenya) had recently lost her election. Due to a parallel discussion in the main Assembly, related to the war in Ukraine, only 30 parliamentary delegations attended. The session consisted of two panel discussions with high-level United Nations officials.

The first panel focused on the UN response to growing hunger and famine. Mr. S. Krishnaswamy, Head of Research, Analysis and Monitoring for the World Food Programme's (WFP) East Africa Region, and Ms. B. Lazarus, Nairobi Regional Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), presented the 2022 Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC). They were joined by Ms. E. Heines, the World Food Programme's (WFP) Representative and Country Director in Rwanda, and Ms. C. Sow, FAO Country Representative in Rwanda.

The WFP is in the forefront of the humanitarian effort to provide food in urgent need. The FAO helps governments and development agencies coordinate their efforts to improve and develop agriculture as well as land and water resources.

The 2022 GRFC report set the stage for parliamentarians to better understand the worsening hunger and starvation around the world. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) has five phases with the 3rd phase being Crisis, the 4th Emergency, and the 5th Catastrophe/Famine or Famine Likely. The report shows the world is experiencing the highest number of acutely food-insecure people in its history at Phase 3 or above, with over 205 million people in 45 countries in these three phases at the mid-point of 2022. 52 per cent of the people suffering are in five countries – Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Yemen. Acute food insecurity increased in 23 countries and of those, 19 countries saw double digit increases.

The presentation included data on specific areas of concern, including references to the conflicts in the region. According to IPC, some 38.6 million people in 34 countries are in the emergency category, of those at least one million are in ten countries. Consistently since 2016, three countries are in the top ten: Afghanistan, South Sudan and Yemen. Almost half a million people are in phase 5 or the catastrophe phase, with 400,000 people in Tigray Ethiopia alone.

Conflict is too often the cause of food insecurity, with all phase 5 countries in protracted conflicts, and many phase 4 countries experiencing the same.

Economic shocks, particularly the sharp rise in global food prices in the last two years, is visible at the global and country level. The impact of weather extremes also had a high impact. The worst drought in 40 years is having a disastrous impact in East Africa.

Tragically, newer data from UNICEF indicates that 7.5 million children are forecast to be wasted (instead of 6.1 million).

The panellists encouraged the parliamentarians to push for an urgent scaling up of humanitarian assistance. They highlighted the need to work on conflict prevention and to build climate resilience.

Ms. Heines noted that 20% of Rwandans are food insecure with most vulnerable populations spending 65% of their income each month on food. While chronic malnutrition had declined over the years, some 32.4% continue to experience chronic malnutrition. While the WFP was most well known as the emergency arm of the UN, it had a dual mandate – it was working with Rwandans to develop resiliency and human capital. The school feeding programme, which several committee members saw in action on 13 October was a good example of working to enhance farmers' success and food quality for students. A multi-year engagement was necessary, and she encouraged parliamentarians to call for action, influencing their own governments to support aid, particularly in disasters, but also in drawing attention to food security and nutrition in their own countries. The WFP was building resilience and sustainable structures.



Ms. Sow noted that FAO was working on emergencies while also supporting governments to have the right food policy framework. In Rwanda, 70% of all food consumed was accessed in local markets and some 72% of the population was employed in agriculture. Some 12 million young Africans entered the labour market each year; the agriculture sector was the only one to absorb them. Young people were keen to produce high value products and benefit from the Africa Free Trade Area with products like coffee, tea, beans, rice and potatoes. FAO is working to ensure they can meet the high standards for export.

FAO and the WFP work jointly to ensure a coherent approach to government. In 30 districts they are specifically looking to address stunting issues. They engage with the National Parliamentary Alliance for Food and Nutrition Security which the Parliament of Rwanda supports.

Fifteen delegates intervened with comments and questions. They noted the need for conflict prevention, enhanced measures to address climate change, the need for South-South Cooperation, for follow up on the Maputo Declaration, and also, that FAO and WFP workers were often in danger. One Kenyan delegate noted “the death of one child anywhere in the world because of hunger is the death of political leadership everywhere in the world”.

The second panel focused on the UN field presence in support of national development: the case of Rwanda. The new Resident Coordinator (RC) for Rwanda, Mr. O. Ojielo, with just three months in Rwanda but with other UN experiences, called out for parliaments to have a deeper engagement with the United Nations through their RCs. The UN’s role was to provide top notch strategic policy advice, and to support better accountability. He noted that budget oversight, tracking progress on Rwanda’s Vision 2050, and addressing corruption issues were the key issues in their meetings with the Parliament. He encouraged parliamentarians to engage on the Voluntary National Reviews. Five delegates discussed their own engagement with the RCs and committed to working to enhance coordination and engagement upon their return.

In responding to one delegate, the RC noted that the United Nations was accountable to national authorities, and that included parliaments. He encouraged the delegate to demand that UN agencies in his country come to parliament to explain themselves and their work. The United Nations should be supporting the national development agenda defined by the country and was a big source of information. He noted that development should include everyone, and parliamentarians had a role to give voice to the voiceless.

Following the panel discussions, two new members to the Bureau: Ms. R. Tonkei (Kenya) and Mr. E. Bustamente (Peru) were elected. The committee thanked Ms. A. Noor of Kenya who had served as Chair until her recent election defeat and decided to ask Mr. Wehrli (Switzerland) to remain as acting Chair until the 146th Assembly in Bahrain.

## IPU Budget for 2023

*Approved by the IPU Governing Council at its 210th session  
(Kigali, 12 October 2022)*

	2022 Budget	2023 Budget		
		Regular budget	Other sources	All funds
Assessed contributions	10,920,800	11,248,400		11,248,400
Working Capital Fund (IPSAS)	230,000	230,000		230,000
Working Capital Fund (liquid)	392,000	382,400		382,400
Staff assessment	1,089,400	1,158,500		1,158,500
Interest	100,000	100,000		100,000
Programme support costs	0	399,000	(399,000)	0
Other revenue	16,000	16,000		16,000
Voluntary contributions	5,257,700		5,386,800	5,386,800
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>18,005,900</b>	<b>13,534,300</b>	<b>4,987,800</b>	<b>18,522,100</b>
<b>1. Building effective and empowered parliaments</b>	<b>4,889,800</b>	<b>2,119,400</b>	<b>2,687,500</b>	<b>4,806,900</b>
<b>2. Promoting inclusive and representative parliaments</b>	<b>993,100</b>	<b>595,200</b>	<b>520,900</b>	<b>1,116,100</b>
<b>3. Supporting resilient and innovative parliaments</b>	<b>886,700</b>	<b>345,200</b>	<b>699,700</b>	<b>1,044,900</b>
<b>4. Catalysing collective parliamentary action</b>	<b>7,724,800</b>	<b>6,788,500</b>	<b>1,421,200</b>	<b>8,209,700</b>
<b>5. Strengthening the IPU's accountability</b>	<b>3,793,400</b>	<b>3,578,400</b>	<b>57,500</b>	<b>3,635,900</b>
Other charges	107,600	107,600		107,600
Eliminations	(389,500)		(389,500)	(389,500)
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>18,005,900</b>	<b>13,534,300</b>		<b>18,522,100</b>

### Approved 2023 capital budget

Item	2023
1. Replacement of computers and servers	35,000
2. Furniture	15,000
3. Website development	100,000
<b>Total capital expenditures</b>	<b>150,000</b>

## Approved programme and budget for 2023

### Scale of contributions for 2023 based on the UN scale of assessment

*Approved by the IPU Governing Council at its 210th session  
(Kigali, 12 October 2022)*

Country name	UN 2022–2024	Approved 2023 scale	
	Per cent	Per cent	CHF
Afghanistan	0.006%	0.110%	12,400
Albania	0.008%	0.110%	12,400
Algeria	0.109%	0.240%	27,000
Andorra	0.005%	0.110%	12,400
Angola	0.010%	0.110%	12,400
Argentina	0.719%	0.940%	105,700
Armenia	0.007%	0.110%	12,400
Australia	2.111%	2.470%	277,800
Austria	0.679%	0.890%	100,100
Azerbaijan	0.030%	0.140%	15,700
Bahrain	0.054%	0.170%	19,100
Bangladesh	0.010%	0.110%	12,400
Belarus	0.041%	0.150%	16,900
Belgium	0.828%	1.060%	119,200
Benin	0.005%	0.110%	12,400
Bhutan	0.001%	0.100%	11,200
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.019%	0.120%	13,500
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.012%	0.120%	13,500
Botswana	0.015%	0.120%	13,500
Brazil	2.013%	2.370%	266,600
Bulgaria	0.056%	0.170%	19,100
Burkina Faso	0.004%	0.100%	11,200
Burundi	0.001%	0.100%	11,200
Cabo Verde	0.001%	0.100%	11,200
Cambodia	0.007%	0.110%	12,400
Cameroon	0.013%	0.120%	13,500
Canada	2.628%	3.030%	340,800
Central African Republic	0.001%	0.100%	11,200
Chad	0.003%	0.100%	11,200
Chile	0.420%	0.600%	67,500
China	15.254%	11.750%	1,321,700
Colombia	0.246%	0.400%	45,000
Comoros	0.001%	0.100%	11,200
Congo	0.005%	0.110%	12,400
Costa Rica	0.069%	0.190%	21,400
Côte d'Ivoire	0.022%	0.130%	14,600
Croatia	0.091%	0.220%	24,700
Cuba	0.095%	0.220%	24,700
Cyprus	0.036%	0.150%	16,900
Czech Republic	0.340%	0.510%	57,400
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.005%	0.110%	12,400
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.010%	0.110%	12,400
Denmark	0.553%	0.750%	84,400
Djibouti	0.001%	0.100%	11,200
Dominican Republic	0.067%	0.190%	21,400
Ecuador	0.077%	0.200%	22,500
Egypt	0.139%	0.270%	30,400
El Salvador	0.013%	0.120%	13,500

Country name	UN 2022–2024	Approved 2023 scale	
	Per cent	Per cent	CHF
Equatorial Guinea	0.012%	0.120%	13,500
Estonia	0.044%	0.160%	18,000
Eswatini	0.002%	0.100%	11,200
Ethiopia	0.010%	0.110%	12,400
Fiji	0.004%	0.100%	11,200
Finland	0.417%	0.600%	67,500
France	4.318%	4.820%	542,200
Gabon	0.013%	0.120%	13,500
Gambia (the)	0.001%	0.100%	11,200
Georgia	0.008%	0.110%	12,400
Germany	6.111%	6.630%	745,800
Ghana	0.024%	0.130%	14,600
Greece	0.325%	0.490%	55,100
Guatemala	0.041%	0.150%	16,900
Guinea	0.003%	0.100%	11,200
Guinea-Bissau	0.001%	0.100%	11,200
Guyana	0.004%	0.100%	11,200
Haiti	0.006%	0.110%	12,400
Hungary	0.228%	0.380%	42,700
Iceland	0.036%	0.150%	16,900
India	1.044%	1.300%	146,200
Indonesia	0.549%	0.750%	84,400
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.371%	0.540%	60,700
Iraq	0.128%	0.260%	29,200
Ireland	0.439%	0.620%	69,700
Israel	0.561%	0.760%	85,500
Italy	3.189%	3.630%	408,300
Japan	8.033%	8.490%	955,000
Jordan	0.022%	0.130%	14,600
Kazakhstan	0.133%	0.270%	30,400
Kenya	0.030%	0.140%	15,700
Kuwait	0.234%	0.390%	43,900
Kyrgyzstan	0.002%	0.100%	11,200
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.007%	0.110%	12,400
Latvia	0.050%	0.160%	18,000
Lebanon	0.036%	0.150%	16,900
Lesotho	0.001%	0.100%	11,200
Libya	0.018%	0.120%	13,500
Liechtenstein	0.010%	0.110%	12,400
Lithuania	0.077%	0.200%	22,500
Luxembourg	0.068%	0.190%	21,400
Madagascar	0.004%	0.100%	11,200
Malawi	0.002%	0.100%	11,200
Malaysia	0.348%	0.520%	58,500
Maldives	0.004%	0.100%	11,200
Mali	0.005%	0.110%	12,400
Malta	0.019%	0.120%	13,500
Marshall Islands	0.001%	0.100%	11,200
Mauritania	0.002%	0.100%	11,200
Mauritius	0.019%	0.120%	13,500
Mexico	1.221%	1.500%	168,700
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001%	0.100%	11,200
Monaco	0.011%	0.110%	12,400
Mongolia	0.004%	0.100%	11,200
Montenegro	0.004%	0.100%	11,200
Morocco	0.055%	0.170%	19,100
Mozambique	0.004%	0.100%	11,200

Country name	UN 2022–2024	Approved 2023 scale	
	Per cent	Per cent	CHF
Myanmar	0.010%	0.110%	12,400
Namibia	0.009%	0.110%	12,400
Nepal	0.010%	0.110%	12,400
Netherlands	1.377%	1.670%	187,900
New Zealand	0.309%	0.470%	52,900
Nicaragua	0.005%	0.110%	12,400
Niger	0.003%	0.100%	11,200
Nigeria	0.182%	0.320%	36,000
North Macedonia	0.007%	0.110%	12,400
Norway	0.679%	0.890%	100,100
Oman	0.111%	0.240%	27,000
Pakistan	0.114%	0.240%	27,000
Palau	0.001%	0.100%	11,200
Palestine		0.100%	11,200
Panama	0.090%	0.210%	23,600
Paraguay	0.026%	0.130%	14,600
Peru	0.163%	0.300%	33,700
Philippines	0.212%	0.360%	40,500
Poland	0.837%	1.070%	120,400
Portugal	0.353%	0.520%	58,500
Qatar	0.269%	0.430%	48,400
Republic of Korea	2.574%	2.970%	334,100
Republic of Moldova	0.005%	0.110%	12,400
Romania	0.312%	0.480%	54,000
Russian Federation	1.866%	2.210%	248,600
Rwanda	0.003%	0.100%	11,200
Saint Lucia	0.002%	0.100%	11,200
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001%	0.100%	11,200
Samoa	0.001%	0.100%	11,200
San Marino	0.002%	0.100%	11,200
Sao Tome and Principe	0.001%	0.100%	11,200
Saudi Arabia	1.184%	1.460%	164,200
Senegal	0.007%	0.110%	12,400
Serbia	0.032%	0.140%	15,700
Seychelles	0.002%	0.100%	11,200
Sierra Leone	0.001%	0.100%	11,200
Singapore	0.504%	0.700%	78,700
Slovakia	0.155%	0.290%	32,600
Slovenia	0.079%	0.200%	22,500
Somalia	0.001%	0.100%	11,200
South Africa	0.244%	0.400%	45,000
South Sudan	0.002%	0.100%	11,200
Spain	2.134%	2.500%	281,200
Sri Lanka	0.045%	0.160%	18,000
Suriname	0.003%	0.100%	11,200
Sweden	0.871%	1.110%	124,900
Switzerland	1.134%	1.400%	157,500
Syrian Arab Republic	0.009%	0.110%	12,400
Tajikistan	0.003%	0.100%	11,200
Thailand	0.368%	0.540%	60,700
Timor-Leste	0.001%	0.100%	11,200
Togo	0.002%	0.100%	11,200
Tonga	0.001%	0.100%	11,200
Trinidad and Tobago	0.037%	0.150%	16,900
Tunisia	0.019%	0.120%	13,500
Türkiye	0.845%	1.080%	121,500
Turkmenistan	0.034%	0.140%	15,700

Country name	UN 2022–2024	Approved 2023 scale	
	Per cent	Per cent	CHF
Tuvalu	0.001%	0.100%	11,200
Uganda	0.010%	0.110%	12,400
Ukraine	0.056%	0.170%	19,100
United Arab Emirates	0.635%	0.840%	94,500
United Kingdom	4.375%	4.870%	547,800
United Republic of Tanzania	0.010%	0.110%	12,400
Uruguay	0.092%	0.220%	24,700
Uzbekistan	0.027%	0.140%	15,700
Vanuatu	0.001%	0.100%	11,200
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.175%	0.320%	36,000
Viet Nam	0.093%	0.220%	24,700
Yemen	0.008%	0.110%	12,400
Zambia	0.008%	0.110%	12,400
Zimbabwe	0.007%	0.110%	12,400

Associate Member	UN 2022–2024	Approved 2023 scale	
	Per cent	Per cent	CHF
Andean Parliament		0.020%	2,200
Arab Parliament		0.020%	2,200
Central American Parliament		0.020%	2,200
East African Legislative Assembly		0.020%	2,200
European Parliament		0.060%	6,700
Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States		0.020%	2,200
Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union		0.020%	2,200
Latin American and Caribbean Parliament		0.020%	2,200
Pan-African Parliament		0.020%	2,200
Parliament of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community		0.020%	2,200
Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States		0.020%	2,200
Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation		0.020%	2,200
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe		0.040%	4,500
Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie		0.020%	2,200
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>11,248,400</b>



# Report of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 210th session  
(Kigali, 15 October 2022)*

1. The 34th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was held on 11 October 2022. It brought together 191 participants, including 139 parliamentarians (128 women and 11 men) from 78 countries and representatives from various international organizations.

## **Election of the President and delivery of welcome addresses**

2. The President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine) opened the session. The Forum elected Ms. E. Nyirasafari, Vice-President of the Senate (Rwanda), to the Presidency of its 34th session. The Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of Rwanda Ms. D. Mukabalisa and the IPU President Mr. D. Pacheco welcomed the participants to the Forum and to the 145th IPU Assembly.

## **The IPU's actions aimed at promoting gender equality**

3. As the Gender Partnership Group had not yet met, the Forum Secretary Ms. Z. Hilal informed participants about the gender balance in delegations to the 145<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

4. The participants were informed about the IPU's recent and future activities on gender equality. Ms. M. M. Chinomona, President of the Senate of Zimbabwe, and Ms. P. Maharani, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Indonesia, presented a report on the 14th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament which was held on 8 and 9 September 2022 in Tashkent (Uzbekistan). Ms. H. Fayez (Bahrain) informed the participants about the activities linked to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee). The Forum Secretary informed the participants about the forthcoming regional conference for African parliaments entitled *Preventing and Responding to Violence against Women in Politics and in Parliaments* to be held on 30 November and 1 December 2022 in Lomé (Togo).

## **Bureau of Women Parliamentarians**

5. Ms. Vasylenko presented a summary of the work carried out at the 47th session of the Bureau held in March 2022 in Nusa Dua and at the 48th session that was held on 14 October in Kigali.

6. The Bureau met again on 15 October to take stock of the results of the 145th Assembly on gender issues and to discuss the way forward.

## **Contributions to the work of the 145th Assembly from a gender perspective**

7. As their contribution to the Assembly, the participants examined, from a gender perspective, the draft resolution before the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights 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 discussion opened with the introductory presentation by Mr. P. Beyer (Germany), co-Rapporteur of the resolution. The debate continued in plenary presided by Ms. A. Nassif (Egypt) and with Ms. N. Bujela (Eswatini) as Rapporteur. Participants recommended a human-rights based and gender-sensitive approach to migration; addressing the root causes of the trafficking of women and girls, including for sexual exploitation, and combating human trafficking with focus on the rights and needs of survivors.

8. Throughout the migration cycle, when fleeing for their lives, women and girls face specific discrimination and gender-based violence. They are also under serious risk of being trafficked, in particular for sexual exploitation. The Forum considered that legislative, law enforcement and educational measures in the fight against human trafficking must combat the demand for exploitative goods and services; the trafficking of orphans; and the use of technology and online platforms as drivers of trafficking. It is also imperative to ensure that migrant women in situations of modern slavery and sex trafficking, are always treated as victims and receive the support they need regardless of their migratory status in a country.

9. The debate resulted in the formulation of two amendments to the Standing Committee's draft resolution, and a number of amendments proposed by national delegations were supported. The proposed amendments were taken into account in the draft resolution and reinforced its gender dimension.

**Panel discussion on the theme *Gender-sensitive parliaments: Parliaments free from sexism, harassment, and violence against women***

10. In the context of the 10th anniversary of the IPU's Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments, the panel discussion focused on concrete solutions to create a culture of equality and zero-tolerance to all forms of sexism in parliaments. A parliament where a climate of violence against women prevails will fail in its duty to be representative, efficient and effective, as well as in its mission to serve the population in its diversity. The debate highlighted policies and mechanisms for the prevention of and response to sexism and gender-based violence in parliamentary space, and provided an opportunity to have an exchange of experiences on these initiatives.

11. The meeting began with the opening remarks by the IPU Secretary General and Chair of the Global Board of the International Gender Champions, Mr. M. Chungong. Several panellists gave presentations on parliamentary initiatives put in place to combat sexism and all forms of gender-based violence against women parliamentarians and parliamentary staff, as follows: Ms. C. Mix (Chile), Ms. J. Dean (New Zealand), Ms. E. Anyakun (Uganda) and Ms. S. Childs, professor of politics and gender at the University of Edinburgh.

12. Participants called for action to combat discrimination, sexist culture and all forms of sexist violence that still prevail in parliaments. Among other measures, they recommended the following: training to prevent sexism and harassment in parliament, independent reporting and complaint mechanisms, and the putting into place of confidential spaces where victims can get information and support. It is also crucial to apply sanctions when a complaint procedure reveals poor conduct. The debate also highlighted the importance of collaborating with the media so that they may disseminate relevant information on the participation of women in politics and the violence they may face.

**Parity debate**

13. The Forum of Women Parliamentarians organized a parity debate on the theme *Rejuvenating parliaments: Why younger and gender-sensitive parliaments are more effective and efficient institutions*. The debate examined the needs, expectations and aspirations of a more diverse generation of men and women parliamentarians. The focus was on practical ways of reconciling parliamentary activities and family responsibilities. The debate also opened a new field of discussion on the use of new technologies in parliament and how these technologies can support equality rather than undermining it.

**Elections to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians**

14. To fill the vacant seat for the Twelve Plus Group, the participants elected Ms. R. Kavakci Kan (Türkiye), and to fill the vacant seat in the African Group, the participants elected Ms. C. Muyeka Mumma (Kenya).

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## Report of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 210th session  
(Kigali, 15 October 2022)*

The Forum of Young Parliamentarians was held on 12 October 2022. It brought together 125 participants, including 84 parliamentarians (26 young women and 58 young men) from 62 countries, as well as representatives from various international organizations. In the absence of the President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, Ms. S. Albazar (Egypt), the meeting was presided over by Mr. M. Rakotomalala (Madagascar), the youngest Member of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians in attendance at the Assembly.

The IPU President and Secretary General welcomed the participants and expressed their support for the cause of youth participation. They stressed the role of young parliamentarians as champions of innovation in parliaments, including through efforts to modernize parliaments to make them more gender sensitive. Young MPs had an opportunity to help usher in greater use of digital technologies and promote inclusivity of all cohorts of society. They urged the young MPs to continue to push for change in parliaments and within the IPU.

The members of the Forum reported on key developments on youth participation in their respective countries. This included the creation of youth caucuses, youth wings of political parties, empowerment opportunities for young parliamentarians, and events held both online and in person to better channel youth perspectives in parliament. The members of the Forum also highlighted their commitment to the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign, including efforts they had made to promote and implement the campaign in their home countries. The members of the Forum thanked the IPU for its support in creating the campaign, and providing assistance to parliaments in promoting it at national level, as well as in the implementation of its pledges. The obstacles arising from the war in Ukraine, the food crisis and a looming global recession were also raised, with a call for greater solidarity and cooperation to address these issues as a global community.

In order to exchange good practices in advancing implementation of the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign, the young MPs held a question and answer session on mentoring and empowering young aspirants to political office. The members of the Forum shared many experiences and good practices on how to engage youth in parliament through both formal and informal means. The Rwandan practice of reserving two seats in parliament for one man and one woman elected through the national youth council was showcased. Other examples included creating youth parliaments to channel youth perspectives into parliamentary proceedings. In many countries, political parties played an important role in engaging youth, through the creation of youth wings, but also by holding special elections for young people, in some cases as young as 14, for party positions. Less formal ways of mentoring young aspirants were also presented, including inviting young men and women for hearings and dialogues with parliamentarians. Training initiatives such as mock parliaments were also highlighted. The obstacle of funding, especially for young people hoping to finance election efforts, was also raised as a challenge to be overcome.

The members of the Forum exchanged views on the main theme of the General Debate of the Assembly on *Gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers of change for a more resilient and peaceful world*. They reiterated the view that youth and innovation go hand in hand, including when working towards making parliaments more gender-sensitive. The young MPs regretted that too many parliaments were still ill-equipped to support the participation of young people given their stage of life, the parents of young children for example. Although much work remained to be done, the young members raised examples of where young MPs and their related parliamentary bodies had acted as vectors for innovation in that regard, such as youth caucuses providing feeding rooms for young mothers, and young MPs spearheading efforts to combat sexism, harassment and discrimination both in parliament and on social media. They also affirmed that to be fully modern and to cater to the needs of all cohorts of society, parliaments needed to be fully inclusive. This included women and youth, but also minorities, indigenous people, people with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ people and more. The young MPs also voiced their opposition to the impacts of war and violence, which prevented young men and women from exercising their mandates.

A youth overview report aimed at contributing youth perspectives to the IPU resolution on *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*, was presented. In their discussions, the young MPs called on countries to pass and implement a human rights-based approach in legislation and policymaking to combat human trafficking, especially regarding young people.

In preparation for the 146th IPU Assembly, to be held in March 2023, the Forum appointed Mr. U. Lechte (Germany) to prepare a youth overview report on the resolution on *Cyberattacks and cybercrimes: The new risks to global security*.

They also appointed Mr. M. Rakotomalala (Madagascar), to prepare a youth overview report as a contribution to the IPU resolution on *Parliamentary efforts in achieving negative carbon balances of forests*.

The young MPs overwhelmingly expressed the view that, in order to achieve greater impact in empowering youth, parliaments needed to devote greater financial and technical resources to the cause. During the meeting of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians earlier that day, Board members had expressed particular concern about the absence of many of their fellow elected members from the meeting. For the Forum to effectively contribute to the IPU Strategy's policy goal of empowering young people, and to ensure the IPU walked the talk on empowering young parliamentarians, they urged parliaments whose members held elected office on the Board to prioritize the inclusion of those young MPs in their delegations.

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## Report of the Committee on Middle East Questions

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 210th session  
(Kigali, 15 October 2022)*

Two sittings of the Committee were held, on 28 July and 11 October 2022, with at least eight members in attendance at each. The Committee agreed on the importance of its mandate in achieving peace through working together, building relationships through parliamentary diplomacy, and uniting to find solutions to common challenges.

Members heard a report from the IPU Secretariat on the Committee's activities since the 144th IPU Assembly. The IPU Secretariat had worked in collaboration with the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) on developing the IPU Science for Peace Schools, an advanced training programme allowing parliamentary staff from around the world to work together on addressing global challenges and to experience models of scientific cooperation. The first session would be held at CERN in December 2022, focusing on the exploration of new and renewable sources of water. The Committee agreed that it was by establishing activities with concretely identifiable impact that they could contribute to achieving peace in the region.

Members emphasized their desire to visit the region. It was agreed that, to ensure such a visit was as successful and efficient as possible, it should be postponed to 2023 due to recent unexpected developments, as well as upcoming elections in Israel.

At both sittings, the Committee discussed the 10 communications received by the IPU on the situation in the Middle East since its last meeting at the 144th Assembly in March 2022. The communications referred to the escalation of violence and settlements in Israel and Palestine, threats to freedom of worship, water security in Egypt and Sudan, the alleged restriction on access to water in the Syrian Arab Republic by Türkiye, and the humanitarian situation in Yemen.

During its sitting on 11 October, the Committee heard a briefing on recent developments in the Middle East, including both positive and worrying developments for peaceful relations. Members noted the role that the Islamic Republic of Iran had played in creating disturbances in the region. It was important to emphasize positive developments and demonstrate how these could be built upon to find solutions. The Committee agreed that focus should be placed on elements that united them, notably all peoples' desire for peace and freedom. Neither Israelis nor Palestinians were benefiting from the current situation, both were suffering, with women and children most affected. Members welcomed recent statements by both Israeli and Palestinian leaders in support of the two-State solution. However, to renew confidence in the peace process, all sides should be focused on determining the core issues of the conflict, and on implementing solutions, as opposed to treating surface-level symptoms. Living in peace was in the best interest of both Israelis and Palestinians.

During its sitting on 28 July, the Committee was briefed on developments in Yemen by the Speaker of the Yemeni Parliament, Mr. S.S. Al Barkani. The Yemeni people were suffering immensely despite a truce. International law and agreements were not being respected by the Houthi militias. Yemen was undergoing an alarming food crisis, exacerbated by the situation in Ukraine. More action from the international community in terms of mediation and the provision of humanitarian aid was needed. Yemen should remain high on the Committee's agenda. The IPU Secretariat had engaged in discussions with the Parliament of Yemen to establish its needs regarding technical assistance to support its rehabilitation.

During its sitting on 11 October, the Committee was briefed on developments in Libya by the Deputy Speaker of the Libyan House of Representatives, Mr. F. Salim, and the Secretary General of the Libyan House of Representatives, Mr. A. Mussa. Libya was experiencing strong internal tensions between institutions as well as foreign interference. The Libyan population wanted to live in peace and had a right to a Libyan-led solution to establish security in the country and the region. The Libyan representatives asked that the IPU support Libya in finding political stability through technical assistance and that the Committee discourage foreign interference. The Committee agreed that Libya should continue to maintain meaningful communication on the support it needed for a Libyan-led solution, notably in the rebuilding of functioning institutions.

During its sitting on 28 July, members agreed that food security was a topic of great importance, as the war in Ukraine had significant implications in the region. At its sitting on 11 October, members heard a briefing by Mr. S. Nakouzi from the Food and Agriculture Organization on the food security crisis in the Middle East caused by the Ukraine crisis. Mr. Nakouzi explained that the region was facing multifaceted food security challenges, but current responses were neither proactive nor sufficient. An enhanced focus to transform agrifood systems through policies and fiscal allocations was needed. Social protection mechanisms should be tailored towards ensuring access to affordable healthy diets. The Committee commended Türkiye for its role in enabling a grain export deal between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, establishing hope for future peaceful solutions to such global crises.

At the first sitting, Mr. M. Burchard, from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), briefed members on UNRWA's role in providing aid to Palestinian refugees in the region. UNRWA's presence had prevented refugees from falling into deeper poverty and resorting to radicalization. In recent years, the situation had deteriorated in several countries in the region, entailing an increased reliance on UNRWA. Despite the indisputable value of the Agency's work, it was not matched with adequate financial resources to allow UNRWA to fulfil its mandate. Members agreed that the parties involved and the international community were responsible for finding a solution to the conflict. UNRWA's humanitarian mandate was to protect refugees since the international community had failed to find a solution.

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## Report of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 210th session  
(Kigali, 15 October 2022)*

1. The Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) met on 12 October 2022. The Committee elected Mr. J. Kiarie from Kenya as its new President for a one-year term, renewable once.
2. The Committee heard a brief update on recent developments with regard to specific IHL and refugee crisis situations which it has been monitoring over the past few years. These include recent developments with regard to refugees or displaced populations in/from Afghanistan, Myanmar and Ukraine. Specific information on these situations can be found below.
3. In general, Committee members noted with concern the multiplication of situations of conflict and the growth in the numbers of men and women, boys and girls having to flee to escape from violence and persecution. The Committee strongly expressed a call for wars to stop, for international humanitarian law to be respected and for humanitarian assistance to be provided in support of refugees and internally displaced populations. It called on parliaments to discuss support for such efforts as there was a strong need to build multilateral cooperation to respond to the dramatic situations faced not only in Ukraine but also in other parts of the world. Refugees from Afghanistan and Myanmar, as well as in the horn of Africa and other parts of the world needed urgent help and assistance. Committee members highlighted the need to also provide support to host countries.
4. The Committee re-expressed its support to parliaments mobilizing to end statelessness. It noted that the UNHCR *#IBelong* campaign to end Statelessness by 2024 was entering its last phase. The Committee will hold a separate meeting with UNHCR to be briefed on that subject and develop a workplan for the years to come.

5. The Committee was briefed on the follow-up to the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) and the implementation of the pledges made. IPU Members were invited to follow up on their country's pledges (see <https://globalcompactrefugees.org/index.php/>). The Committee also agreed to hold an information session on the Global Compact for Refugees and the GRF at the next Assembly in Bahrain.
6. The Committee welcomed the organization by the IPU and UNHCR of the virtual global event on climate change and displaced populations, held in September and attracting more than 600 participants. This theme will be pursued and factored into the IPU Parliamentary meeting at COP27 in Egypt. The Committee also welcomed the proposed organization of a global webinar on *Refugees and education*.
7. The Committee discussed its cooperation with the ICRC, including preparations for a webinar for parliamentarians on the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions in 2022 to mark the 45th anniversary of the Protocols. The Committee also agreed to develop work towards the universalization and implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. It further agreed on the need to pursue awareness-raising efforts in parliaments on issues related to IHL and the Ottawa Convention.

### **Overview of recent developments related to refugees and internally displaced persons with regard to Afghanistan, Myanmar and Ukraine**

#### **Afghanistan**

Afghan new arrivals to neighbouring countries since August 2021 amount to **1,268,730** (Iran: 1M, Pakistan: 250K, Uzbekistan: 13K, Tajikistan: 5,710), out of which 187,000 sought international protection. In total, 3.6 million Afghans are reported in Iran, of which 780,000 are registered refugees; 3.3 million Afghans are reported in Pakistan, of which 1.29 million are registered refugees. The new arrivals in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan are comprised of 52% children and 22% adult women.

Three and half million people (estimated) are currently internally displaced by conflict in Afghanistan, while 1M internally displaced people have returned to their place of origin since June 2021. The political change of August 2021 pushed Afghanistan into a humanitarian and economic crisis. 18.9 million people are estimated to be acutely food insecure.

Circumstances continue to deteriorate in Afghanistan, which leads hundreds of thousands of Afghans to attempt perilous and life-threatening cross-border journeys. Lack of regular migration pathways and challenging visa procedures leave no option other than smuggling for many trying to leave. Smugglers are considered as one of the main perpetrators of protection incidents (physical violence, detention, death, robbery)

*Sources: UNHCR, WFP, Reliefweb*

#### **Myanmar**

Over 1 million refugees and asylum-seekers from Myanmar have fled to neighbouring countries (943K in Bangladesh, 48K in India, [estimated] 5K in Thailand). Over 1.3 million are internally displaced within Myanmar.

The security situation has continued to deteriorate; in Rakhine and Chin States (South), incidents of arbitrary arrests and detention, increased checkpoints on roads and waterways and restrictions on the transportations of goods have been reported, leading to shortages of food, medicine and other essential items, movement restrictions and barriers to life-saving healthcare and livelihoods. Movements of people and goods are largely impacted by shortages of goods, including food, medicines and fuel, as well as security checkpoints, armed clashes and landmines.

UNHCR continues to negotiate for access within Myanmar to conduct needs assessments and deliver core relief items.

Dire conditions continue in camps in Bangladesh leading hundreds of Rohingya refugees to pay for smugglers each year to move onwards, often via dangerous sea crossings.

*Sources: UNHCR, Reliefweb*



## Ukraine

As of mid-September 2022, over 7.6 million persons (UNHCR) have fled into neighbouring countries, with many continuing their journey onwards to other destinations. 90% are women and children. Close to 4 million refugees have applied for temporary protection or a similar national protection scheme. An additional 6,243,000 people (IOM) are displaced within Ukraine and 17.7 million are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance inside the country.

Winter is likely to cause further displacement due to inadequate shelter, which particularly impacts the most vulnerable groups (the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with chronic illnesses and children).

Hostilities continue in Eastern and Southern Ukraine, with more reports of civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure, including wider scale disruptions in power and water supplies. In September 2022 alone, OHCHR recorded 1,222 civilian casualties in Ukraine (299 killed and 923 injured), leading to a total of 15,246 recorded casualties since 24 February 2022 (6,114 killed and 9,132 injured); the actual figure is likely to be significantly higher, as the receipt of information from certain locations where intense hostilities are ongoing can delay reports and corroboration.

Sources: UNHCR, IOM, Reliefweb

### Neighbouring refugee hosting countries ([UNHCR Data portal](#))

**Hungary:** 30,000 refugees registered for temporary protection.

**Republic of Moldova:** Over 93,000 refugees from Ukraine are estimated to have remained in Republic of Moldova.

**Poland:** 1,422,482 refugees registered for temporary protection. Over 283,000 refugees have received multipurpose cash assistance.

**Romania:** 67,064 refugees registered for temporary protection; 22,143 refugees have received multipurpose cash assistance.

**Slovakia:** 96,140 refugees registered for temporary protection; 31,441 refugees have received multipurpose cash assistance.

**Russian Federation:** According to data provided by the Russian authorities, 2.8 million refugees from Ukraine have arrived in Russia since the onset of the conflict. Since 24 February, UNHCR partner the Russian Red Cross Society has provided in-person counselling in the Russian Federation to 11,200 refugees and displaced persons from Ukraine in the border regions.

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## Report of the Advisory Group on Health

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 210th Session  
(Kigali, 15 October 2022)*

The IPU Advisory Group on Health met on 12 October, with five out of eight members in attendance. It also welcomed technical partners from the World Health Organization, the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, UNAIDS, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The Advisory Group was briefed on the collaboration between the IPU and the Parliament of Rwanda in the area of women's, children's and adolescents' health. It congratulated the Parliament of Rwanda on the results it had achieved in passing legislation on reproductive health and civil registration, and the improvements made in terms of maternal and child health indicators. As the focal point for the implementation of the health component of the IPU Strategy, the Advisory Group discussed effective strategies to identify and reach vulnerable and marginalized populations. It highlighted the cultural and social barriers limiting the dissemination of information on sexual and reproductive health and access to related services. It was crucial to build trust among the population by working with relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, youth organizations and religious leaders. The Advisory Group also identified quality of care and women's empowerment as important factors for better health outcomes.

The IPU Secretariat presented its work on health and climate change under the IPU Strategy for 2022-2026. The Advisory Group agreed on the importance of strengthening synergies between these two areas, in particular with regard to nutrition, the impact of climate change on health, and climate-induced migration.

Finally, the Advisory Group was briefed on the work of GAVI, The Vaccine Alliance, and its collaboration with the IPU to promote parliamentary engagement on immunization and universal health coverage.

The Advisory Group decided to hold a field visit in 2023 to help it continue to provide recommendations to parliaments on how to improve access to health. It also proposed to hold a side event on comprehensive sexuality education at the 146th IPU Assembly.

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

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 210th session  
(Kigali, 15 October 2022)*

A sitting of the High-Level Advisory Council on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG) was held in camera on 12 October 2022, with 13 members in attendance and 3 special guests. The members adopted the agenda and approved the report of the 11th HLAG meeting.

The HLAG discussed the importance for its mandate of finding a working definition of terrorism to be able to propose effective counter-terrorism legislation to the IPU Member Parliaments. The IPU Secretariat gave a brief historical overview of the United Nation's attempts to define terrorism. HLAG members reiterated that acts of terrorism had changed, that earlier definitions were no longer appropriate, and that it was necessary to create a new working definition for HLAG's purposes. They agreed that the concept was challenging as "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter". It was important to have a definition formulated on the basis of a consensus and not on personal political agendas.

The IPU Secretariat briefed the members on the latest updates regarding the *Call of the Sahel*, and the upcoming meetings on the themes *Addressing environmental degradation and its effects on the proliferation of terrorism* and *Engaging communities in the prevention of violent extremism and addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism*. Mr. N. Tankoano, Executive Secretary of the Interparliamentary Committee of the G5 Sahel (CIP-G5 Sahel), briefed the HLAG on the situation in the Sahel region. Members agreed that the situation was grave and that urgent action was needed.

Mr. S. Stroobants, expert of the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP), gave a presentation on the Global Terrorism Index 2022, analysing the impact of terrorism on the increasingly deteriorating situation of the Sahel region, which has become the global hotspot for terrorist activities. Mr. Stroobants warned that the environmental situation of the Sahel was worsening, and that food and water scarcity would increasingly lead to more violence.

Mr. M.N. Hounkonnou, President of the Network of African Science Academies, gave a briefing on the state of education in the Sahel countries and its relation to the increase in violence and radicalization. He emphasized that the population of the Sahel was mostly composed of youth with varying degrees of illiteracy. Illiteracy and lack of schooling were important issues that must be tackled, as they exposed children to organized crime, recruitment by armed groups and radicalization. It was important that the *Call of the Sahel* had a holistic approach to the problem because better education alone would not be enough to eradicate terrorism from the Sahel. Yet, the Sahel without education would not be free from terrorism.

Given that the HLAG was the focal point for parliamentary action on terrorism, the members discussed broadening the approach of the *Call of the Sahel*, which would require action by more committees and experts. It was pointed out that more emphasis had to be put on the protection and inclusion of women in countering terrorism efforts. Ms. S. Markiewicz, IPU consultant, presented a draft conflict context analysis on the Sahel.

The HLAG members noted that the *Call of the Sahel* was one of the most important projects of the IPU. They pointed out that the tragedies of the war in Ukraine should not overshadow the tragedies in other parts of the world, especially in the Sahel countries. The global attention given to the war in Ukraine had shown that there was the need to take the same humanitarian stance in all cases, as victims were victims the world over.

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## Report of the Working Group on Science and Technology

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 210th session  
(Kigali, 15 October 2022)*

Two sittings of the Working Group were held, in Quy Nhon, Viet Nam on 13 September and in Kigali, Rwanda on 14 October 2022. Eight or more members attended these sittings.

During its sitting on 13 September, the Working Group discussed its role in the implementation of science in the IPU's work in the context of the IPU 2022-2026 Strategy. Members agreed that they should determine specific objectives and approaches related to science and technology to strengthen the IPU's work on science. A coherent strategy would ensure the Working Group's continued success, which could be further strengthened by building links with other IPU bodies.

The Working Group agreed that a core element of its work should be the improvement of channels of dialogue between science and politics, ensuring that science was considered throughout political decision-making at all levels. During its second sitting, the Working Group heard a briefing from Dr. Ross Smith, Former President of Science and Technology Australia, on the ways in which dialogue between scientists and parliamentarians had been improved and institutionalized in Australia. The weight placed on this dialogue ensured that parliamentarians had the evidence to guide their policymaking, empowering both sides and enabling constructive communication. Members from Thailand, Ireland and Benin shared best practices in their respective countries with regard to the strengthening of engagement between parliamentarians and the scientific community. Nonetheless, a shortage of financial resources could hinder this institutionalization in other countries. In countries where financial resources were scarce, the catalyst could come from the enthusiasm of individuals in building these channels of communication, thereafter gaining momentum.

At both of its sittings, the Working Group also examined the proposed International Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology. The Charter is intended to serve as an ethical framework on the application and use of science and technology and could be used as a starting point for countries wishing to establish legislation in the field. Members discussed amendments related to equal access to scientific research for citizens, notably in the provision of special measures for access to science for women and youth. The Charter should also include more input from several key stakeholders, including social scientists and experts in technology and gender mainstreaming, which could be gathered during stakeholder consultation workshops in the coming months, based on a strict timeline.

The Working Group agreed that the ethical norms outlined in the Charter were based on the wellbeing of humanity, which should be at the centre of both science and politics. It was important to ensure the principles set out in the Charter were applicable in contexts across the globe. The way in which the Charter would be promoted and used should also be a central consideration of the Working Group in drafting it, and practical guidelines on the implementation of the Charter's principles at a national level should be determined during stakeholder consultations. An IPU campaign should be established to promote the Charter and make it known to parliamentarians around the world.

The Working Group discussed the outcome of its participation in the international conference entitled *Science, Ethics and Human Development* in Viet Nam in September 2022, organized by the *Rencontres du Vietnam* in collaboration with CERN, the Parliament of Viet Nam, and the organizers of the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development 2022. Several members had been present and some had participated in panel discussions held during the conference. Members

commended this opportunity for dialogue between parliamentarians and the scientific community. It was important to ensure the language used at such meetings was simple and understandable for both communities, allowing common understanding and mutual benefit.

At the Working Group's second sitting, members suggested future activities related to the way in which science and technology could be used to reduce inequalities as well as the establishment of databases on key topics for the sharing of legislation and scientific research between countries. Members also suggested a discussion on determining indicators which could help assess how science and technology were used in efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

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## Report on the work of the IPU Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 210th session  
(Kigali, 15 October 2022)*

### **Background**

In March at the 144th IPU Assembly in Nusa Dua the emergency item resolution entitled *Peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, respecting international law, the Charter of the United Nations and territorial integrity* was adopted. Among other actions, the resolution called for the establishment of a Task Force to facilitate the role of parliaments in formulating feasible peaceful solutions to the crisis.

The IPU Task Force for the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine was constituted in early April, further to consultations by the IPU President and Secretary General with representatives of the IPU geopolitical groups. The Task Force is a representative, gender-balanced group presided by Mr. A.R. Al Nuaimi (United Arab Emirates) with Mr. P. Katjavivi (Namibia) as Vice-President. The other members of the Task Force are representatives of: Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, South Africa and Uruguay. The IPU Secretary General Mr. M. Chungong is an ex officio member. The Task Force met three times in virtual format to discuss its objectives and programme of work. It was assisted in this work by independent experts.

The Task Force Terms of Reference set as its primary objective to encourage dialogue, through its good offices, between the parliamentarians of the Russian Federation and Ukraine and support diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving the conflict that are in keeping with the United Nations Charter and the principles of international law, including national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and refrain from the threat and use of force. Three objectives have been set for the immediate, medium and long term:

- A complete ceasefire
- To contribute to confidence-building measures and humanitarian assistance where possible
- To establish and strengthen mechanisms for dialogue between the parliaments of the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

### **Mission to Kyiv and Moscow**

The IPU Task Force undertook a first good-offices mission to Kyiv and Moscow in mid-July 2022 with the objective to engage in political dialogue with the parliamentary leadership in both countries. The Task Force members tried to get a better understanding of the situation on the ground and identify modalities conducive to the cessation of hostilities and a return to diplomacy. The Task Force was provided with practical assistance by the Parliament of Poland and the IPU focal points in the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

The Task Force held constructive discussions with parliamentary leaders in Ukraine and in the Russian Federation. In both Kyiv and Moscow, the Task Force members met with the UN Country Teams, which provided insight into the situation on the ground and the challenges that they faced. In the limited timing available, the Task Force was not in a position to ascertain specifics but, rather, hear out the positions

of the two sides. Both parliaments confirmed their support to the mandate of the IPU Task Force and expressed their readiness to engage in consultations and inter-parliamentary dialogue. The mission showed that IPU's actions are complementary to those of governments and international organizations, opening a channel to express the concerns of the people and contributing to the resolution of the conflict through parliamentary initiatives.

### **Follow up and discussions in the context of the Kigali Assembly**

At its online meeting on 26 September, the Executive Committee discussed the report of the Task Force President. The Executive Committee urged the Task Force to continue its work through individual consultations with parliamentarians from both sides. The Executive Committee members repeated their commitment to discourage actions that might further enflame tensions in the region and expressed their hope that parliamentarians from both sides could be brought together around the same table in the near future.

During the 145th Assembly in Kigali, the Task Force discussed developments since their last meeting and deplored the continued escalation of the situation in the region, through:

- The continued shelling of the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant which posed a grave danger of a nuclear catastrophe for the entire region.
- Hastily organized annexation referendums late September in the four occupied regions of Ukraine, signed into law by President Putin on 5 October and subsequently ratified by the Russian Duma.
- The resumed missile attacks against the capital city of Kyiv and multiple other cities in Ukraine causing civilian casualties and significant destruction of essential infrastructure.

The Task Force also held individual consultations on 13 October with the delegations of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. Both sides reconfirmed their commitment to continue to work closely with the Task Force in seeking a peaceful resolution of the war. The Task Force President and members, in turn, strongly called for de-escalation and for the identification of small measures conducive to the restoration of political dialogue. This included, for example, the resumption of talks on prisoner exchange.

People were suffering all over the world because of the war and this must come to an end. Parliaments had a distinct role and responsibility to put pressure on their respective governments to find peaceful solutions to conflicts, for the good of the people that they represent. Both parties were urged to identify issues that they would be willing to discuss with the other side as a starting point in establishing a dialogue. In the interim, the Task Force would redouble its efforts in carrying out its mandate.

## **Statistics of the Gender Partnership Group**

### **Status of participation of women delegates at the 145th Assembly of the IPU (at 15 October 2022)**

#### **Composition of delegations of IPU Members attending the last eight IPU statutory meetings (March 2018 - present)**

Meeting	Total delegates	Total/percentage of women delegates		Total delegations	Total/percentage of all-male delegations (2 or more)		Total all-female delegations (2 or more)	Total single-sex delegations (2 or more)	Total single-member delegations (male and female)
Kigali (15/10/2022)	552	200	36.2	119	13	11.8	4	17	9
Nusa Dua (03/22)	393	153	38.9	101	13	14.4	3	16	11
Madrid (11/21)	509	198	38.9	117	10	9.3	3	13	10
Virtual Geneva (05/21)	755	287	38	133	8	6.2	2	10	4
Belgrade (10/19)	719	221	30.7	149	15	11.4	0	15	17
Doha (04/19)	721	219	30.3	147	16	11.8	0	16	12
Geneva (10/18)	751	247	32.9	149	17	12.1	4	21	9
Geneva (03/18)	745	227	30.5	148	18	12.7	3	21	6



**Single-sex, multi-member delegations of IPU Members present in Kigali (status on 15 October 2022)**

N°	Country	Kigali Oct22			Nusa Dua Mar22			Madrid Nov21			Virtual May 21			Belgrade 10/19			Doha 04/19			Geneva 10/18			Geneva 03/18		
		Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total
1	Argentina	2	0	2	absent			absent			4	5	9	1	3	4	1	3	4	1	6	7	2	5	7
2	Armenia	3	0	3	2	2	4	2	4	6	4	4	8	4	4	8	4	4	8	2	2	4	3	3	6
3	Denmark	2	0	2	3	2	5	2	3	5	2	1	3	2	3	5	2	3	5	0	3	3	0	2	2
4	Gabon	0	2	2	absent			1	5	6	absent			1	4	5	2	5	7	absent			1	3	4
5	Hungary	2	0	2	absent			3	2	5	4	4	8	4	3	7	3	2	5	4	3	7	1	1	2
6	Iceland*	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	1	1	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	1	2	1	2	3	1	2	3
7	Libya*	0	2	2	absent			absent			absent			0	2	2	1	1	2	absent			absent		
8	Madagascar*	0	3	3	0	2	2	0	4	4	3	6	9	2	3	5	absent			absent			3	5	8
9	Malaysia*	0	4	4	0	1	1	absent			1	2	3	2	3	5	1	3	4	2	4	6	absent		
10	Malta*	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	3	3	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	3	3	1	1	2	0	2	2
11	Seychelles	0	2	2	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	1	2
12	Somalia	0	5	5	absent			absent			1	4	5	1	4	5	1	8	9	0	4	4	0	2	2
13	Spain	0	6	6	1	3	4	2	4	6	2	6	8	1	3	4	0	3	3	3	1	4	2	4	6
14	Suriname	0	2	2	1	2	3	1	2	3	2	3	5	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	2	1	3
15	Uruguay*	0	3	3	0	1	1	3	3	6	4	4	8	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	4	5	1	5	6
16	Uzbekistan	0	2	2	absent			3	2	5	4	5	9	1	2	3	1	3	4	1	2	3	2	2	4
17	Yemen*	0	6	6	0	5	5	0	5	5	0	8	8	0	8	8	absent			0	5	5	0	7	7

**Single-member delegations of IPU Members present in Kigali (as at 15 October 2022)**

N°	Country	Kigali Oct22			Nusa Dua Mar22			Madrid Nov21			Virtual May 21			Belgrade 10/19			Doha 04/19			Geneva 10/18			Geneva 03/18		
		Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total
1	Azerbaijan	0	1	1	absent			2	3	5	3	6	9	1	5	6	1	4	5	0	2	2	absent		
2	Belarus*	0	1	1	0	2	2	1	0	1	2	2	4	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2
3	Brazil	0	1	1	absent			3	5	8	2	2	4	1	10	11	1	9	10	1	10	11	2	4	6
4	Italy*	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	3	5	3	3	6	1	3	4	1	4	5	2	4	6	1	2	3
5	Kazakhstan	1	0	1	2	1	3	1	0	1	5	4	9	2	7	9	1	8	9	1	3	4	1	3	4
6	Mauritius	1	0	1	1	1	2	absent			1	4	5	absent			absent			absent			absent		
7	Palestine	0	1	1	absent			1	4	5	1	3	4	1	5	6	1	5	6	1	4	5	1	6	7
8	Paraguay*	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	2	1	2	3	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	1
9	Slovenia*	0	1	1	absent			0	1	1	2	0	2	1	3	4	2	1	3	0	1	1	1	1	2

\* Delegations subjected to sanctions at the 145th Assembly, pursuant to Art. 10.4 and 15.2.c of the IPU Statutes, for being composed exclusively of representatives of the same sex for two consecutive Assemblies.

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## 46th session of the Gender Partnership Group

### Delegations with 40% to 60% of women parliamentarians

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

The countries below are ordered according to the percentage of women parliamentarians in their delegations at the 145th IPU Assembly.

There are a total of 35 gender-balanced delegations out of 119 delegations (29.4 %) of IPU Members attending the 145th IPU Assembly (as at 15 October 2022).

#### Delegations with 40% to 49.9% women parliamentarians (14):

Australia (40%)  
Austria (40%)  
Egypt (40%)



Netherlands (40%)  
Serbia (40%)  
Switzerland (40%)  
Thailand (40%)  
India (43%)  
Oman (43 %)  
Türkiye (43%)  
Ukraine (43%)  
Zimbabwe (43%)  
Ghana (44%)  
Guinea (44%)

**Delegations with 50% women parliamentarians (14):**

Andorra  
Bahrain  
Chad  
Chile  
Congo  
Equatorial Guinea  
Guyana  
Israel  
Liechtenstein  
Monaco  
New Zealand  
Rwanda  
United Kingdom  
United Rep. of Tanzania

**Delegations with 50.1% to 60% women parliamentarians (7)**

Cameroon (57%)  
Zambia (57%)  
Canada (60%)  
Djibouti (60%)  
Poland (60%)  
Saudi Arabia (60%)  
Timor Leste (60%)

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## Policy to prevent harassment, including sexual harassment, at IPU Assemblies and other IPU events

*Endorsed by the IPU Governing Council at its 210th session  
(Kigali, 15 October 2022)*

1. In recent years, the IPU has uncovered the scourge of violence against women in parliament through landmark studies that yielded data on and evidence of the nature and prevalence of sexism, harassment and violence occurring in parliaments against women MPs and parliamentary staff. The IPU studies have shown that no region of the globe is immune and that awareness-raising, zero-tolerance rules and enforcement mechanisms are the best antidotes to the problem.
2. In order to support and better equip parliaments in their efforts to address this scourge and lead by example, the IPU published in 2019 a comprehensive set of guidelines to combat sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament based on existing good practices. These guidelines establish essential principles on which any anti-harassment mechanism should be based. They also provide practical modalities and measures for implementing such mechanisms.

3. In accordance with this work, and as the IPU should be at the forefront and serve as a model and reference for national parliaments and other international organizations, **the Gender Partnership Group** decided that there was a need for the **IPU to develop its own anti-harassment framework for its Assemblies and other IPU events**. Indeed, the IPU surveys shed light on the fact that women often found themselves more targeted by such behaviour when travelling abroad.

4. The Gender Partnership Group (GPG) began discussions on a possible anti-harassment framework in April 2019. In follow-up to its previous deliberations, the GPG reviewed in 2021 and 2022 existing good practices in preventing and addressing sexism and sexual harassment at multilateral and inter-parliamentary meetings. In its report to the 209th session of the Governing Council in Nusa Dua, the Group recommended that the IPU use as a model the *UN Code of Conduct to prevent harassment, including sexual harassment, at UN system events* (see [Annex](#)); and requested that the IPU Secretariat draw up an implementation plan with specific accompanying measures on prevention, communication, training and enforcement, and set up a mechanism for regular monitoring of the implementation plan by the Group.

5. At its sitting on 9 October 2022, the Executive Committee discussed this matter and agreed to recommend the following approach to the Governing Council for approval:

- I. The IPU agrees to make use of the *UN Code of Conduct to prevent harassment, including sexual harassment, at UN system events* as the basis for the IPU's anti-harassment policies;
- II. The IPU Secretariat draws up and implements a plan of practical measures, in line with the UN Code of Conduct;
- III. The Gender Partnership Group regularly monitors and reports on the implementation plan to the IPU membership.

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## UN Code of conduct to prevent harassment, including sexual harassment, at UN System events

### **Purpose**

The organizations of the United Nations system are committed to enabling events at which everyone can participate in an inclusive, respectful and safe environment.

UN system events are guided by the highest ethical and professional standards, and all participants are expected to behave with integrity and respect towards all participants attending or involved with any UN system event.

### **Applicability**

The Code of Conduct applies to any UN system event, which shall include meetings, conferences and symposia, assemblies, receptions, scientific and technical events, expert meetings, workshops, exhibits, side events and any other forum organized, hosted or sponsored in whole or part by a UN system entity wherever it takes place, and any event or gathering that takes place on UN system premises whether or not a UN system entity is organizing, hosting or sponsoring.

The Code of Conduct applies to all participants at a UN system event, including all persons attending or involved in any capacity in a UN system event.

The UN system or other entity responsible for a UN system event commits to implementing the Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct is not legal or prescriptive in nature. It supplements, and does not affect, the application of other relevant policies, regulations, rules and laws, including laws regulating the premises in which the UN system event takes place and any applicable host country agreements.

### **Prohibited conduct**

Harassment is any improper or unwelcome conduct that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offence or humiliation to another person. Harassment in any form because of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical ability, physical appearance, ethnicity, race, national origin, political affiliation, age, religion or any other reason is prohibited at UN system events.

Sexual harassment is a specific type of prohibited conduct. Sexual harassment is any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offence or humiliation. Sexual harassment may involve any conduct of a verbal, nonverbal or physical nature, including written and electronic communications, and may occur between persons of the same or different genders.

**Examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:**

- Making derogatory or demeaning comments about someone's sexual orientation or gender identity
- Name-calling or using slurs with a gender/sexual connotation
- Making sexual comments about appearance, clothing or body parts
- Rating a person's sexuality
- Repeatedly asking a person for dates or asking for sex
- Staring in a sexually suggestive manner
- Unwelcome touching, including pinching, patting, rubbing or purposefully brushing up against a person
- Making inappropriate sexual gestures, such as pelvic thrusts
- Sharing sexual or lewd anecdotes or jokes
- Sending sexually suggestive communications in any format
- Sharing or displaying sexually inappropriate images or videos in any format
- Attempted or actual sexual assault, including rape

**Complaint process**

A participant who feels that they have been harassed at a UN system event may report the matter to the organizer of the UN system event or relevant security authority, and a participant who witnesses such harassment should make such a report. Such reporting shall have no effect on any applicable rules and procedures that may apply in the UN system or to other personnel. The organizer of the UN system event will be expected to take appropriate action in accordance with its applicable policies, regulations and rules.

**Examples of appropriate action may include, but are not limited to:**

- undertaking a fact-finding exercise
- requesting the perpetrator to immediately stop the offending behaviour
- suspending or terminating the perpetrator's access to the UN system event or refusing registration at future UN system events, or both
- conveying the complaint to any investigative or disciplinary authority with jurisdiction over the person accused of harassment
- conveying a report to the employer or entity with jurisdiction over the person accused of harassment for appropriate follow-up action

The victim of alleged harassment may also seek help from other relevant authorities, such as the police, bearing in mind the applicable legal framework.

A participant should never knowingly make a false or misleading claim about prohibited conduct.

**Prohibition of retaliation**

Threats, intimidation or any other form of retaliation against a participant who has made a complaint or provided information in support of a complaint are prohibited. The UN system or other entity responsible for a UN system event will take any reasonable appropriate action needed to prevent and respond to retaliation, in accordance with its applicable policy, regulations and rules.

## Calendar of future meetings and other activities

*Approved by the IPU Governing Council at its 210th session  
(Kigali, 15 October 2022)*

Series of webinars on disarmament co-organized with Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND)	Virtual January – December 2022
The global empowerment series: briefings and training courses for young parliamentarians	Virtual (Quarterly) 2022
Parliamentary meeting at COP27	SHARM EL-SHEIKH (Egypt) 13 November 2022
Workshop on health taxes, co-organized with the World Health Organization	GENEVA (Switzerland) 23 – 25 November 2022
Arab Regional Parliamentary Forum on the 2030 Agenda: Strengthening parliamentary engagement in climate action post-COP27 in the Arab region	BEIRUT (Lebanon) 29 – 30 November 2022
Side event at COP27: Designing governance systems to enable effective implementation of the Paris Agreement	SHARM-EL-SHEIKH (Egypt) November 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Regional Conference for African parliaments on preventing and responding to violence against women in politics and in parliaments, co-organized with the African Parliamentary Union and the National Assembly of Togo	LOMÉ (Togo) 30 November 2022
Parliamentary Track at the Internet Governance Forum 2022	Hybrid event ADDIS ABABA (Ethiopia) 30 November – 1 December 2022
Regional workshop for parliamentarians and their staff from Latin America and the Caribbean, co-organized with the World Trade Organization (WTO)	BUENOS AIRES (Argentina) November 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Workshop on comprehensive disarmament	Virtual November – December 2022
Workshop on Human Security in the framework of the Human Security for <i>All</i> global campaign	Virtual November – December 2022
Webinar on the IPU contribution to UN negotiations on Cybercrime	Virtual 5 December 2022
Regional workshop on promoting the rights of the child for the parliaments of West Africa	ABUJA (Nigeria) December 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Second regional seminar for African parliaments on achieving the SDGs	DJIBOUTI (Djibouti) December 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Capacity-building regional workshop for the G5 Sahel on countering terrorism and violent extremism	NIAMEY (Niger) 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Global webinar co-organized with UNHCR on education and refugees	Virtual 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)

Webinar to mark the 40th anniversary of the Optional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions	Virtual 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Meeting for the Call of the Sahel: Security and development for countering terrorism	Virtual 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Meeting for the Call of the Sahel: Human dignity, women and children	Virtual 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Meeting for the Call of the Sahel: Engaging communities in the prevention of violent extremism and addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism	Zimbabwe November 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Parliamentary side-event on the occasion of the global conference entitled <i>Internet for Democracy: Regulating digital platforms for information as a public good, organized by UNESCO</i>	PARIS (France) 21 – 23 February 2023
Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the UN	NEW YORK (USA) February 2023 (Dates to be confirmed)
Parliamentary Forum on the occasion of the Fifth UN Conference on the LDCs	DOHA (Qatar) 5 – 9 March 2023
146th Assembly and related meetings	MANAMA (Bahrain) 11 – 15 March 2023
Annual parliamentary meeting at the Commission on the Status of Women	NEW YORK (USA) March 2023 (Dates to be confirmed)
Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue for Inclusive Societies	Morocco Late May/early June 2023 (Dates to be confirmed)
Parliamentary Forum at the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development	NEW YORK (USA) July 2023 (Dates to be confirmed)
147th Assembly and related meetings*	GENEVA (Switzerland) 8 – 12 October 2023
Parliamentary Meeting at COP28	DUBAI (United Arab Emirates) 6 – 17 November 2023
Global Summit on the Call of the Sahel	End of 2023 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Ninth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians	Viet Nam December 2023 (Dates to be confirmed)
The global empowerment series: Briefings and training courses for young parliamentarians	Virtual (Quarterly) 2023
Information seminar on the structure and functioning of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for English-speaking participants	IPU Headquarters GENEVA (Switzerland) 2023 (Dates to be confirmed)

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\* Official invitation received from the Parliament of Angola to host the 147th Assembly in October 2023. Final decision on the venue for the 147th Assembly is expected by December 2022.

Third regional seminar for the parliaments of Latin America and the Caribbean on achieving the SDGs	PANAMA CITY (Panama) 2023 (Dates to be confirmed)
Third regional seminar for the Twelve Plus Group on achieving the SDGs	PARIS (France) 2023 (Dates to be confirmed)
Interregional seminar on the SDGs	China 2023 (Dates to be confirmed)
Workshop for members of Parliamentary Human Rights Committees from French-speaking countries that have recently or will soon be reviewed by the Human Rights Council	GENEVA (Switzerland) 2023 (Dates to be confirmed)
Meeting for the Call of the Sahel: Financing terrorism and funding counter-terrorism	GENEVA (Switzerland) 2023 (Dates to be confirmed)
Speakers' Summit (P20) on the occasion of the G20	India 2023 (Dates to be confirmed)
Series of regional and global virtual workshops on gender equality and women's empowerment	Virtual 2023 (Dates to be confirmed)
Series of webinars on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation as well as military expenditures, co-organized with Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) and other partners	Virtual January – December 2023
Workshops on comprehensive disarmament: Focus on the Arms Trade Treaty	Virtual January – December 2023
Series of workshops on human security and common security with partners including the International Peace Bureau and the World Academy on Art and Sciences	Virtual January – December 2023
Series of regional and sub-regional webinars on statelessness	Virtual 2023 (Dates to be confirmed)
Series of briefings for parliaments of countries that will be reviewed in 2023 and early 2024 by the UN Human Rights Council under its Universal Periodic Review; by the UN Committee on the Rights of Child; by the UN Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	Virtual 2023 (Dates to be confirmed)
Series of webinars for parliaments on climate action	Virtual 2023 (Dates to be confirmed)
Information seminar on the structure and functioning of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for parliaments from the Latin American and Caribbean regions	2023 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Fifth South Asia Speakers' Summit on achieving the SDGs	2023 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional workshop on promoting the rights of the child for the parliaments of the East and South Asia region	2023 Venue and dates to be confirmed

Capacity-building regional workshop on countering terrorism and violent extremism for the Eurasia group	2023 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Capacity-building regional workshop on countering terrorism and violent extremism for the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC)	2023 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Capacity-building regional workshop on countering terrorism and violent extremism for the African Group	2023 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Parliamentary meeting in the context of the WTO Public Forum	GENEVA (Switzerland) 2023 (Dates to be confirmed)
Annual Parliamentary Conference on the WTO	2023 Venue and dates to be confirmed
51st Session of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO	2023 Venue and dates to be confirmed
16th Workshop of Parliamentary Scholars and Parliamentarians, co-sponsored by the IPU and the Centre for Legislative Studies, University of Hull, United Kingdom	2024 Venue and dates to be confirmed
10th Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians	Armenia 2024 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Side event at the 6th Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 6)	Nairobi (Kenya) 2024 (Dates to be confirmed)



## Agenda of the 146th Assembly

*(Manama, Bahrain, 11-15 March 2023)*

1. Election of the President of the 146th Assembly
2. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
3. General Debate on the theme *Promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies: Fighting intolerance*
4. Special accountability segment on the implementation of IPU resolutions and other decisions
5. *Cyberattacks and cybercrimes: The new risks to global security*  
(Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)
6. *Parliamentary efforts in achieving negative carbon balances of forests*  
(Standing Committee on Sustainable Development)
7. Reports of the Standing Committees
8. Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and for the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development for the 148th Assembly and appointment of the co-Rapporteurs