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Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development

***Explanatory memorandum submitted by the co-Rapporteurs,
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1. Field experience and United Nations studies have demonstrated that conflicts, particularly armed conflicts, have profound humanitarian, social and economic consequences. In addition to the tragic loss of civilian lives, these conflicts result in widespread poverty, the displacement of millions, and the destruction of critical infrastructure including roads, schools, hospitals and places of worship. Such conflicts also severely diminish quality of life in affected communities, undermining their capacity for long-term recovery and reconstruction. This observation underscores the need to develop long-term strategies to address the impact of conflicts on sustainable development and to ensure the continuity of efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in these regions.
2. In October 2024, the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development organized a discussion session on the sidelines of the 149th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly, held in Geneva, Switzerland. Contributions to this debate reflected a wide range of viewpoints and highlighted the many and varied effects of conflicts on sustainable development in countries across the globe. In preparing the draft resolution, the co-Rapporteurs considered the valuable views, proposals and contributions shared by colleagues from around the world at this discussion session, aiming to ensure that the resolution would be in line with the common interests of IPU Member Parliaments and with the most pressing issues they faced.
3. The main objective of the draft resolution is to strengthen the role of parliaments in mitigating the negative impact of conflicts on sustainable development. It recognizes the disruptive impact of conflicts on human and economic progress in numerous countries, and seeks to marshal global parliamentary efforts to counter these adverse effects and promote sustainable development in conflict-affected regions. In particular, it highlights the critical role of parliamentarians in fostering peace and stability and in shaping policies that advance reconstruction and development in conflict-affected areas. It also underscores their shared responsibility to safeguard the well-being of future generations and aims to bridge gaps between various stakeholders in order to achieve inclusive and sustainable development in post-conflict settings.

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4. The draft resolution is based on a set of basic principles. First, it emphasizes that cooperation between national parliaments and regional and international organizations, including the United Nations, needs to be strengthened in order to exchange knowledge and experience and to coordinate efforts. Second, it stresses the importance of enhancing awareness, among parliamentarians, of the importance of their role in peacebuilding and in social and economic stabilization in conflict-affected areas. Third, it underscores the importance of protecting women, ethnic and religious minorities, and other marginalized or vulnerable groups, who are often those most affected by armed conflict.
5. The draft resolution emphasizes the importance of providing humanitarian and development support in conflict-affected areas and of developing mechanisms to monitor the implementation of policies and programmes related to security, peace and development. It calls on parliaments to exercise their budgetary, legislative and oversight functions to ensure that funding and humanitarian assistance are channelled in transparent and effective ways, in order to achieve the SDGs in conflict-affected environments. It also urges parliaments to use these powers to contribute significantly to the creation of more stable environments, as well as to push governments towards the adoption of comprehensive development policies aimed at reconstruction and at strengthening social peace in conflict-affected areas.
6. The draft resolution attaches particular importance to the role of parliaments in mitigating the effects of climate change – including population displacement, food insecurity and water scarcity – in conflict-affected areas. It calls on parliaments to take measures to address these climate challenges and to work on developing environmental strategies that ensure the sustainability of societies in the aftermath of conflicts.
7. The draft resolution considers that the challenges associated with armed conflict and sustainable development require the adoption of a comprehensive strategic approach, including the strengthening of democracy and the rule of law, the application of the principle of accountability in parliamentary work, and the development of policies that include all humanitarian, social, economic and environmental aspects. To this end, it calls for the development of integrated strategies, including emergency humanitarian response.
8. Overall, the draft resolution aims to support parliaments in taking the necessary measures to promote sustainable development in post-conflict settings, and to work to restore social and economic balance in such areas.