



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# 149th IPU Assembly and related meetings

Geneva, Switzerland  
13-17 October 2024

## Results of the proceedings



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# 149th Assembly

## 1. Opening of the Assembly

*The IPU Anthem was played.*

**Dr. T. Ackson, IPU President**, opened the Assembly on 14 October 2024 and welcomed delegates back to Geneva, a city that had long been at the crossroads of innovation and international cooperation and thus an ideal location for a General Debate focused on *Harnessing science, technology and innovation (STI) for a more peaceful and sustainable future*. She began by noting that the splitting of the atom in the early 20th century offered a cautionary tale for delegates – that technological evolutions with seemingly limitless potential for good could in fact be harnessed for unprecedented destruction if misused or poorly governed.

The world now stood at another crossroads in terms of scientific and technological achievements, with artificial intelligence, quantum computing and biotechnology transforming societies at a rapid pace. Parliamentarians had an opportunity to use these advances as part of evidence-based policymaking to address the biggest challenges facing the world, but also needed to be aware of the increased risks of misinformation, threats to human rights, widening socioeconomic disparities, and advancements in weapon technology that could undermine peace and security.

She invited delegates to reflect on how scientific and technological progress could be used to benefit everyone and how to ensure that innovations would not come at the expense of fairness and equality. Decisive action was needed on three key areas with regard to STI: legislation and regulation, oversight and accountability, and public engagement and education. The IPU stood ready to help parliaments navigate the technological revolution currently shaping the world.

**Mr. M. Chungong, IPU Secretary General**, said that it was a great pleasure for him to welcome delegates to Geneva for the second Assembly in a row. He agreed with the President that science and technology, if well harnessed and utilized, could help to resolve many of the intractable crises the world was facing. The COVID-19 pandemic had shown that the global community could rise to the challenge and overcome crises, developing and deploying vaccines in record time and adapting to new working methods without hesitation.

A highlight of the 149th Assembly would be the launch of the eighth edition of the biennial World e-Parliament Report, which reviewed how parliaments were using new technologies to improve their working methods. The report made use of a newly developed Digital Maturity Index to monitor progress and identify opportunities for the IPU's Centre for Innovation in Parliament to foster cooperation, in order to bridge the digital divide between parliaments at different stages of their digitalization journey.

Recently, the IPU had been represented in force at the UN Summit of the Future in New York, and he was pleased to report that the outcome of the Summit, the Pact for the Future, clearly stated the UN's ongoing commitment to work with national parliaments, through the IPU as their global organization. The Pact provided a blueprint for the global community to address the many challenges facing the world and it was a great achievement that the importance of parliamentary diplomacy and inter-parliamentary cooperation had been recognized in that context. Finally, he noted that the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in Geneva in July 2025 would provide an opportunity for the leaders of parliaments around the world to rededicate themselves to robust efforts and actions to fulfil the expectations of the people on peace, security and well-being.

**Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians**, congratulated all women parliamentarians who had been elected or re-elected in the many elections that had taken place around the world in 2024. She encouraged delegates to commit to ensuring that women and girls would not be left behind by the rapid evolution of STI and that new technologies would be leveraged to promote equality. Scientific and technological developments had an immense potential to enhance access for women and girls to education, healthcare and other services and could play a vital role in identifying gender biases to promote more equitable outcomes.

Parliamentarians needed to redouble their efforts to open up opportunities for women in the frequently male-dominated fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and hold their governments to account for high ethical standards in the development and deployment of new technologies. They also needed to confront the risks, notably in terms of how technology could potentially facilitate gender-based violence, harassment and trafficking. Congratulating the 13 women

Speakers of Parliament present at the Assembly, she was pleased to announce that the first IPU Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians was now confirmed and would be held in Mexico in February 2025.

**Mr. D. Carden (United Kingdom), President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians**, expressed his pleasure that over 25% of the delegates at the Assembly were under the age of 45, which represented huge progress in youth representation at the IPU. With regard to the subject of the General Debate, he noted that it was not the first time that the world had found itself on the precipice of a technological revolution. The industrial revolution in the north of England in the 18th century had drawn people from rural communities to work in industry and had shattered a centuries-old social equilibrium, pulling workers into squalid urban centres. Under pressure from early labour and trade union movements, governments had gradually intervened to humanize the labour system. The lesson to be drawn was that technological advances had no intrinsic moral character and that their impact depended on whose interests they were made to serve.

The world faced a similar test with the rise of new technologies such as artificial intelligence and social media. He encouraged delegates to act decisively to ensure that technology would remain a tool for human progress, serving society's needs rather than dictating its direction. Without such efforts, technological progress would disrupt rather than empower. Parliamentarians needed to ensure that the power of innovation was harnessed for the benefit of all.

**Mr. Bertrand Piccard, explorer, psychiatrist and environmentalist, Founder of the Solar Impulse Foundation**, said that his Foundation had identified 1780 different systems, products, materials, processes, devices and pieces of software that could be used to protect the environment in an efficient and profitable way. Their successful deployment would reduce waste and allow a transition from a quantitative economy focused on producing, consuming and selling more at an ever-cheaper price, to a qualitative economy that would create jobs and profit.

Decarbonization had long been perceived as a handicap for economies, but it was the only logical consequence of the modernization needed to protect the environment. New energy sources needed to be seen as services for the good of all, with developing countries being given access to existing infrastructure rather than having to develop and build their own.

The Solar Impulse Foundation was now working on a new project, Climate Impulse, a prototype hydrogen-powered aeroplane which would fly around the world producing zero emissions. It was a common belief that the decarbonization of the aviation industry was an impossible dream, but the achievements of many other pioneers and explorers had also seemed impossible until they had come to pass. In closing, he expressed his view that the prevalence of eco-anxiety and eco-depression was due to a lack of action, and invited parliamentarians to be the "explorers of the 21st century" and put in place the legal frameworks, incentives and subsidies necessary for the beneficial solutions he had outlined to succeed.

## 2. Participation

Delegations from 129 Member Parliaments took part in the work of the Assembly\*:

Afghanistan\*\*, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia (The), Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar\*\*, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Palestine, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe,

\* For the complete list of IPU Member Parliaments, see [page 40](#).

\*\* As per the decision of the Governing Council in Madrid in November 2021, the IPU continues to engage with the former, democratically elected parliamentarians from Afghanistan and with the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) for Myanmar. The corresponding delegations attend Assemblies in a non-voting observer capacity.

Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Parliament of Brunei Darussalam also attended the 149th Assembly in an observer capacity, with a view to future affiliation.

The following eight Associate Members also took part in the Assembly: the Arab Parliament, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the European Parliament, the Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO), the Parliament of MERCOSUR (PARLASUR), the Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF).

Observers included representatives of:

- (i) the United Nations and related organizations: United Nations, International Labour Organization (ILO), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), and the World Health Organization (WHO);
- (ii) parliamentary assemblies and associations: African Parliamentary Union (APU), Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), Collective Security Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly (CSTO PA), Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR), International Parliamentary Network for Education (IPNEd), Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO), Maghreb Consultative Council (MCC), Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member States (PUIC), Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF), and UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health;
- (iii) international non-governmental organizations: Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI);
- (iv) other partner organizations: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Development Law Organization (IDLO), League of Arab States, and Sovereign Order of Malta.

Several special guests also attended the Assembly and gave addresses at high-level segments.

Of the 1,267 delegates who attended the Assembly, 631 were members of parliament (615 from Member Parliaments and 16 from Associate Member delegations), including 53 Presiding Officers, and 36 Deputy Presiding Officers. Member Parliaments' delegations included 224 women MPs (36.4%) and 153 young MPs (24.9%).

In continuation of practices established at recent Assemblies, the 149th Assembly was an in-person event with adaptations for hybrid participation. Nearly all 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 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 some 10,000 views. See the [Media and communications](#) section for more details.

### 3. Choice of an emergency item

On 15 October 2024, the President informed the Assembly that the following six requests for the inclusion of an emergency item had been proposed:

- *Call for condemnation of the missile attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran against Israel* (Israel)
- *Enforcing UN General Assembly resolution ES-10/24 and ensuring accountability* (Palestine on behalf of the Arab Group)
- *Response by parliamentarians to the urgent plea by the UN Secretary-General to recommit to multilateralism for global peace, justice and sustainability* (France, United Kingdom, Germany, Netherlands and Canada)

- *The security and humanitarian situation in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo* (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- *Mobilizing parliamentarians for the protection of children in armed conflicts to avoid risks, suffering and consequences* (Argentina, Chile, Peru, Mexico, Brazil and Guyana)
- *The deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza and Lebanon* (Islamic Republic of Iran)

All six proposals were presented to the Assembly by the respective sponsors. Both Israel and the Islamic Republic of Iran then withdrew their proposals.

The Assembly then proceeded with a roll-call vote on the four remaining items (see [pages 47-50](#)). Two joint proposals received the required two-thirds majority of the vote: The proposal from France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Netherlands and Canada, and the proposal from Argentina, Chile, Peru, Mexico, Brazil and Guyana. In accordance with Rule 11.2 (b) of the Assembly, the former proposal, which received the largest number of positive votes, was adopted and added to the agenda as Item 9.

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

- (a) General Debate: *Harnessing science, technology and innovation (STI) for a more peaceful and sustainable future*  
(Item 3)

During the three days of deliberations, some 143 legislators from 113 Member Parliaments, including 40 Presiding Officers and 16 young parliamentarians, as well as representatives of eight Associate Members and six permanent observers, contributed to the General Debate. The proceedings of the Debate were webcast, and many of the good practices and recommendations that emerged were reflected in the outcome document (see [page 42](#)).

- (b) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security held its sittings on 14 and 16 October 2024. As Ms. A. Kuspan (Kazakhstan), President of the Committee, was unable to attend the 149th Assembly and the Vice-President, Mr. M. Rezakhah (Islamic Republic of Iran), was no longer a member of parliament, chairing was split between Bureau members Ms. F. Belhirch (Netherlands) on 14 October and Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland) on 16 October.

At its first sitting, on 14 October 2024, the Committee held two consecutive panel discussions. The first focused on *The role of parliamentarians in preventing conflicts over natural resources*. After interventions from a panel of experts, members of the Committee discussed the growing importance of economic motivations in conflicts and highlighted that climate change was amplifying those tensions. They also stressed that sound legislative frameworks were essential to ensure equitable management of resources such as water, fertile land and minerals, including uranium, and for effective conflict prevention. Fourteen delegates took the floor to emphasize the importance of democratic processes, equitable access, and international cooperation to prevent conflicts over natural resources. Key points included the need for sustainable lifestyles, technological advancements like recycling, and the role of parliamentarians in fostering dialogue. Proposals were made for climate action committees and for enhancing women's roles in resource management. The transformative potential of science in peacebuilding was highlighted, along with a call for collective action, local community involvement, and addressing the geopolitical issues surrounding nuclear energy.

The second panel discussion of the day addressed *The role of parliamentarians in nuclear security*. The panel brought together experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and was moderated by the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP). The experts highlighted the critical role of parliamentarians in creating legislation to protect against the misuse of nuclear materials. While the public often associates "nuclear" with weapons, the discussion emphasized the peaceful applications of nuclear technology in healthcare and agriculture, and the need for parliamentarians to raise awareness of these benefits while safeguarding against risks. International cooperation and the ratification of key treaties were central themes, with delegates taking the floor to call for better legal frameworks and stronger collaboration. Law enforcement coordination and public engagement were also stressed as necessary components for comprehensive nuclear security. The session concluded with a call for collective action to enhance nuclear security as a shared global responsibility.

At its last sitting, on 16 October 2024, the Committee held an expert hearing on *The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine*. The event started with a video of two peace activists, both heading Israeli and Palestinian civil society organizations and working together in the field. Two experts and three co-Rapporteurs shared their views on the topic. Sixteen members took the floor, highlighting the need for a comprehensive, inclusive IPU resolution urging a two-State solution to end the conflict and ensure security and equality for both Israelis and Palestinians. The importance of international support was highlighted. During the discussion, various proposals were made to promote peace and stability in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including ending Israeli settlement expansion, legitimizing the Palestinian Authority, and fostering inter-parliamentary cooperation. The importance of international law and the role of parliaments in advancing peace were highlighted, alongside calls for recognizing Palestine as a State and emphasizing women's roles in peacebuilding. Although differing views were expressed on the two-State solution, most of them advocated for a peaceful and democratic negotiated settlement. As one party directly concerned by the hearing was unable to attend, a declaration from that delegation was made available and will be part of the summary records.

The Committee elected Mr. H. Bin Mohammad (Malaysia) as Vice-President to complete the term of the Asia-Pacific Group until October 2025.

(c) Standing Committee on Sustainable Development

The Committee met on 15 and 16 October 2024 and held three panel discussions featuring experts from the United Nations system and think tanks. Some 50 delegations were in attendance and Mr. W. William (Seychelles), President of the Standing Committee, chaired the session.

The first panel featured a debate entitled *Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development*, which corresponds to the title of the resolution that will be presented to the Committee at its next session in April 2025.

The second panel discussion presented the draft outcome document of the Parliamentary Meeting that will take place in Azerbaijan at the 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), which is entrusted with the follow-up to the Paris Agreement on climate change.

The third panel discussion focused on the role of parliaments in preventing corporate tax avoidance and achieving sustainable development. The panel participants stressed the vital role of parliamentarians, from mobilizing domestic resources to partnering with tax authorities and educating citizens on the importance of taxes for public services and sustainable development.

At the end of the Committee session, elections were held to fill positions on the Committee's Bureau.

The Committee also approved its workplan for the next Assembly. It will dedicate all its sittings to the drafting of the resolution on the impact of conflicts on sustainable development.

(d) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

The Standing Committee held three sittings, on 14, 15 and 16 October 2024, with the Vice-President of the Standing Committee, Mr. A. Torosyan (Armenia), as the Chair.

The Committee considered the draft resolution, *The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law*, introduced by the co-Rapporteurs, Ms. M. Rempel Garner (Canada) and Ms. N. Lugangira (United Republic of Tanzania), the latter via remote participation.

When examining the draft resolution, the Committee considered 194 amendments submitted by 26 parliaments (Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, China, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lithuania, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, South Africa, South Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates). Three amendments were proposed by the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.

The co-Rapporteurs presented the revised draft resolution to the Committee at its final sitting on 16 October 2024. The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation.

The Bureau met on the morning of 16 October 2024. It considered proposals for the Committee's future work programme. It gave close consideration to a proposal supported by Switzerland, *The rights and political representation of persons living with disabilities*. Ultimately the Bureau decided to recommend the proposal put forward by Belgium on supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and stopping this practice.

The Committee approved the proposal to prepare a resolution entitled *Recognizing and supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent this practice*. It also approved the nomination of Ms. L. Crexell (Argentina) and Mr. M. De Maegd (Belgium) as co-Rapporteurs. Following consultations among the members of the Bureau, the Assembly additionally approved the nomination of Mr. S. Patra (India) as a third co-Rapporteur. A preparatory debate would take place at the 150th Assembly in April 2025 and a resolution would be finalized at the 151st Assembly in October 2025.

The Committee approved the Bureau's recommendation to hold debates at the 150th Assembly in April 2025 in follow-up to two recent resolutions:

- Orphanage trafficking action plan: Implementing the resolution adopted by the 147th Assembly in October 2023
  - Follow-up on implementation of the resolution on artificial intelligence from the current Assembly
- (e) Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

The Standing Committee held two sittings, on 15 and 16 October 2024, with Mr. D. McGuinty (Canada), President of the Standing Committee, as the Chair. The agenda consisted of two in-depth panel discussions and two shorter segments. About thirty delegations participated in the two sittings.

The first panel discussion, *Financing the United Nations system: A critical perspective*, featured presentations by Mr. P. Linnér, Programme Director, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation; Ms. S. Gruener, Deputy Director, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation; and Mr. B. Christiaens, Portfolio Manager, UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office. The second panel, *The United Nations and the G20: Complementarity or redundancy?*, featured presentations from Mr. B. Ellmers, Director of Global Policy Forum's Financing for Sustainable Development Program (online from Berlin), and Ms. L. Crexell (Argentina), Vice-President of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs as a respondent.

One short segment, entitled *United Nations treaties: A review of ratifications and entry into force*, featured Ms. C.M. Régimbal, Chief, UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (Geneva) and Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament; and Mr. A. Motter, Senior Advisor, Economic and Social Affairs, IPU. The President of the Standing Committee led the final segment, which took stock of parliamentary action to advance the Committee's first two motions, one on gender equality in the UN General Assembly, and the other on Security Council reform.

- (f) Debate on the emergency item

***Response by parliamentarians to the urgent plea by the UN Secretary-General to recommit to multilateralism for global peace, justice and sustainability, submitted by the delegations of France, United Kingdom, Germany, Netherlands and Canada.***

The debate on the emergency item was held in the morning of 16 October 2024, with IPU President Dr. T. Ackson as Chair. Five speakers took the floor during the debate, namely Ukraine, Thailand, Russian Federation, Finland and the United Kingdom (one of the co-authors of the proposal).

Delegates expressed concern over multiple crises, conflicts and wars in the world, referring to the situation in Sudan, Gaza and the Middle East, Myanmar, and Ukraine, among others. A woman delegate deplored the devastating situation where mothers are giving birth under missile showers. She expressed regret that technology was being developed not to prolong human life, but to end it as quickly as possible.

Several delegates also called for the reform of the UN Security Council, which has been paralyzed by the vetoes of permanent members. A few delegates stated that the Security Council should be expanded to include members from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, India and Japan. Another delegate added that the IPU should have clear rules for advancing peace. A delegate underlined the critical importance of multilateralism and the need for genuine dialogue to reach peaceful solutions to the situations in Ukraine, the Middle East and Myanmar.

Another delegate stated that the emergency item proposal was not referring to recent events, as required by Rule 11 of the Rules of the Assembly. He also criticized the procedure for emergency items, in particular that proposals were submitted just one or two days before voting, leaving delegations

without enough time to read the resolution. In response, the IPU President said that amendments to the IPU Statutes were under discussion to address various concerns. The delegate also said that the emergency item proposal included several statements by the UN Secretary-General which were not accurately presented. He added that his delegation would not be able to support the resolution as it stood.

A delegate from the United Kingdom, one of the co-authors of the proposal, underscored that parliamentarians had a moral obligation to promote peace, support diplomatic efforts for de-escalation and ensure humanitarian aid reached those in need. She emphasized that it was the duty of parliamentarians to prioritize initiatives that allow children not just to survive, but to thrive. She concluded her speech with a call to work hand in hand for humanity.

The Assembly referred the emergency item to a drafting committee made up of representatives of Argentina, Australia, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chad, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Mexico, Palestine and the Russian Federation.

(g) Special segment to mark the 10th anniversary of the Common Principles for Support to Parliaments

On 15 October 2024, a special segment took place in the Assembly to celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of the Common Principles. During this celebratory event, the IPU President praised the impact of the Common Principles over the last 10 years. The IPU Secretary General subsequently presented IPU products that had been created throughout the year to celebrate the Principles, and launched a new publication to mark the anniversary entitled *Celebrating 10 years of the Common Principles for Support to Parliament: Why they are important and how they have been used*. The Assembly heard testimonies from the National Assemblies of Zambia and France on the value of the Principles in their respective parliaments. The segment concluded with a call to action by the IPU President for those remaining parliaments that had not yet endorsed the Common Principles to do so.

(h) Special segment to mark the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

The General Debate included a special segment on 15 October 2024 to mark the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). This segment featured the participation of His Royal Highness Prince Mired Bin Raad Al-Husseini of Jordan, the Special Envoy on the Universalization of the APMBC.

Addressing the Assembly, Prince Mired recalled how, 20 years previously, he had engaged on this issue by fighting the devastating impact of anti-personnel mines on individuals, families and communities. Since 2004, as the Chair of Jordan's National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation, he had been leading Jordan's efforts to comply with the provisions under the APMBC towards a mine-free Jordan. In 2012, the country had officially declared that it had concluded its full mine clearance, after having cleared more than 200,000 landmines. Prince Mired also expanded on the reasons why parliamentarians should engage with the Convention and why efforts towards a mine-free world mattered in the context of their functions as members of parliament. He called on the parliamentary community to make room for the landmine issue as it directly related to safeguarding human life, ensuring human dignity, and exercising good governance.

Regarding universalization of the Convention, so far 164 countries had acceded, but 33 remained outside the APMBC. Accession was the goal both for affected countries and for those that were already free of mines. However, accession could not be achieved without a concerted plan of action that was well coordinated among all stakeholders, including parliamentarians.

Member Parliament delegations intervened to state their support for the cause of eliminating landmines and for the efforts towards further universalization of the Convention. A delegate from Canada recalled that Canadian parliamentarians had frequently raised awareness on issues of anti-personnel mines at IPU Assemblies, and highlighted parliamentary efforts to ratify the Convention – also known as the “Ottawa Treaty” – as a great example of the role that parliamentarians could play in addressing global challenges. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Tonga shed light on the challenges faced by Pacific Island States due to unexploded mines following World War II. He committed to table the issue of Tonga's accession to the Convention at the next sitting of the Legislative Assembly in November 2024, and pledged his country's support for the APMBC.

Additional celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the Convention at the Assembly included the organization of an open session of the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law on armed conflict and disability (see [page 30](#)). Members of Parliament attending the Assembly were also invited to express their support with a group photo under the Broken Chair sculpture in front of the Palais des Nations.

(i) 2024 Cremer-Passy Prize

The award of the 2024 Cremer-Passy Prize took place on 16 October 2024 at a special ceremony during the Assembly.

The IPU President announced that the winner of the 2024 Prize was Dr. Haroun Kabadi, the former President of the National Assembly of Chad (2011 to 2021) and currently speaker of Chad's National Transitional Council, which is playing the role of legislative body as the country returns to constitutional order, in recognition of his exceptional work in promoting peace and security.

The IPU President announced that the Prize Selection Board, made up of former Presidents of the IPU and prominent MPs representing each geopolitical group, had met four times to deliberate on the candidates.

The Board had been unanimous in its decision to award the prize to Dr. Kabadi.

As Dr. Kabadi was not able to attend the Assembly in person, the Chadian delegation accepted the trophy on his behalf. Member of the delegation Mr. J. Laouhingamaye Dingaomaibe took the floor to say a few words of thanks and to pay tribute to Dr. Kabadi.

(j) Special segment on the latest IPU publications

On 16 October 2024, the Secretary General presented some of the most recent IPU publications to the Assembly:

*[Human security and common security to build peace](#)*: A new toolkit designed to equip parliamentarians worldwide with innovative approaches to address conflict and promote peace, in line with the IPU priority theme for 2024.

The *[World e-Parliament Report 2024](#)*: The eighth edition of the biennial IPU report, produced by the IPU's Centre for Innovation in Parliament.

*[10 actions for stronger national climate commitments](#)*: A guide to help parliaments and parliamentarians enhance their oversight of national climate commitments, known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The new guide is a sister product to another IPU guide, *[10 actions for greener parliaments \(and those who work in them\)](#)*, published last year, which encourages parliaments to reduce their carbon footprint. Both guides are part of the IPU's climate campaign *[Parliaments for the Planet](#)*, designed to mobilize parliaments to accelerate action on the climate emergency.

## 5. Special accountability segment

As in previous Assemblies, the General Debate included a special accountability segment chaired by the IPU President, in which delegations were invited to contribute with interventions on their actions to implement IPU outcomes.

The President conveyed the importance of translating IPU decisions into national policies and underscored the duty of delegates to submit IPU resolutions to their parliaments, stimulate their implementation, and report results obtained to the IPU Secretariat. To facilitate this process, each year, a number of parliaments from each geopolitical group were designated to report, by answering a survey prepared by the IPU Secretariat.

Ms. A. Filip, IPU Director of the Division for Member Parliaments and External Relations, presented the 2024 annual Members' reporting exercise. The rate of response to the 2024 survey had reached a high of 81%. The survey highlighted that 76% of respondents were relaying IPU Assembly outcomes to their parliaments, with nearly half taking additional steps such as revising legislation or engaging in parliamentary debates. Good practices from IPU Member Parliaments such as Australia, Burundi, Mexico, Pakistan and the Philippines were shared with the plenary.

The IPU Secretary General took the floor to make a special tribute to Mr. P. Katjavivi, Speaker of the Namibian Parliament, for his longstanding contribution to the IPU, as he was set to retire in 2025. Mr. P. Katjavivi then spoke of his dedication to youth engagement, emphasizing the role of Namibia's

Children's Parliament as a catalyst for legislative change and in holding parliamentarians accountable to younger generations. Two members of the Namibian Children's Parliament, Ms. P. Mokotjomela and Mr. G. Neumbo, took the floor and highlighted the ability of this body to shape the country's future by taking youth interests into account, including those related to childcare and gender equality.

A total of 18 delegations then took the floor to share their parliaments' good practices in following up on recent IPU decisions. Examples of parliamentary action included:

- Canada: Following the adoption of the Manama Declaration, the Canadian Human Rights Commission had conducted a study on racism, sexism and systemic discrimination in the public service.
- Fiji: To make Parliament more inclusive and to strengthen citizen engagement, a multi-language translation system had been implemented.
- India: The country had hosted the P20 Summit in 2023, reaffirming its commitment to parliamentary diplomacy as a means to promote peace and prosperity.
- Libya: Following the Derna flash flood of 2023, its Parliament had established a Libyan Development and Reconstruction Fund to facilitate the city's reconstruction.
- Malawi: Its Parliament had strengthened its oversight abilities to ensure that the Peace and Unity Act passed in 2022 was fully enforced and to assess its implementation. In June 2024, a new Data Protection Act had been adopted and aimed to provide a comprehensive regulatory framework around personal data.
- Mexico: The country had been actively working on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by setting up a multi-party group to ensure every initiative undertaken contributed to reaching the SDG targets.
- Suriname: Electoral reforms had been undertaken to ensure fair representation of various minorities within Parliament. Suriname had also initiated programmes focused on community development and education to empower local populations.
- Thailand: Its Parliament had actively addressed the issue of cyber scams and passed a new law on cybercrime prevention in March 2023. This law tackled the fast-moving nature of cybercrimes by facilitating cooperation between financial institutions, telecom operators and the authorities.
- Tunisia: The country was the 70th to accede to the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime thanks to measures taken by Parliament. Two additional protocols to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime had also been adopted, enabling Tunisia to deal with a variety of cyber threats.
- Uzbekistan: Its Parliament had established a parliamentary commission on the SDGs to exercise effective parliamentary oversight of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Other delegations that took the floor during this segment included Australia, Bahrain, Benin, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Maldives and Morocco.

## 6. Concluding sitting of the Assembly

At the concluding sitting on 17 October 2024, **the IPU President** introduced the Geneva Declaration on *Harnessing science, technology and innovation (STI) for a more peaceful and sustainable future* (see [page 42](#)) and invited two young parliamentarians, **Ms. M. Al Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates)** and **Mr. D. Carden (United Kingdom)** to present the Declaration. A request from Ireland for the addition of a sentence on worldwide collaboration and exchange was noted. The Assembly unanimously endorsed the Geneva Declaration.

**Mr. C.A. Rendón García (Mexico)**, rapporteur of the drafting committee, introduced the emergency item resolution, *Response by parliamentarians to the urgent plea by the UN Secretary-General to recommit to multilateralism for global peace, justice and sustainability*. The delegations from Argentina, Palestine and the Russian Federation took the floor to express reservations about the emergency item process but confirmed their endorsement of the final resolution. The Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution.

**Ms. M. Rempel Garner (Canada)** and **Ms. N. Lugangira (United Republic of Tanzania)**, co-Rapporteurs of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, presented the resolution *The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law* (see [page 44](#)). The Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution.

The Assembly took note of the Reports of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, presented by its Acting President, **Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland)**; of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, presented by its President, **Mr. W. William (Seychelles)**; and of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, presented by its President, **Mr. D. McGuinty (Canada)** (see [page 54](#)).

The Assembly approved the appointment of four additional co-Rapporteurs for the resolution to be drafted by the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security for adoption at the 150th Assembly on *The role of parliaments in advancing the two-State solution in Palestine*, bringing the total number of rapporteurs to six, one for each geopolitical group (see [page 37](#)).

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 151st Assembly, together with the rapporteurs that would be working on the draft resolution (see [page 37](#)).

The Assembly unanimously adopted amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules of the Assembly, with the effect of lowering the age below which members of parliaments would be considered “young” in the IPU context, fixing several inconsistencies, removing certain redundant practices and enshrining new ones (see [page 68](#)).

At the conclusion of the Assembly, the representatives of the geopolitical groups took the floor: **Mr. H. Mahjoub (Tunisia)** on behalf of the Arab Group, **Mr. Zhang Yong (China)** on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, **Ms. M.d.C. Alva Prieto (Peru)** on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, **Mr. K.K.P. Kouassi (Côte d’Ivoire)** on behalf of the African Group, and **Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland)** on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group. They thanked the President, Secretary General, the staff of the Secretariat, the support staff including the interpreters, and the Swiss hosts for the smooth running of the Assembly. They congratulated the participants for their passionate, inspiring and constructive interventions, which had highlighted much common ground among the international parliamentary community. They expressed satisfaction with the unanimous adoption of an emergency item resolution after the failure of the two previous Assemblies to do so, but regretted that the conflict in the Middle East, as well as conflicts in other parts of the world, had not received the specific attention they deserved. They encouraged parliamentarians to continue their work to promote the values of the IPU and wished participants a safe trip home.

In his concluding remarks, **Mr. M. Chungong, IPU Secretary General**, said that he was confident that the appeal he had made at the start of the Assembly for parliamentarians to be resilient and not yield to despair in the face of a multiplicity of global challenges had been heeded. He paid tribute to the IPU President, who had done a sterling job presiding over the Assembly, and thanked the unsung heroes – the IPU Secretariat, the support staff and the interpreters – who had made the Assembly possible. In listening to the General Debate, he had been convinced that, if harnessed and regulated properly, science, technology and innovation could be deployed for the good of humanity, including in the resolution of conflicts. He was pleased that the IPU membership had rededicated itself to multilateralism, inspired by the recent pronouncements of the UN Secretary-General. Finally, he was glad that the Parliament of Jamaica had rejoined the Organization and that there were good prospects of other new Members joining in the near future.

In her concluding remarks, **Dr. T. Ackson, IPU President and President of the 149th Assembly**, observed that, at times, the atmosphere at the Assembly had been tense and polarized. The emergency item resolution had echoed the words of the UN Secretary-General that the world had become paralysed by dysfunction and held hostage to geopolitical tensions. Nonetheless, the Assembly had identified many solutions, notably the need for: a reinvigorated multilateral system, better respect for international law, a rejection of violence and suffering, increased global cooperation, and most importantly, dialogue and parliamentary diplomacy. The Assembly had also seen a lively General Debate that had concluded that science, technology and innovation offered great hope for a more peaceful and sustainable future; a robust appeal from the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law for the membership to put pressure on the countries in the Middle East to avert full-scale war; a strong resolution on artificial intelligence and how it might impact democracy, human rights and the rule of law; and the approval of amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules as part of ongoing work to modernize the Organization’s operations. She encouraged those present to continue to uphold the values of the IPU – democracy, equality, respect, inclusivity and dignity for all – and looked forward to seeing them again in Uzbekistan in April 2025.

*Dr. T. Ackson declared the 149th IPU Assembly closed and the IPU Anthem was played.*

## 214th session of the Governing Council

### 1. Report of the IPU President

The Governing Council received a detailed report on the activities of the IPU President over the period since the last Assembly. These activities, in the form of working visits and online contributions, were focused on achieving eight aims, namely: supporting conflict-affected regions; engaging in diplomatic efforts in the Middle East; enhancing parliamentary innovation; promoting youth and gender participation; fostering global parliamentary diplomacy and upholding IPU values; addressing urgent global issues; strengthening parliamentary cooperation; and driving initiatives on digital transformation and artificial intelligence.

The President informed the Governing Council that, following a request from the Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine for her to engage with the executive authorities of Ukraine and the Russian Federation, she had met with President Putin on the sidelines of the BRICS Parliamentary Forum in St. Petersburg in July 2024. She stressed that she intended to provide a full report on this meeting once she had also been able to meet President Zelensky in Ukraine.

The President had taken advantage of her visit to Hungary for the celebration of the 135th anniversary of its Parliament's membership of the IPU to make a plea in favour of increased gender inclusivity, as Hungary is one of the countries where the representation of women in parliament is below the global average.

The President's participation in the 79th United Nations General Assembly had offered her an opportunity to reinforce the IPU's engagement with the United Nations, an essential partner of the IPU in reaching its core objectives.

The President had taken advantage of her participation in the G7 Speakers' Meeting held in Verona, Italy to share the IPU's perspective on the current debate on digital transformation and artificial intelligence, one of the key issues of our time. She had also taken that opportunity to meet with the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, who had expressed an interest in possible IPU membership.

The Governing Council expressed its thanks to the President for her commitment to raising the Organization's profile.

Some delegates raised concerns about the President's meeting with President Putin and requested further details of her discussions with him. Replying to these concerns, the President reiterated that her visit to the Russian Federation had been organized in accordance with the request from the Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine that she engage with the executives of both countries party to the conflict. She highlighted that the initial plan had been for her to travel to both Ukraine and the Russian Federation in the same trip, and she had written to the respective Speakers of Parliament to that effect; correspondence which delegates could consult should they wish. Her visit to Ukraine could not be scheduled at the proposed time due to the participation of President Zelensky and the Speaker of the Parliament of Ukraine in a NATO summit. She had not felt in a position to cancel her mission to the Russian Federation, as she had been invited to take part in the BRICS Parliamentary Forum in St. Petersburg.

She reiterated that her visit to the Russian Federation was to be understood in the context of the IPU's core objective to promote dialogue through parliamentary diplomacy. She encouraged delegates to give her due credit for her efforts and to demonstrate the same trust as they had placed in her when they had elected her as President of the IPU. Expressing her hope that her explanations had put the matter to rest, she reiterated her commitment to reporting back to the Council after completing a meeting with President Zelensky.

### 2. Report of the Secretary General

The Governing Council heard the Secretary General's report on the activities carried out by the IPU over the past nine months to implement its Strategy. Since January 2024, the IPU had organized:

- 30 national support activities in 16 countries to build the capacity of parliaments institutionally and on key thematic issues.
- 54 regional and global events to mobilize and leverage parliamentary action and facilitate learning: 19 in person, 31 online and four in hybrid format.

The IPU had also launched eight new publications.

The Secretary General presented a review of activities carried out under the IPU's five strategic objectives. Special attention was paid to the support provided to parliaments in transition and parliaments from the small island developing States (SIDS), as well as to efforts for achieving universal membership and implementing the IPU Political Project at the UN.

Members expressed their appreciation to the Secretary General and his team for the work accomplished, and in particular for providing support to parliaments that are faced with challenging political environments. The report confirmed their trust in the Secretary General and his colleagues, whom they encouraged to keep up their efforts towards successful achievement of all strategic objectives. In this vein, they also highlighted the necessity that the recommendations and resolutions emerging from the various activities carried out by the IPU be transformed into actions for the benefit of the people. Questions were also raised regarding efforts towards universal membership.

The Governing Council took note of this interim report by the Secretary General. A more comprehensive report on the impact of the IPU's work throughout 2024 will be presented at the next Assembly, as per usual practice.

### **3. Financial situation of the IPU**

The Governing Council received a report on the financial situation of the IPU as at 31 July 2024 and an updated list of unpaid assessed contributions. Reporting on behalf of the Executive Committee, Mr. M. Dick (Australia), President of the Sub-Committee on Finance, noted that the IPU's budget performance was on track for the year so far and the Organization's finances were currently healthy and stable. Global investment markets had had a positive start to the year and the investment portfolio for the IPU and its closed Pension Fund had seen a positive return of 6% so far in 2024. The situation of voluntary funding also appeared healthy for the remainder of the year. The Executive Committee had discussed the arrears in assessed contributions, which now stood at CHF 2.1 million following recent receipts, and the situation of certain Member Parliaments that had long-accumulated arrears. The Governing Council discussed this matter further in conjunction with its consideration of questions relating to membership (see [section 5](#) below).

### **4. Consolidated budget for 2025**

The consolidated draft budget for 2025 was presented to the Governing Council. The draft budget had been prepared under the supervision of the Sub-Committee on Finance and had been reviewed in detail by the Executive Committee. Reporting on behalf of the Executive Committee, Mr. M. Dick (Australia) summarized the draft budget, which was projected at a total of CHF 18.2 million in income and expenditure. He noted that the work of the IPU would continue across the five objectives as set out in the 2022-2026 Strategy, with particular attention in some specific areas. 2025 was to witness a special policy focus on gender equality and women's rights, as it would mark the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, and the 25th anniversary of the UN Security Council resolution on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). The IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians would also be celebrating 40 years of existence. In addition, the IPU would maintain its momentum on the previous priority themes of climate action, and peace and security, given the multiple crises and conflicts currently ongoing or emerging. At the same time, the Organization would continue to invest in its digital transformation to enhance its impact as well as its delivery for Member Parliaments.

In terms of income, the core budget included an increase of 3% in total assessed contributions, as agreed previously by the Governing Council, in order to rebalance total contributions by the end of the current Strategy period back to their level of 2011. Resource mobilization was estimated to generate voluntary contributions amounting to CHF 4.3 million in 2025, or 24% of the total income budget. This would be a slight increase in expected voluntary income compared to 2024, and the IPU anticipated the extension of some major multi-year grants from Swedish Sida, the European Union and the Parliament of Qatar, among others. Mr. Dick encouraged all delegates to help with the mobilization of voluntary funds for the IPU from within their own countries and geopolitical groups.

The Governing Council approved the 2025 consolidated budget.

## 5. Questions relating to IPU membership and observer status

The IPU is continuing its campaign to secure all the parliaments of the 193 Member States of the United Nations among its membership. In this light, the Governing Council warmly welcomed the Parliament of Jamaica back to the Organization, thus increasing the IPU membership to 181. In the same vein, the Governing Council took note that representatives of the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam were attending the 149th Assembly in view of possible affiliation to the Organization at the 150th Assembly.

The Governing Council reiterated its commitment to reaching universal membership, including readmission of the Congress of the United States of America.

The Governing Council was apprised of a request for observer status from the League of Parliamentarians for Al Quds and Palestine. According to the Executive Committee, this organization was the same as the League of Parliamentarians for Al Quds – with just the addition of “and Palestine” to its name – an organization whose request for observer status had been rejected in Manama in March 2023 by the governing bodies. The Governing Council therefore endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to uphold the previous decision on this matter.

The Governing Council approved the recommendation of the Executive Committee to suspend the membership rights of the Central African Republic and the Congo, in accordance with Article 5.3 of the Statutes. They would henceforth be listed as non-participating Members of the IPU – alongside Haiti, Honduras and Papua New Guinea – until such time as they wished to re-engage with the Organization.

The Governing Council concurred with the Executive Committee on the importance of engaging closely with the small island developing States (SIDS), which are facing the challenges of climate change and financial difficulties. The Governing Council expressed its support for the approach of exploring all possible avenues to encourage and facilitate the participation of the SIDS in the work of the IPU, and to help make their voices better heard.

The Governing Council heard the Secretary General's report on the situation of certain parliaments, grouped into four categories, and approved the recommendations made by the Executive Committee.

In the category of non-functioning parliaments, the Governing Council took note that there had been no progress in the situation of **Afghanistan** since the last Assembly. In 2022, when the Taliban had taken power in the country and dissolved the elected parliament, in a gesture of solidarity, the IPU governing bodies had decided to recognize the dissolved parliament and allow it to participate in the IPU with the status of non-voting observer. The Governing Council decided to maintain its previous position in that regard.

The Parliament of **Bangladesh** was a new case submitted for the attention of the Governing Council, as it had recently been dissolved following sociopolitical unrest, under the then-administration of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. According to the Constitution of the country, new elections were meant to have been organized within 90 days of dissolution of the Parliament, i.e. by the end of November 2024. The Governing Council took note with concern of the arrest of several former parliamentarians, whose cases were now being reviewed by the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians. The parliamentarians concerned included former prominent governance officials of the IPU, namely former IPU President, Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, former Chair of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, Mr. Fazle Chowdhury, and former Chair of the Advisory Group on Health, Dr. Habibe Millat. The Governing Council welcomed the outreach efforts of the Secretary General of the IPU to the new Prime Minister of the country, Mr. Muhammad Yunus, which had contributed to the release of Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury. Taking note with regret of the developments in Bangladesh, the Governing Council decided to defer any decision on the situation until parliamentary elections had taken place.

**Guinea-Bissau** was in the throes of crisis following a standoff between the Speaker of Parliament, Mr. Domingos Simões Pereira, and the President of the Republic, Mr. Umaro Sissoco Embaló. The latter had unconstitutionally dissolved the Parliament and blocked access to its premises. Speaker Pereira had requested the IPU's support to solve this situation and had participated in the Organization's initiative for transitional parliaments. In a gesture of solidarity, the IPU continued to recognize Mr. Pereira as the elected Speaker of the Parliament of Guinea-Bissau. The Governing Council took note with regret of this unfortunate situation and urged the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to adhere to the Constitution and organize elections to allow the Parliament to function.

In the case of **Haiti**, where there was still no functioning parliament, the Governing Council maintained its previous decision to keep its membership rights suspended until elections had taken place, at which time the Parliament would resume its normal position in the IPU.

The parliament of **Kuwait** had been dissolved several times in recent years and was currently suspended with no prospect of elections in the foreseeable future. In the meantime, the Emir had assumed legislative power in accordance with the country's Constitution. Considering that the Parliament of Kuwait was among the more progressive legislatures in the region, the Governing Council decided to continue to monitor the situation and consider it once again in the context of its 295th session in April 2025.

The case of **Myanmar** was similar to that of Afghanistan. The Governing Council decided to maintain its former decision to recognize the Parliament elected in 2020, which now met as the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, as the interlocutor of the IPU with the status of non-voting observer.

In **Niger**, there were prospects of a legislative body being established, as a delegation from the country had recently conducted a visit to Burkina Faso and Mali to get inspiration on the arrangements for setting up a transitional parliament. A representative of Niger that the Secretary General had met in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly had confirmed that the authorities were awaiting input from the Nigerien diaspora with a view to establishing a transitional legislative body. Counting on the goodwill of the Nigerien authorities to establish such a body without delay, the Governing Council decided to accord Niger the same treatment as it did to other transitional parliaments in West Africa.

**Sudan** was in a similar situation to Haiti, with no prospect of a new election any time soon. The Governing Council therefore decided to maintain the suspension of Sudan until the establishment of a new fully fledged parliament.

In the second category of parliaments under review, the Governing Council considered the transitional parliaments. It took together the West and Central African transitional parliaments, namely **Burkina Faso, Gabon, Guinea** and **Mali**, and decided to retain their membership, along with confirming the Secretary General's mandate to support their efforts towards a speedy return to constitutional order. The Governing Council took note of the positive developments in some of those countries, where the drafting of new constitutions indicated that a return to normality was on track. The Governing Council encouraged the transitional bodies concerned to accelerate their efforts in that regard. The Governing Council welcomed with appreciation the ongoing execution of the mandate it had given to the Secretary General on the issue.

For **Libya**, the Governing Council took note that the Parliament initially based in Tobruk, which it had previously recognized as the country's legitimate Parliament and which was now operating from Benghazi, was functioning, but difficulties with organizing new elections remained. The Governing Council reiterated its past recommendation for the Libyan authorities to speed up the process for organizing elections that would allow a fully fledged parliament to be established.

**South Sudan's** transitional parliament had received the support that the governing bodies had mandated the Secretary General to provide. The Governing Council took note that the elections expected for December 2024 had now been postponed to 2026 following the extension of the transitional period aimed at bringing all parties on board with the arrangements for a return to constitutional order.

The third category covered countries where the political situation was impacting parliament's capacity to function. In **Palestine**, there was little to report apart from the ongoing conflict raging in the region. The last elections had been held in 2006 and, in the meantime, the Palestinian National Council had exercised Palestine's membership in the IPU. The Governing Council took note of the absence of developments and expressed the wish that, in an ideal situation, new elections would take place as soon as possible.

In the case of the **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**, the Governing Council took note of the report on the extensive discussions the Executive Committee had had on the situation. The Governing Council concurred with the Executive Committee that the IPU must uphold its core values, in particular a commitment to engage in dialogue, when considering its contribution to the resolution of the ongoing crisis in the country. The Governing Council approved the recommendation of the Executive Committee to keep open the channels of dialogue with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on the basis of a roadmap and timeline which the Secretary General would prepare for further discussion by the governing bodies.

**Yemen** had been under the IPU's monitoring mechanism since 2011 and little had changed since the Governing Council's last session in March 2024. The Governing Council therefore maintained its previous position to recognize the Parliament based in Aden that is aligned with the UN-recognized authorities.

In the fourth category, countries where the political situation constitutes a potential threat to parliaments' capacity to function, the Governing Council approved the recommendation of the Executive Committee to remove **Bosnia and Herzegovina** and **Peru** from the list of parliaments under review as the political situation had stabilized in those countries.

The Governing Council decided to maintain the **Syrian Arab Republic** under review in light of the ongoing war in the country.

## 6. IPU priority themes

The Secretary General explained that his report on activities carried out in 2024 (see [section 2](#) above) included information on efforts led by the Organization around the 2024 priority theme of peace and security.

He recalled that work on the 2024 priority theme included the IPU's efforts in terms of mediation and parliamentary diplomacy, for instance through the Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, the Group of Facilitators for Cyprus, or the dialogue between the Speakers of the Parliaments of Armenia and Azerbaijan. In addition, special emphasis had been placed on the concepts of human security and common security in parliaments. The IPU had just launched a publication on [Human security and common security to build peace](#) which was intended as a guide for MPs in their efforts to prevent conflict at both national and international levels. These initiatives complemented work carried out to support disarmament efforts, transitional parliaments and post-conflict reconstruction.

The Secretary General then explained that the proposed 2025 priority theme was gender equality. 2025 would be a year of several milestones for the empowerment of women and girls. It would mark the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 25th anniversary of the UN Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, and the 10-year milestone of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a leading organization for the advancement of gender equality, the IPU had an important role to play in mobilizing the parliamentary community and facilitating the identification of its own course of action towards the realization of all such crucial commitments. The IPU would have its own internal milestones to celebrate too, as 2025 would mark the 40th anniversary of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.

2024 had already been a pivotal year for gender equality in politics, with 70 elections having taken place or scheduled before the end of the year. Trends so far in terms of women's election to parliament were not positive, with evidence of stagnation, if not backsliding. Pushbacks were also increasing with regard to women and girls' rights, freedoms and empowerment. The disproportionate effects of conflict and war on women and girls, the rollback of reproductive health, rights and justice, and other attempts to challenge women's rights were all important signals of the importance of efforts for gender equality.

The IPU, as an unwavering champion of gender equality, had therefore decided to rededicate its efforts towards gender equality by proposing it as its priority theme for 2025. The proposal was approved by the Governing Council.

## 7. Future inter-parliamentary meetings

The Governing Council approved the list of future inter-parliamentary meetings, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

The Governing Council took note of the confirmation by the Executive Committee that, during COP29, the Parliamentary Meeting would be taking place in the Green Zone. Parliamentary delegations would therefore also have access to many of the other deliberative processes that would be taking place during this major event.

The Governing Council took note of the request of the Executive Committee that parliamentary delegations attending meetings in New York make use of the support of both the IPU's New York Office and their respective permanent missions in the city to facilitate their participation.

## 8. Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

The Governing Council unanimously adopted amendments to the Rules of the Governing Council, the Rules of the Executive Committee, the Rules of the Standing Committees, the Rules of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, and the Rules and Working Modalities of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians (see [page 68](#)).

## 9. Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

The Governing Council took note of an update on the work of the Preparatory Committee for the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, which had met for the first time on 16 and 17 May 2024 and would meet again just after the Assembly on 18 October 2024. The Governing Council endorsed the appointment by the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean of Ms. L. Adderley (Bahamas) to the Preparatory Committee to replace Ms. M. Guerra Castillo (Mexico), who was no longer a Speaker of Parliament, and the appointment by the African Group of Ms. J. Nunu Kumba (South Sudan) to fill an existing vacancy. Several other vacancies remained on the Committee. The Conference would be taking place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 29-31 July 2025, preceded by the Fifteenth Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament in Bern on 28 July 2025.

## 10. IPU Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology

The IPU Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology began life as an initiative of the IPU Working Group on Science and Technology. A first draft had been circulated at the 148th Assembly to Member Parliaments, relevant partners and experts, who had subsequently shared their insights and suggestions on the Charter, which had helped to enrich and enhance it, making it more comprehensive and inclusive.

After careful integration of relevant feedback and finalization, the Charter had been submitted to the Executive Committee, which had recommended it for adoption by the Governing Council, an initiative that aligned seamlessly with the theme of the 149th IPU Assembly. The Governing Council adopted the IPU Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology (see [page 76](#)).

## 11. 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, the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (CHRP), the Committee on Middle East Questions, the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, the Group of Facilitators for Cyprus, the Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG), the Working Group on Science and Technology, the Gender Partnership Group and the Advisory Group on Health. The Council endorsed the new appointments to those bodies (see [page 35](#)).

## 12. Cremer-Passy Prize

At the suggestion of the Prize Selection Board and on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Governing Council approved amendments to the Rules of the Cremer-Passy Prize as follows:

- Extension of the deadline to 30 June every year to allow the geopolitical groups more time in which to make their nominations.
- Replacement of the current system of a primary candidate and one alternate per geopolitical group with one male and one female nomination to ensure that the pool of candidates (12 in total) would be gender balanced.
- Removal of the criterion of grassroots support, which is difficult to evaluate. Candidates would henceforth be evaluated on the basis of four criteria rather than the previous five.

The President announced that nominations were now open for the 2025 edition of the Cremer-Passy Prize. Nominees were expected to have an exceptional record on gender equality, the IPU's priority theme for 2025.

## 294th session of the Executive Committee

*N.B.: This section covers matters discussed by the Executive Committee but not already covered in the Governing Council section above.*

### 1. Sub-Committee on Finance

The President of the Sub-Committee on Finance, Mr. M. Dick (Australia), informed the Executive Committee of the Sub-Committee's deliberations prior to the session of the Executive Committee. The Sub-Committee had reviewed the financial situation of the IPU as at 31 July 2024. The Organization's budget performance was on track for the year so far and its finances were healthy and stable. The situation of voluntary funding was also in healthy shape for the remainder of 2024. Accumulated arrears of assessed contributions had stood at CHF 2.3 million at the time of the Sub-Committee's meeting.

The Sub-Committee had discussed the IPU's draft budget for 2025 and reviewed the budget document, which it presented to the Executive Committee in full. The core budget included a 3% increase in total assessed contributions, as agreed previously by the Governing Council, aimed at rebalancing total contributions back to their level of 2011 by the end of the current Strategy period. At the same time, voluntary income was projected to increase slightly as various grants had been received or renewed. The Sub-Committee advised the Executive Committee to recommend the 2025 budget to the Governing Council.

The Executive Committee also received the Secretary General's usual update on the mobilization of voluntary funding. As the new President of the Sub-Committee on Finance, Mr. Dick expressed his appreciation to the outgoing President, Mr. A.R. Al Nuaimi (United Arab Emirates), for his outstanding service to the Sub-Committee. He also thanked the IPU Secretariat team for their work.

### 2. Questions relating to IPU membership and observer status

The Executive Committee noted with satisfaction that the IPU's efforts in favour of universal membership were paying off, as it had received a request from the Parliament of Jamaica for reaffiliation, which it accepted and recommended to the Governing Council for approval.

The Executive Committee also received a request for observer status from the League of Parliamentarians for Al Quds and Palestine. Following an in-depth review, the Executive Committee concluded that the organization in question was the same as the League of Parliamentarians for Al Quds – with just the addition of “and Palestine” to its name – whose request for observer status had been rejected in Manama in March 2023. It therefore maintained its initial decision and reported this information to the Governing Council.

### 3. IPU regional offices

The Executive Committee was informed about progress with the establishment of regional offices in Uruguay and Egypt. An agreement had been signed between the Government of Uruguay and the IPU which granted the IPU international organization status in Uruguay, entitling it to the relevant privileges and immunities. The signing of this agreement had marked an initial step towards establishing a Regional Office in Montevideo, for which the Host Parliament had designated suitable premises.

Subsequently, the Secretariat had shared a draft operational agreement with the Parliament of Uruguay, outlining the office's functional modalities, including operational and budgetary elements. In order to address the Parliament's financial constraints while maintaining enthusiasm for the project, the Secretariat had proposed temporary arrangements for two years. These would be implemented if the conditions set by the Governing Council on 12 October 2022 were met, notably ensuring the IPU's functional independence. The temporary arrangements were designed to be cost-neutral for the IPU.

In Egypt, the IPU Secretariat had engaged with the Parliament regarding the draft Host Agreement and budget. The Parliament was gathering examples of host agreements with other international organizations to expedite negotiations on the IPU agreement, focusing on immunities and privileges.

#### 4. Working Group on Transparency, Accountability and Openness

The Executive Committee was apprised of the achievements of the Working Group. Most of the recommendations of the Transparency Report submitted to the Governing Council in 2021 had now been implemented. At the next meeting of the Working Group, the Secretariat would introduce a whistleblower protection policy and provide an update on the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Governance Officials and anti-harassment policy. In addition, the Working Group would be invited to review progress made in relation to the Transparency Report and consider suspending its activities until such time as new recommendations regarding transparency, accountability and openness were raised.

#### 5. IPU Secretariat

The Executive Committee was briefed on staff movements in the IPU Secretariat, including several promotions (see [page 97](#)). The Executive Committee also began discussions on the administrative arrangements for the IPU President, with a view to possible enhanced support in future.

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

The Executive Committee took note of the annual report on cooperation between the IPU and the ASGP.

## Subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council

### 1. Forum and Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

The 38th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was held on 13 October 2024. It brought together 147 participants, including 108 parliamentarians (99 women and 9 men) from 77 countries. The President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), chaired the session.

As a contribution to the work of the Assembly, participants examined, from a gender perspective, the draft resolution of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights entitled *The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law*. The Forum then proposed three amendments to the draft resolution to the Standing Committee, as well as four expressions of support for amendments proposed by Member Parliaments. Most of the Forum's proposed amendments were integrated into the draft resolution, strengthening its gender perspective.

The Forum also organized a panel discussion on *Sustaining peace and providing justice to women and girls*, during which participants stressed the importance of laws to sanction perpetrators of gender-based and sexual violence and to provide adequate support to victims, both in conflict situations and in times of peace. The participants called for the establishment of gender-sensitive judicial systems, not only to try these crimes but also to address their root causes. Strengthening international cooperation and solidarity, significantly increasing women's participation and incorporating the experiences of conflict victims into peace talks and reconstruction processes were identified as prerequisites for lasting peace.

The Bureau of Women Parliamentarians met on 13 and 17 October 2024. The meeting of 13 October was dedicated to preparing the work of the Forum's 38th session, and the meeting of 17 October took stock of the results of the 149th Assembly from a gender perspective and made preparations for the Forum's next session and future work (see report on [page 81](#)).

### 2. Forum and Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians

The Forum of Young Parliamentarians was held on 14 October 2024 and brought together 65 young parliamentarians, 36% of whom were women. The meeting was presided over by Mr. D. Carden (United Kingdom), the President of the Board of the Forum.

The 10th anniversary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians set the tone for the meeting. The IPU President and Secretary General made opening remarks that reaffirmed their commitment to the Forum and its mission to empower young MPs and youth. Former and current members of the Forum then shared testimonials on the lasting impact the Forum had in strengthening their work as MPs and in creating a united movement for youth at the IPU.

Members of the Forum provided updates on recent developments in their countries. They also contributed youth perspectives to the topics before the current IPU Assembly and held a Q&A session on taking the [I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!](#) campaign to the next level.

The Forum appointed the President of the Board to prepare a youth overview report on the proposed resolution on *The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine*, and Mr. W. Soto (Peru) to prepare a youth overview report on the proposed resolution on *Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development*, both of which will be examined at the 150th IPU Assembly in April 2025.

At its meeting earlier that day, the Forum of Young Parliamentarians held a minute of silence for Palestinian and Lebanese victims currently impacted by the conflict in the Middle East. They highlighted the disproportionate impact that conflicts and wars have on young people in all parts of the world. They regretted that young MPs felt disempowered to speak and act, and agreed to focus more on mobilizing young people to participate in peace efforts (see report on [page 84](#)).

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

The Committee held its 175th session from 12–16 October 2024. Ms. M. Odhiambo (Kenya), President, Mr. B. Mbuku Laka (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Mr. E. Blanc (France), Ms. L. Fehlmann Rielle (Switzerland), and Mr. H. Kamboni (Zambia) participated in the session. Ms. L. Quartapelle (Italy) and Ms. C. Asiain Pereira (Uruguay) also participated in the session remotely.

During the session, the Committee examined the situation of 395 parliamentarians (26% of whom are women) in 14 countries. New cases concerning 175 parliamentarians were declared admissible in Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nicaragua and Thailand. One case concerning a parliamentarian from Colombia was declared inadmissible and one case concerning a parliamentarian from the Philippines was closed. The Committee also held nine hearings (one of which took place online) with national delegations and complainants.

The Committee submitted 10 decisions to the Governing Council for adoption on the situation of 390 parliamentarians in the following countries: Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Guinea-Bissau, Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, Tunisia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

### 4. Committee on Middle East Questions

Since the last Assembly in March 2024, the Committee on Middle East Questions met twice informally (on 20 June and 11 July 2024), and once formally, in two sittings (on 14 and 16 October 2024) with at least six members in attendance at each sitting. The informal meetings had aimed to coordinate a visit to the region, but it had been postponed due to the precarious security situation and the unavailability of Committee members.

The Committee held a discussion about its role, taking into account its desire to meaningfully contribute to the Middle East peace process, while managing the significant differences between the conflicting parties and a lack of consensus among the international community, which was reflected within the Committee. The Committee agreed that the importance of its role lay in identifying concrete actions to establish constructive dialogue between Israel and Palestine and proposing solutions to achieve sustainable peace. It acknowledged the unique nature of the Committee, where both conflicting parties were active participants. It emphasized the need for dialogue and to build trust as a foundation for its ongoing work. Members also acknowledged a desire for improved coordination among IPU bodies and representatives working on Middle East issues.

The Committee then discussed its own mandate but did not reach a conclusion. Open points regarding members' views on the occupation of Palestine and the conditions under which a two-State solution could be envisioned would be discussed in an upcoming meeting.

A representative from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) provided an overview of the current situation in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon. He shed light on the important services that UNRWA was providing and how its work had been negatively impacted since 7 October 2023. The representative emphasized the critical implications of legislation recently proposed in the Knesset that, if passed, would jeopardize UNRWA's operations and even its existence. Committee members expressed support for UNRWA's goals and called for a firm and urgent appeal to the members of the Knesset not to pass these laws, to do everything in their power to improve

the delivery of humanitarian aid to all those in need, and to contribute to rebuilding mutual trust and cooperation with UNRWA as a United Nations body whose function was at present critical for the delivery of services in a dire humanitarian situation.

The Committee also heard a presentation by a representative of the King Hamad Center for Peaceful Coexistence about activities to build peaceful and inclusive societies.

It reiterated its desire to travel to the region and continue to discuss its mandate, potentially through a retreat in Jordan where it could also meet with regional experts (see report on [page 86](#)).

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

The Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) met on 15 October 2024. The session was chaired by Mr. J.K. Waweru (Kenya).

The Committee discussed the follow-up to its previous session in March 2024 and reported on the actions taken by its members. These included: efforts to raise awareness in Parliament about the situation of the 38 former Afghan parliamentarians who were in danger and seeking refuge (Australia); legislative proposals to address the situation of stateless persons in the country (Thailand); the organization of a conference of Speakers of Parliament from Mediterranean countries on the situation of migrants and refugees in the region (Malta); legislative actions to guarantee that stateless people had the right to access basic services in the country (Bahrain); and ratification of IHL treaties, including disarmament conventions, and the adoption of laws granting nationality to stateless communities in the country (Kenya).

The Committee discussed the main findings of the latest report of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), [International Humanitarian Law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts](#), focusing in particular on new technologies of warfare. It delved into questions regarding the digital technologies of warfare, including cyber operations, autonomous weapons systems and military operations in outer space.

The Committee expressed concern about the dehumanization of armed conflicts through the use of these new technologies, such as when weapon systems are used to select targets without human intervention. The Committee reiterated that fundamental IHL rules – enshrined in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols – apply to and must guide the development and use of these new technologies. However, the Committee also agreed that new laws might be needed in this area, and that parliamentary action to support these efforts was essential. It therefore decided to organize future online briefings and webinars in partnership with the ICRC to inform and engage the global parliamentary community in this area.

The Committee received an update on recent developments in situations of humanitarian concern that it had been monitoring over the past few years. During this session, it paid particular attention to Sudan and heard an extensive briefing from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on the protection issues at stake. Sudan currently faces the largest internal displacement crisis in the world: there are 8.1 million internally displaced persons, 2.3 million refugees and asylum-seekers in other countries, 640,224 returnees, and 258,129 secondary displaced refugees and asylum-seekers. Sudan also faces the most significant child displacement crisis in the world, with over 4.6 million children displaced inside and outside the country. Protection concerns include: discrimination, exploitation and abuse; sexual and gender-based violence and child protection; arbitrary taxation by armed elements; arrest, detention and deportation; movement restriction; return under adverse conditions; harmful coping mechanisms; food insecurity; and inter-communal violence. In addition, predictable and sustained access is needed, especially the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian supplies and personnel to hard-to-reach areas. Ensuring freedom of movement for forcibly displaced persons is also a priority. Humanitarian aid to Sudan is underfunded, with only 34% of the required budget reached in 2024.

The Committee expressed its solidarity with the people of Sudan in view of their dire humanitarian plight and committed to draw attention to this major humanitarian situation, which remains relatively invisible. It highlighted the plight of Sudanese displaced persons who find themselves in situations that increase their vulnerability to exploitation and human trafficking. The Committee also endorsed the call for more funding for humanitarian aid in the context of the situation in Sudan and noted the need to strengthen cooperation and ensure efficiency and transparency in the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

In view of the current situation in the Middle East, the Committee drew attention to the challenge and importance of ensuring respect for IHL. It agreed to issue a plea, which was ultimately endorsed by the Governing Council.

The Committee discussed efforts towards ending statelessness. It welcomed the launch of the [Global Alliance to End Statelessness](#) in October 2024, of which the IPU is a member, and stressed the importance of the Alliance in enhancing cooperation – including by integrating and mobilizing the parliamentary community – to tackle statelessness. The Committee also discussed the involvement of civil society organizations in this area. It heard from Ms. Catherine Harrington from the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights, and Ms. Deepti Gurung, statelessness activist from Nepal and 2024 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award recipient for Asia-Pacific, on their efforts to end statelessness.

The Committee elected Mr. A. Farrugia (Malta) as its new President for an initial one-year term (with the possibility of one renewal). He replaces Mr. J.K. Waweru (Kenya), who has served two full terms (see report on [page 88](#)).

## **6. Group of Facilitators for Cyprus**

The Group of Facilitators for Cyprus met on 13 October 2024. The meeting was attended by one Facilitator, Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland), five members of the Cyprus delegation to the IPU representing the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus, and two representatives of the Turkish Cypriot political parties.

The parties expressed the hope that the informal meeting between the UN Secretary-General and the leaders of the Greek Cypriot community and Turkish Cypriot community held on 15 October 2024 would lead to the resumption of talks to reach a lasting solution to the Cyprus problem, under the auspices of the United Nations.

## **7. Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine**

The Task Force held its 13th meeting on 15 October 2024 and began discussions with both delegations on the cases of children who had been relocated from Ukraine to the Russian Federation, as well as with a representative of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights. The Task Force was encouraged by the fact that parliamentarians from both countries underscored that any children who had been separated from their parents, siblings, legal guardians and/or close relatives should be reunited with them, as well as their readiness to assist the Task Force in this process. In light of the fact that a proposed direct meeting between the Ukrainian and Russian ombudspersons' institutions did not come to fruition during the 149th Assembly, the Task Force extended an invitation to both delegations to facilitate such a meeting in the near future, possibly during the 150th Assembly in April 2025 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

The Task Force expressed deep concern over the escalating nuclear risks associated with the ongoing war and reiterated that parliamentarians had a particular responsibility to tone down narratives and discourses. The Task Force welcomed assurances by the parties that the use of nuclear weapons was a red line that should never be crossed and that nuclear energy facilities needed to be protected (see report on [page 82](#)).

## **8. High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism**

On 13 October 2024, the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG) held its 17th meeting, which was presided over by its Chairperson, Mr. M. Karlsson (Sweden). The group discussed a comprehensive workplan, including activities and products to be implemented in 2025. They agreed to establish an ad-hoc group to coordinate efforts in the Sahel, focusing on community, environment, security, development and education, with facilitators for each area and participation from international organizations and specialized United Nations agencies.

Experts from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) contributed to the discussions on Sahel issues. The Group also discussed the definition of terrorism and recognized the importance of arriving at a parliamentary definition to better address the issue in legislation. A central focus of the meeting was the situation in the Sahel and the persistent threat of terrorism in the region, particularly in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, which face severe security challenges. The need to address terrorism, organized crime and other emerging issues, especially in Africa, was emphasized.

Additionally, the Chairperson urged members to join the Global Parliamentary Network on Counter-Terrorism and download the mobile app on Counter-Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism (CT/PVE). At its next meeting, the Group would discuss artificial intelligence in counter-terrorism and the link between migration and preventing violent extremism. New members were elected, representing India, Libya, the Maldives and Norway (see report on [page 93](#)).

## 9. Working Group on Science and Technology

Three sittings of the Working Group were held, two online on 19 and 23 September 2024, and one in Geneva on 15 October 2024. At least ten members attended each of these meetings in person or virtually.

During its sittings on 19 and 23 September 2024, the Working Group members reviewed the proposed amendments to the IPU Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology received from IPU Member Parliaments, academics, scientists and partner organizations. After integrating relevant feedback, the Working Group officially signed off on the finalized Charter on 23 September 2024 for adoption at the 149th Assembly.

During its sitting on 15 October 2024, the Working Group members set a plan of next steps for disseminating the Charter widely and advocating for its use at the governmental and parliamentary levels in collaboration with scientists and academia. They discussed concrete next steps for diligent follow-up on the Charter to prevent it from being overlooked, to ensure its implementation and to promote its use as a model for ethical considerations in AI and future innovations.

The report *Mapping engagement between parliament and science* on the results of a survey launched by the Working Group was finalized and published on the IPU website during the Assembly.

The Working Group outlined potential next steps to advance the recommendations of the first edition of the Science for Peace Schools on water, including cooperation with the World Water Council and the UN Water Convention.

The second edition of the Science for Peace Schools, focusing on artificial intelligence (AI) and ethics, will be held in two separate sessions for parliamentary staff and parliamentarians in May and September 2025, respectively. The Schools' second edition aims to bridge the worlds of science and politics by initiating dialogue and helping create a community of parliamentary experts to address AI challenges together under the neutral umbrella of science (see report on [page 94](#)).

## 10. Gender Partnership Group

The Gender Partnership Group held its 50th session on 12 and 16 October 2024. In attendance were the Chair, Mr. A.R. Al Nuaimi (United Arab Emirates), Ms. S. Mikayilova (Azerbaijan), Mr. A. Almodóbar Barceló (Spain) and Ms. N.B.K. Mutti (Zambia).

As per its mandate, 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 149th Assembly. As of 18 October 2024, 36.4% of the delegates at the Assembly were women (see [page 95](#)), which is an improvement on the last few Assemblies but still below the record 39% in Nusa Dua in 2022 and in Madrid in 2021. Gender-balanced delegations were on the rise at the 149th Assembly: 49 delegations out of 129 (38%) were composed of 40 to 60% women or men. This is a much higher percentage than at the previous Assembly (see [page 96](#)). Of the 129 delegations present, 120 were composed of at least two delegates, of which seven were all-male (5.8%). In addition, two delegations of two or more delegates were composed entirely of women.

The Group also deliberated on the special cases of delegations that have not attended several consecutive Assemblies. It decided that the IPU should not apply sanctions on single-sex delegations if they had been absent for four or more consecutive Assemblies.

The Group took stock of the measures taken to implement the IPU anti-harassment policy. The policy continued to be made available on IPU platforms and promoted during meetings. For this Assembly, visual aids on the policy were made more prominent. Specific training had also been provided to a larger number of IPU staff and training sessions would soon be proposed for MPs and other participants in IPU Assemblies and other events. Structures and processes had also been established, and the email address [speakout@ipu.org](mailto:speakout@ipu.org) was operational to receive complaints.

The Group held a dialogue session with the delegations from Bhutan to discuss how to improve women's participation. While there had been an increase in women's representation in local government and public service, their representation in parliament had decreased at the last elections. In the National Council (upper chamber), women now held 12% of seats (down from 16%); in the National Assembly (lower chamber) women occupy only 4.3% of seats (down from 14.9%). The Group welcomed the delegation's request for the IPU's support in conducting a study on the reasons for women's underrepresentation in politics in Bhutan, and encouraged its Parliament to fully take into account the conclusions from the study to inform future policies and legal reforms to enhance women's political participation.

The Group also had a fruitful dialogue with the delegation from Oman. Despite a good track record of women's representation in appointed positions and in higher education, in the 2023 elections to the Shura Council no women were elected. The Group encouraged the delegation to accelerate its efforts in raising awareness and develop a comprehensive roadmap in this regard that would include reviewing the legal framework to advance women's representation in parliament. At the delegation's request the IPU will be providing details of existing good practices to inform their efforts in this area.

## 11. Advisory Group on Health

The Advisory Group on Health met on 13 October 2024, with four out of five members in attendance, along with technical partners from the World Health Organization (WHO), the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and UNAIDS.

The Group discussed the follow-up to the 2019 IPU resolution on universal health coverage (UHC), and decided to focus on challenges restricting access to health services, including financial barriers. It asked the IPU Secretariat to prepare a monitoring framework for the implementation of the resolution, taking into account existing resources, and called for capacity-building for parliamentarians.

The Group further discussed the current outbreak of mpox, which was declared a public health emergency of international concern by the WHO Director-General in August 2024. The Group reflected on the shift of attention away from other health priorities, the pressure of health emergencies on health systems and the importance of ensuring that equity is at the centre of decisions on disease treatment and vaccine distribution. The Group also reiterated the important role parliamentarians play in raising awareness and engaging communities, which are key to stopping mpox.

As part of efforts to strengthen linkages between the IPU's work on health and climate change, the Group decided to submit a contribution to the outcome document of the COP29 Parliamentary Meeting. The Group wished to highlight that climate change is a health-risk multiplier, and to call for policies and investment to address key challenges related to food insecurity, extreme weather-related illnesses and vector-borne diseases (see report on [page 90](#)).

## Other activities and events

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

On 13 October 2024, the IPU President and Secretary General met with the Chairpersons of the geopolitical groups and the Presidents of the Standing Committees.

The IPU President provided a summary of her main projects and activities since the last Assembly, underscoring her initiatives to promote parliamentary diplomacy in relation to the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. She had represented the Organization at several multilateral events, including the UN Summit of the Future, the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the International Conference on Nuclear Security, the BRICS Parliamentary Forum, and the G7 Speakers' Meeting. Over the past six months, she had completed 15 international visits aimed at strengthening collaboration between the IPU and its Member Parliaments on matters including climate action, gender equality, youth inclusion and sustainable development. Welcoming the IPU President's efforts to engage with IPU Member Parliaments worldwide, Mr. W. William (Seychelles) suggested that the small island developing States (SIDS) could constitute their own geopolitical group within the Organization, a proposal that needed to be given careful examination.

The IPU Secretary General gave an overview of the highlights of the 149th Assembly and an update on progress regarding the amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules. The Executive Committee had submitted a set of proposed amendments to the Governing Council and Assembly for final approval. He also presented an overview of the annual reporting exercise by Member Parliaments, and encouraged the Chairpersons of the geopolitical groups to remind their members due to report in 2025 to participate in this exercise. As the IPU was marking the 10-year anniversary of its [Common Principles for Support to Parliaments](#), the Secretary General invited the few Member Parliaments that had not yet endorsed them to do so.

The Chairpersons of the geopolitical groups provided an overview of their recent activities. Mr. M. Bouden (Algeria), Chairperson of the African Group, said that the Group had held two meetings ahead of the Assembly and encouraged the IPU Secretariat to engage with the Group before Assemblies for improved coordination. Mr. B. Boughali (Algeria), Chairperson of the Arab Group, stated that efforts were being made to translate all IPU documentation into Arabic and, to that end, he requested that documents be sent further in advance. Mr. Tian Xuejun (China) had assumed the Chairmanship of the Asia-Pacific Group as Bangladesh had been unable to continue in the role as the Parliament had been dissolved. The Group had met to coordinate the list of vacancies for the 149th Assembly. Mr. M. Nadir (Guyana), Chairperson of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, reported that the Group had agreed on a single candidate for the Group's vacancy on the IPU Executive Committee. Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland), Chairperson of the Twelve Plus Group, said that multiple meetings had been organized within the Group since the last Assembly, including to discuss the situation in Ukraine and to celebrate the Group's 50th anniversary.

Mr. W. William (Seychelles), President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, said that he had represented the IPU in various activities, including the Parliamentary Meeting at the World Water Forum in May 2024. He had also recently participated in a meeting with experts on the impact of conflict on sustainable development, the subject of the Committee's next resolution. Mr. D. McGuinty (Canada), President of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, highlighted the recently adopted Pact for the Future, which recognized the importance of the UN's engagement with national parliaments and committed to a deepening of the UN's engagement with the IPU. Mr. A. Torosyan (Armenia), Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, said that 26 Member Parliaments had submitted amendments for the Committee's resolution on the impact of artificial intelligence on democracy. The co-Rapporteurs had produced a concise and clear draft expected for adoption. Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland), member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, highlighted the recently published IPU toolkit [Human security and common security to build peace](#).

## **2. Workshop on *Practical tools to achieve sustainable development***

The IPU has created a range of practical tools to support parliaments in enhancing national responses to key sustainable development challenges, particularly in low-resource settings. This workshop, on 14 October 2024, focused on promoting essential tools that are readily available to advance national efforts, with a particular emphasis on health and climate change.

A presentation on the IPU-WHO online course on health taxes demonstrated how health taxes can combat non-communicable diseases. Case studies from the Philippines and Lithuania illustrated the success of these taxes in reducing harmful consumption and generating revenue. Participants were encouraged to explore the online course to facilitate the implementation of such measures to improve national health outcomes.

Another resource discussed was the IPU-WHO online course, [The Role of Parliaments and Parliamentarians in Strengthening Health Security Preparedness](#), designed to bolster legislative efforts in responding to health emergencies. The session highlighted the importance of the International Health Regulations in enhancing legal preparedness. Additionally, a framework guide on legal preparedness developed by the Global Health Security Agenda was introduced as a legal mapping tool to help identify gaps in health emergency preparedness.

On the topic of climate change, the workshop featured an issue brief on the impact of climate change on mountainous regions, published by the IPU and Adaptation at Altitude. It underscored the need for regional and global cooperation in managing cross-border environmental challenges. Discussions focused on the role of parliamentarians in advocating for climate adaptation measures and raising awareness of the vulnerability of mountainous areas. The issue brief was presented as a key tool for parliamentarians to identify critical areas for climate action.

The workshop concluded with an open dialogue, providing participants the opportunity to exchange insights on their capacity-building and knowledge needs. This exchange allowed for discussions on other existing and forthcoming practical tools to support efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Participants were encouraged to maintain engagement with experts and organizations to ensure continued progress in applying these tools effectively in their national contexts.

### **3. Panel Discussion on the theme *Common Principles: Parliamentary development as a defence to democratic backsliding***

A panel discussion was held on *Common Principles: Parliamentary development as a defence to democratic backsliding* on 14 October 2024. Given recent trends of democratic backsliding across the globe, the panel discussed how parliamentary development can be enhanced to bolster parliaments' resilience to backsliding. The discussion took place against the backdrop of the 10-year anniversary of the Common Principles for Support to Parliament, which was commemorated throughout the 149th Assembly. It was moderated by Mr. J.d.D. Cincunegui, Deputy Director of the International Center for Parliamentary Studies, Research and Foresight (CIDEIPP) and Executive Director of the International Diploma in Parliamentary Diplomacy at the Universidad Austral (Argentina).

To kick off the event, Ms. N. Kamau, Executive Director of the Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST) in Kenya, delivered a keynote address. Her speech focused on the challenges and proposed solutions to enhance parliamentary strengthening in line with each of the Common Principles. A number of respondents then took the floor to react to the presentation and share their own perspectives on backsliding, namely: Mr. R. Edwards (Chile), Ms. Thanda (Myanmar), Mr. S. Kawimbe (Zambia), Ms. M. Udina (European Parliament), Ms. K. Sample (National Democratic Institute), and Mr. A. Read (United Nations Development Programme).

Interventions by respondents and from the floor confirmed the challenges national parliaments face with democratic backsliding. The discussion highlighted the importance of support to bring parliaments closer to the people. Inclusion was key for parliamentary legitimacy and to effectively deliver. Participants also remarked on the importance of better leveraging new technologies to connect to the people, while mitigating the risks they pose, particularly with regard to misinformation and its role in eroding trust in political institutions. The importance of transparency in parliamentary work, as well as the role of parliamentary training institutes in bringing about sustainable outcomes for parliamentary development were also underlined. The importance of parliamentary autonomy vis-à-vis the executive, particularly regarding financial matters, was also highlighted.

In the concluding remarks, participants reaffirmed their support for the Common Principles as a guide to effective parliamentary development, which in turn helps counter democratic backsliding. They also agreed to find more innovative approaches, through capacity development, to support their parliaments in restoring a cycle of trust and effective delivery for the people.

### **4. Workshop on *Parliamentary leadership in disarmament: Preventing and alleviating human suffering caused by weapon proliferation***

This workshop, on 14 October 2024, chaired by Mr. B. Cotter (Canada), sought to empower parliamentarians with knowledge, tools, and strategies to support humanitarian disarmament efforts, focusing on people-centred approaches, preventing human suffering and promoting peace.

The session opened with a presentation from Mr. F. Ahmed, Legal Adviser at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), who provided a comprehensive overview of the current state of armed conflicts and emphasized the importance of international humanitarian law (IHL) in reducing the human cost of war, along with its relevance in regulating the use of weapons that cause indiscriminate harm, particularly in urban areas. He also introduced the 2022 Political Declaration on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, stressing the importance of parliamentary support for its implementation, as well as for the ratification and implementation of disarmament and non-proliferation treaties.

Ambassador C.M. Foradori, Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations in Geneva and President of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) 11th Conference of States Parties (CSP11), spoke on the successes and challenges of the ATT, which regulates the international arms trade. Focusing on the critical importance of the ATT, he outlined the treaty's role in preventing illegal arms transfers, with particular attention to conventional weapons. With 115 countries having signed the ATT, Ambassador Foradori encouraged more nations to ratify it to ensure universal adoption. He urged parliamentarians to hold their governments accountable for implementing the treaty, ensuring it effectively prevents arms from falling into the wrong hands.

Ms. K. Lawand, Executive-in-Residence for the Global Fellowship Initiative at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, spoke on behalf of Control Arms. Building on the Ambassador's remarks, she highlighted the gendered impact of weapon proliferation, noting that women and children are disproportionately affected by armed violence. She emphasized the role of parliamentarians in ensuring that national implementation of the ATT includes provisions that address gender-based violence and reduce the harmful impacts of arms proliferation on vulnerable populations.

Ms. T. Gabelnick, Director of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines - Cluster Munition Coalition, discussed the continued humanitarian crisis caused by landmines and cluster munitions, noting that these weapons are indiscriminate by nature and continue to kill and wound civilians, particularly children, long after conflicts have ended. She urged parliamentarians to push for the universalization and strict implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. She also highlighted the financial and logistical challenges of demining efforts and called for increased international funding to speed up clearance operations and assist affected communities.

Mr. L. Dewaegheneire, expert from the Stop Killer Robots campaign, presented on the emerging challenges posed by autonomous weapon systems. These weapons, capable of selecting and engaging targets without human intervention, present significant ethical and legal dilemmas. Mr. Dewaegheneire called for a legally binding instrument to prohibit the development and use of such weapons, underscoring the importance of maintaining human control over lethal force. He encouraged parliamentarians to take action by signing the campaign pledge and promoting national legislation to prohibit autonomous weapon systems.

The workshop concluded with a dynamic discussion among participants, where several important points were raised concerning the role of parliamentarians in disarmament. One participant shared their experience with the APMBC, emphasizing the crucial need for parliamentary oversight of arms exports to ensure compliance with disarmament goals. Concerns were also raised about the environmental impact of arms production, particularly regarding CO2 emissions, and the challenges in controlling arms in conflict zones like the Syrian Arab Republic. The need for greater transparency and accountability in arms transfers was another key issue, with calls for stronger international support in these efforts. Several valuable resources for parliamentarians seeking information and guidance on how to take concrete actions within their legislative roles were highlighted. In closing, the panellists reaffirmed the vital role parliamentarians play in advancing disarmament, common security and human security and called on parliamentarians to advocate for stronger disarmament measures to reduce human suffering and promote global peace.

## **5. *Workshop on Can parliaments tip the balance for sexual and reproductive health and rights?***

The workshop, held on 15 October 2024, was organized with long-standing partners from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), with the aim to encourage constructive debate on improving access to sexual and reproductive health services and upholding underlying rights. The event was opened by the IPU Secretary General and moderated by Mr. B. Aylward (WHO) and Mr. R. Khosla (PMNCH). They highlighted that sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are not comprehensively prioritized, despite being important societal and human rights issues on which men and women must work together.

Ms. B. Ganatra (WHO) shared the latest statistics on maternal mortality, access to family planning and modern contraceptive methods, and gender-based violence. She stressed that real people are behind statistics and that solutions exist, calling for joint efforts to make SRHR a reality for everyone.

The panel discussion featured a presentation from Mr. N. Datta (European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights) providing an overview of research findings on anti-gender movements. He highlighted the organized pushback on SRHR, gender and equality. He provided strategies to address this pushback, including capacity-building for staff and media, as well as considering how anti-gender issues are being used politically at the national and transnational level. His presentation was followed by country perspectives from Ms. C. Gotani Hara (Malawi), Ms. G. Katuta (Zambia), and Ms. C. Dijksteel (Suriname). They reflected on the intersecting challenges creating barriers and diverting attention and resources from SRHR, especially poverty, inequalities, economic crises and climate change. They recognized the key role of education, in particular for young people, and the need to engage religious and traditional leaders. They called for better enforcement of existing legislation and for enhancing parliaments' budgetary role.

Lastly, a video contribution from Ms. J. Dukureh (Safe Hands for Girls) presented the work of civil society organizations in the Gambia, which worked with the country's Parliament to uphold an existing ban on female genital mutilation.

Contributions from the floor further stressed the role of political will and public engagement to raise awareness on existing legislation. Several participants expressed concern that growing climate-induced poverty and food insecurity are threatening the gains made in the area of family planning and child marriage. Participants agreed on the need to continue efforts to “push back on the pushback” and sustain gains made in the area of SRHR.

## **6. Open Session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law on *Armed conflict and disability: Enhancing parliamentary action to address disability during armed conflicts and their aftermath***

The IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law held an open session debate on 15 October 2024 on *Armed conflict and disability: Enhancing parliamentary action to address disability during armed conflicts and their aftermath*. The session featured Prince Mired of Jordan, Special Envoy for the universalization of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and President of the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Jordan, as the keynote speaker. Panellists included Ms. G. Smoeun, Spokesperson of Handicap International (Humanity & Inclusion); Mr. A. Breitegger, Senior Legal Adviser at the ICRC; and Mr. S. Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso), Member of the Transitional Legislative Assembly. The session was chaired by Mr. J.K. Waweru (Kenya), President of the Committee.

The open session was organized within the framework of the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the APMBC. It addressed how parliamentary action can contribute to advancing and ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities during armed conflicts and their aftermath, especially of those rendered disabled due to the use of weapons such as anti-personnel mines.

Armed conflicts not only cause new disabilities but also exacerbate the existing barriers faced by persons with disabilities. For instance, anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and other conventional weapons have the potential to directly render persons disabled. According to the [Landmine Monitor 2023](#), 4,710 mine-related casualties were recorded in 2022, and the threat of anti-personnel mines was observed in 60 countries and territories. Armed conflict also severely impacts persons with disabilities, affecting their capacity to access basic services, emergency information and humanitarian assistance. Although an estimated 1.3 billion people experience some form of disability, persons with disabilities remain the “forgotten victims of armed conflict”.

Prince Mired discussed the origins and significance of the APMBC, emphasizing its role in addressing the needs of victims of anti-personnel mines. He called for increased awareness and action among parliamentarians to promote universalization of the Convention and support countries where persons are or have been affected by mines. He also called on parliamentarians to explore ways to contribute to the upcoming Global Disability Summit in 2025, as the first-ever gathering of world leaders on advancing the rights of persons with disabilities. Ms. Smoeun, one of Humanity & Inclusion's first beneficiaries in the 1980s, shared her personal story of losing her leg to a landmine at the age of 10 in Cambodia and the challenges she faced in her recovery. Mr. Breitegger discussed the role of international humanitarian law (IHL) in protecting persons with disabilities during armed conflicts, and highlighted the specific risks faced by these persons, such as accessibility barriers, mistaken attacks and inaccessibility of humanitarian relief. He also called on parliamentarians to influence their respective governments to adopt pledges, in the context of the upcoming 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, for a disability-inclusive IHL framework. Finally, Mr. Ouedraogo, one of the two representatives of persons with disability in the transitional parliament of Burkina Faso, provided an overview of the security situation in Burkina Faso and the impact of terrorism on persons with disabilities in the country. He discussed the legislative efforts of the Burkinabe Parliament to protect persons with disabilities, including the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the adoption of specific laws advancing disability rights.

Parliamentarians from different countries took the floor to share their experiences and call for increased parliamentary action to support persons with disabilities. Emphasis was placed on support for the universalization of both the APMBC and CRPD; the establishment of national legal frameworks providing assistance to mine victims; the allocation of budgets for rehabilitation and reintegration as well as for humanitarian aid to support persons with disabilities in emergency situations; and strengthening of accountability for the violation of international obligations under the IHL, APMBC and CRPD frameworks.

The Secretariat of the CRPD Committee called on members of parliament to further the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all their decision-making processes, and contribute with information to the Committee's [General Comment](#) on State obligations under Article 11 of the CRPD (*Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies*), which is currently being prepared by the Committee. Mr. Ly Thuch, Senior Minister of the Government of Cambodia and current President of the APMBC, invited parliamentarians to participate in the 5th Review Conference of the APMBC taking place in Siem Reap, Cambodia, in November 2024.

### **7. Workshop on Redoubling efforts to combat child labour and forced labour: What support can parliaments provide?**

This event, held on 15 October 2024, is part of the regular awareness-raising campaign on child rights that the IPU conducts during its Assemblies. Eradicating child labour and forced labour is one of the core objectives of the IPU strategy to promote the rights of the child as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Speakers included Ms. A. Hauchère Vuong, Senior Specialist on Forced Labour, International Labour Organization (ILO); Mr. B. Smith, Senior Specialist on Child Labour, ILO; and Ms. L. Reynolds, Member of the Senate, Australia. The meeting was moderated by Ms. S. Kiladze (Georgia), Vice-Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child and IPU focal point.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr. M. Chungong, IPU Secretary General, stressed the need to eradicate forced labour and child labour, two scourges that undermine the future of vulnerable populations that are unable to protect themselves. He underscored the need to harness the political will and commitment of parliamentarians to effectively use the legislative, budgetary and oversight powers granted to them by their constituencies.

Setting the tone of the discussion, Ms. Hauchère Vuong said that forced labour is a violation of fundamental human rights, involving severe forms of exploitation and abuse, physical, psychological, and sexual violence, and degrading working and living conditions that undermine human dignity. It affected some 28 million people, including domestic workers, migrant workers, women trafficked for prostitution, fishers, and children used as soldiers in conflict areas. It also has significant economic and societal impacts. She underlined the critical role parliamentarians should play, including through ratifying international instruments and creating a conducive national framework against forced labour that promotes social protection, education and freedom of association.

Mr. Smith stressed the overlap between forced labour and child labour, and differentiated between work done by children as part of their socialization and child labour that affects children's physical and mental development, namely hazardous forms of work. He pointed out the flexibility of the ILO [Minimum Age Convention \(no.138\)](#) which takes into account the realities of different countries, and said that the Convention exemplifies the global community's determination to eradicate the worst forms of child labour. He highlighted the IPU's determining role in making it the first ILO convention to achieve universal ratification. With 160 million children currently affected by child labour, he urged efforts to double down on and eradicate this scourge, emphasizing the critical role parliamentarians must play.

Ms. Reynolds' presentation was preceded by a video on orphanage trafficking, highlighting the need to address the problem through education, legislation and advocacy. She made a specific plea for legislation on charity to orphanage institutions, which were inappropriate environments for children's well-being.

Delegates from Chile, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tunisia, Benin, Andorra, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and India shared national practices to promote child rights, and underscored the need for measures in favour of social protection, education and the reinsertion of victims of child and forced labour. Delegates called for increased measures to criminalize child traffickers, particularly those targeting orphaned children.

### **8. Joint IPU and ASGP panel discussion: Committees of the future: The future of parliaments?**

The objective of this panel discussion on 15 October 2024 was to learn from the experience of parliamentary committees of the future in different countries. Finland pioneered such committees in the 1990s, and they are now found in a number of parliaments, where they address long-term societal challenges through dialogue with the scientific community and civil society.

Mr. N. El Khadi, President of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP), opened the session, highlighting the important role of parliamentary committees of the future in anticipatory governance.

The moderator, Mr. E. Janse, Secretary General of the House of Commons of Canada, underscored the role of parliaments in shaping future policies and ensuring resilience against global changes. He also emphasized the importance of anticipating future challenges such as climate change, artificial intelligence and digitalization.

Mr. A. Koponen, former member of Finland's Committee of the Future, pointed out the importance of integrating foresight processes into decision-making, ensuring that legislation is flexible and resilient. He advocated for the expansion of future-oriented expertise in parliaments and for increasing global cooperation among future committees.

Mr. R. Goñi, Chair of the Committee of the Future in the General Assembly of Uruguay, spoke on the ambition of using the future to transform the present, thereby ensuring a better future for all. He explained how the Committee's working method has fostered strong cross-party dialogue, which has allowed the Committee to adopt numerous consensus-based reports.

Ms. A. Ferreyra from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) discussed the role of future-oriented parliaments in accelerating human development. She emphasized the need for parliamentarians to actively question assumptions and beliefs about the future. She concluded by mentioning a new UNDP publication, which provides methodological support for developing anticipatory capabilities in parliament.

During a dynamic Q&A, participants enquired about how coordination between committees of the future and other thematic committees takes place. Others raised concerns about differences in capacity between developed and developing countries to work on the future, and the need for support.

The Third World Summit of Parliamentary Committees of the Future will take place in Chile from 13 to 14 January 2025, providing a platform for in-depth exchange of experience and good practices.

## **9. Parity debate on the theme *Pushing back on the pushback: Men and women MPs preserving and advancing gender equality***

On 16 October 2024, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians organized a parity debate with 92 participants, including 71 parliamentarians (54 women and 17 men) from 30 countries. The event aimed to foster dialogue between women and men, focusing on advancing gender equality in the face of rising challenges. Ms. F. Ilimi Haddouche (Algeria), First Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, presided over the session. Contributions from 20 countries (16 women and 8 men) enriched the debate, providing diverse perspectives on key issues affecting women's rights worldwide.

Ms. L. Nyirinkindi, Chair of the United Nations Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls, shared a video message emphasizing the urgency of addressing the growing gender backlash and the critical role parliamentarians play in safeguarding women's rights. She drew attention to the reversal of laws in countries like Afghanistan and underscored the need for constant vigilance to protect the rights of women and girls. During the panel discussion, Mr. S.S.K. Njie, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the Gambia, shared insights on recent efforts in his parliament to reject a bill that intended to repeal the law banning female genital mutilation (FGM), and the need to raise awareness among parliamentarians about the harmful effects of FGM on women and girls. Ms. V. Riotton, panellist and member of parliament from France, spoke on the negative impact of financing anti-abortion movements and the wave of disinformation undermining women's reproductive rights.

The session also provided a platform for other parliamentarians to share their experiences in promoting gender equality. Several countries shared best practices for advancing women's participation in politics, banning FGM and child marriage, and reforming discriminatory nationality laws. Discussions also addressed gender-based violence and legislative changes aimed at protecting women and girls, demonstrating a collective commitment to pushing back against the setbacks faced in the fight for gender equality.

## 10. Panel discussion on *Fostering peaceful coexistence: The IPU Science for Peace Schools*

In this panel discussion on 16 October 2024, participants discussed the role of science and technology in driving societal transformation and addressing global challenges like water scarcity and climate change. They emphasized the importance of ethical governance to ensure that these innovations do not exacerbate conflicts, but instead harness the potential of science to turn elements of conflict into reasons for coexistence.

The discussion was opened and moderated by Ambassador M. Omar, Senior Advisor to the IPU Secretary General. Panellists included parliamentarians, as well as heads and representatives of IPU partner organizations, including Mr. M. Bona, Science Diplomacy Professor at the University of Pavia, Italy and former Adviser to the Director-General of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN); Mr. D. Naughten, Chairperson of the IPU Working Group on Science and Technology (WGST) and Member of the House of Representatives of Ireland; Mr. A. Al Aradi, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the King Hamad Global Center for Peaceful Coexistence and Member of the Shura Council of Bahrain; Mr. S. Killelea, Founder and Executive Chairman of the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP); Mr. Jean Trần Thanh Vân, Director of the International Centre for Interdisciplinary Science and Education (ICISE); Mr. R. Heuer, President of the Council of the Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME); and Mr. M. Larive, former WGST Chairperson and former Member of the National Assembly of France.

Participants shared insights into the way ethical governance ensures that scientific advancements are leveraged not only to solve pressing global issues, but also to build bridges between communities, transforming areas of tension into opportunities for collaboration and mutual benefit, thereby fostering peace and coexistence in an increasingly interconnected world. The discussion further elaborated on the role of science diplomacy, a concept exemplified by international scientific research centres like CERN and SESAME. Participants reflected on the history behind these centres, which were established as beacons of collaboration in regions divided by political tensions.

The IPU Science for Peace Schools and the IPU Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology were highlighted as a reflection of the IPU's dual mission of ethical stewardship and practical application. The Charter sets out the principles by which science should be governed, and the Schools provide the practical knowledge that parliamentarians need to implement these principles in their legislative work.

Reflecting on the first edition of the Science for Peace Schools on water – held in two separate sessions for parliamentary staff in December 2022 at CERN, and for parliamentarians in September 2023 at the ICISE – and the Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the 10th World Water Forum in Bali in May 2024, participants discussed the lessons learned from the inaugural Science for Peace Schools, emphasized the importance of following up on it and outlined potential next steps.

Participants also stressed the importance of aligning and integrating the IPU Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology with the Science for Peace Schools in its second edition, emphasizing that these initiatives should work in tandem to offer a comprehensive framework for capacity-building among parliamentary staff and parliamentarians, particularly in addressing one of the most pressing challenges of the modern world – artificial intelligence (AI).

The discussion also expanded into the concept of peace, drawing from the framework of the Institute for Economics and Peace, which distinguishes between negative peace as the mere absence of conflict, and positive peace which involves creating societal conditions that promote harmony, justice and equality. Participants underscored the importance of applying these dual aspects of peace when formulating AI policies, as policy and lawmakers must not only mitigate risks like bias and inequality, but also harness AI's potential to foster cooperation and social cohesion.

## 11. Workshop on *Data and evidence for decision-making and accountability in parliament*

In a world of disinformation, fake news and increased mistrust in politics, a key question arises: How do parliamentarians get the data and evidence they need to make informed decisions and hold the government accountable? Furthermore, the complexity of today's challenges, the rapid pace of developments, their interconnectedness at global, regional, national and local levels, and the multiplication of stakeholders demand even greater access to comprehensive, reliable data and evidence for sound and impactful decision-making.

The workshop, held on 16 October 2024 and moderated by Ms. S. Attia (Vice-Chairperson of the IPU Working Group on Science and Technology (WGST)), focused on the various data and resources available to parliamentarians, current practices within parliaments, and practical considerations regarding the selection and use of data for decision-making. Four expert panellists launched the debates. Mr. D. Naughten (Chairperson of the WGST) emphasized the crucial role of science-based research in parliamentary decision-making and presented the results of the survey [Mapping engagement between parliament and science](#). The importance of building relationships with experts, clearly communicating needs and respecting confidentiality through frameworks like the Chatham House Rule were highlighted. Notably, while a quarter of parliaments have established science-related caucuses, many still struggle to access useful scientific data.

Ms. C. Fredriksen, Governance Manager of the International Organization of Supreme Audits (INTOSAI) Development Initiative, underscored the importance of cooperation with Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs). SAIs are a vital component in the accountability ecosystem of parliaments. Audit reports, compliance, and performance evaluations provide essential insights for budgetary processes and policy reforms across sectors (e.g. debt management, resource mobilization, tax policies, environmental topics, etc.). The role of audits in revealing governance weaknesses and fostering a data-driven culture in legislative practices was stressed. 66% of SAIs do audits related to the Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs), presenting a valuable opportunity for collaboration between parliaments and SAIs on monitoring progress and achievement of goals.

Another key actor in the data and evidence ecosystem are national statistics offices. Ms. A. Wilde, Team Lead, UNDP Global Policy Centre for Governance, noted that governance statistics can be politically sensitive, necessitating that national statistics offices operate independently and autonomously. While data may be generated, its effective dissemination varies by country. Civil society thus plays a crucial role in ensuring that data production is adequate and disaggregated to prevent marginalized groups from being overlooked. There is a growing, innovative movement around citizen-generated data, which offers essential insights for MPs to better understand their constituents' needs, warranting further exploration.

Mr. I. Wamunyima (Member of the National Assembly of Zambia), shared practical examples of how data is used in the Zambian parliament to legitimize decision-making. The committee system is used to gather evidence from diverse sources, including government ministries, civil society and research institutions, to inform expenditures across sectors. The establishment of an independent parliamentary research department and budget office has helped provide non-partisan data to support informed discourse and decisions. Additionally, a monitoring and evaluation department utilizes raw data from 156 constituencies, and an e-parliament tool allows citizens to communicate their thoughts directly to MPs.

As various parliamentarians shared their experiences, it became evident that fostering relationships with research entities (within and outside of parliaments) and leveraging both quantitative and qualitative data are essential for informed policy-making. However, the sheer volume of information poses challenges, and not all data is equally reliable. MPs must navigate competing narratives within the political landscape and discern which data to trust. The workshop highlighted the need for parliaments to enhance statistical literacy with “regular training for MPs on using research resources” identified as a key priority in a Mentimeter poll held at the end of the workshop.

## 12. Open Session of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians

The first Open Session of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians was held on 16 October 2024. It brought together almost 80 participants, including over 30 young MPs, and 25 youth leaders from student organizations, youth parliaments and councils, and youth advisory boards of international organizations, among others. The session was chaired by Mr. D. Carden (United Kingdom), the President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians.

During the meeting a spirited and interactive discussion took place between youth leaders and young parliamentarians. Youth leaders kicked off by taking the floor to share their priority issues in need of attention. Video contributions from youth leaders around the globe were also heard. Issues relating to climate change, health, employment and protecting young people impacted by conflict were among the many topics raised.

Young MPs and youth leaders then deliberated on how to co-create solutions. Suggestions included involving young leaders in youth parliaments and councils that work with parliaments, as well as emphasizing the importance of political party youth wings. The role of young MPs in helping mentor youth aspirants and stimulate their interest in politics was also highlighted, as was the importance of strengthening links with the research and academic community. It was agreed that youth inclusion was not just a right, but a necessity.

Discussions concluded with wide agreement that the IPU should continue to provide a space for future open discussions between youth representatives of civil society organizations and young MPs.

## Elections and appointments

### 1. Executive Committee

The Governing Council elected the following member to the Executive Committee for a four-year term ending in October 2028:

*Group of Latin America and the Caribbean*

- Ms. M.d.C. Alva Prieto (Peru)

### 2. Sub-Committee on Finance

The Sub-Committee on Finance elected Mr. M. Dick (Australia) as President of the Sub-Committee.

### 3. Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

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

*Arab Group*

- Ms. R. Maachaoui (Tunisia) (end of term: March 2027)

*Asia-Pacific Group*

- Ms. V. Techateerawat (Thailand) (end of term: March 2027)

*Eurasia Group*

- A vacancy remains for this group.

The Bureau welcomed its new ex-officio member:

- Ms. M.d.C. Alva Prieto (Peru) (end of term: October 2028)

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

The Governing Council elected the following three members for a five-year term ending in October 2029:

- Ms. N. Odsuren (Mongolia)
- Mr. M. Grujić (Serbia)
- Ms. N. Acora Odonga (Uganda)

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

The Forum elected the following member to replace Ms. Dyah Roro Esti (Indonesia) who is no longer a Member of Parliament:

*Asia-Pacific Group*

- Ms. F. Sauda (Maldives) (end of term: April 2025)

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

The Governing Council elected the following members for a four-year term ending in October 2028:

*African Group*

- Ms. E. Jailosi Jolobala (Malawi)

#### *Eurasia Group*

- A vacancy remains for this group.

Mr. A. Farrugia (Malta) was elected President of the Committee for a one-year term, renewable once.

### **7. Group of Facilitators for Cyprus**

The Governing Council elected one Facilitator for a four-year term ending in October 2028:

- Mr. H. Carneiro (Portugal)

### **8. 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 2028:

#### *Arab Group*

- Ms. R. Abouras (Libya)

#### *Asia-Pacific Group*

- Ms. L. Wankhede (India)
- Ms. A. Rasheed (Maldives)
- A vacancy remains for this group.

#### *Eurasia Group*

- A vacancy remains for this group.

#### *Twelve Plus Group*

- Mr. T.I. Mørland (Norway)

### **9. Working Group on Science and Technology**

The Governing Council elected the following three members for a four-year term ending October 2028:

#### *African Group*

- Mr. F.C. Isaac Mbunka (Cameroon)

#### *Asia-Pacific Group*

- Ms. B.K. Medhi (India)
- Mr. N. In-na (Thailand)

Ms. S. Attia (Egypt) and Ms. M. Cederfelt (Sweden) were elected as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Working Group respectively. Ms. Attia will serve as Chairperson until April 2025. Ms. Cederfelt will serve as Vice-Chairperson until October 2025.

### **10. Internal Auditors for the 2025 accounts**

The Governing Council appointed the following Internal Auditors for the 2025 accounts:

- Mr. M. Nadir (Guyana)
- Mr. L. Bugli (San Marino)

### **11. Bureaux of the Standing Committees**

The Standing Committees elected the following members to their respective Bureaux for terms ending in October 2026:

#### Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

#### *Asia-Pacific Group*

- Mr. H. Mohammad (Malaysia)

Mr. H. Mohammad (Malaysia) was elected as Vice-President of the Standing Committee to complete the term started by the outgoing Vice-President, Mr. M. Rezakhah (Islamic Republic of Iran), who is no longer a member of parliament. Mr. Mohammad will serve as Vice-President of the Standing Committee until October 2025.

### Standing Committee on Sustainable Development

#### *Arab Group*

- Mr. M.Z. Elmeher (Tunisia) for a first term

#### *Eurasia Group*

- Mr. S. Gavrilov (Russian Federation) for a second term

### Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

#### *African Group*

- A vacancy remains for this group.

#### *Asia-Pacific Group*

- Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia) for a first term

### Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

#### *Arab Group*

- Mr. F. Al-Nouiri (Libya) for a first term

#### *Asia-Pacific Group*

- Mr. A.S. Thakur (India) to complete the term of Ms. D. Kumari (India), who is no longer a member of parliament, until March 2025

#### *Eurasia Group*

- Ms. R.B. Chemeris (Russian Federation) for a first term
- Mr. S. Rachkov (Belarus) to complete the term of Mr. A. Savinykh (Belarus), who is no longer a member of parliament, until March 2025

#### *Twelve Plus Group*

- Mr. A. Larem (Germany) for a first term

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

- Mr. E. Bustamante (Peru) for a second term

## **12. Preparatory Committee for the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament**

The Governing Council endorsed the nomination of the following two members:

#### *African Group*

- Ms. J. Nunu Kumba (South Sudan)

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

- Ms. L. Adderley (Bahamas)

## **13. Rapporteurs**

On the proposal of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, the Assembly appointed Ms. L. Crexell (Argentina), Mr. M. de Maegd (Belgium) and Mr. S. Patra (India) as co-Rapporteurs for the subject item *Recognizing and supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent this practice*.

On the proposal of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, the Assembly appointed four additional co-Rapporteurs for its upcoming resolution on *The role of parliaments in advancing the two-State solution in Palestine*, bringing the total to six, one for each geopolitical group, as follows:

#### *African Group*

- Ms. T. Ts'ita-Mosena (Lesotho)

#### *Arab Group*

- Mr. M.A. Bouchouit (Algeria) – appointed at the 148th Assembly

*Asia-Pacific Group*

- Mr. T. Utikere (New Zealand)

*Eurasia Group*

- Ms. R. Vardanyan (Armenia)

*Group of Latin America and the Caribbean*

- Ms. M. Guerra Castillo (Mexico)

*Twelve Plus Group*

- Mr. J. Buttimer (Ireland) – appointed at the 148th Assembly

## Media and communications

The 149th Assembly was covered extensively in the media, especially national outlets, likely due to the large number of Speakers of Parliament in attendance.

The Assembly saw a significant hike in engagement on social media, especially on Instagram.

As at previous Assemblies, hundreds of hard copies of IPU publications – including four new publications in multiple languages – were displayed at the communications booth and picked up by delegates.

### Media

The IPU issued seven press releases over the 10-day period.

The 149th Assembly was mentioned in some 3,400 media outlets – an increase compared to around 3,200 during the 148th IPU Assembly – at the time of writing and likely to increase as more media articles are published once delegates return home. Much of the coverage was in Middle Eastern or Eurasian media.

### Livestreaming and video

Some 10,000 people watched the live feed of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, the Governing Council and the Assembly, a decrease compared to the 148th Assembly (some 15,000 views).

However, at this Assembly, the feed was picked up by some parliamentary TV channels, notably in India, where Sansad TV brought the Assembly to new audiences.

The provision of video extracts of plenary speeches during the General Debate was again a popular service with delegates. By the end of the Assembly, the communications team had prepared over 20 video clips to send to individual MPs for their own amplification purposes.

### Social media

The [social media wall](#) continued to be a popular feature, with many parliamentarians joining the conversation using the hashtag #IPU149. Some 500 individuals used the hashtag and were featured on the wall, mostly from X (formerly Twitter)

The communications team published 124 tweets on X over the Assembly period, leading to 102,000 impressions (the number of times a post appears on somebody's feed). Some 3,100 X accounts engaged with IPU content. Over 2,200 accounts mentioned the IPU's X account @IPUParliament, meaning the Assembly week had the highest number of mentions since the account was launched. The IPU also gained 277 new followers on X.

Interactions on LinkedIn surged over the 10-day period, with an engagement rate of 10% and 8,000 impressions.

During the Assembly, the communications team invested particularly in video to populate the IPU Instagram account, a platform that is seeing growing traction among young MPs and influencers.

Significant time was also invested in the sharing of content from participants' accounts and collaborating with MPs on their own posts, which boosted numbers. The investment paid off: 259 posts resulted in over 268,000 impressions or views (compared with 124,000 in March 2024). Total views of the daily stories alone were 64,000. Over the course of the Assembly, the IPU Instagram account gained over 1,200 new followers, with the account now being followed by over 15,000 people.

On Facebook, the IPU's posts reached some 19,000 accounts compared with 14,000 at the last Assembly. A total of 53,000 accounts viewed the IPU profile.

### **Photography**

Three photographers covered 64 sessions and produced hundreds of high-quality photographs as well as providing personal service to certain MPs.

Viewing figures for the photographs on the IPU's Flickr account were in the hundreds of thousands.

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

### Members (181)

Afghanistan\*\*, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, 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, Czechia, 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, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, 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 (15)

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), MERCOSUR Parliament (PARLASUR), 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 149th 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 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. Election of the President of the 149th Assembly
2. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
3. General Debate on the theme *Harnessing science, technology and innovation (STI) for a more peaceful and sustainable future*
4. Special accountability segment on the implementation of IPU resolutions and other decisions
5. *The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law* (Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights)
6. Reports of the Standing Committees
7. Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 151st IPU Assembly and appointment of the co-Rapporteurs
8. Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules
9. Response by parliamentarians to the urgent plea by the UN Secretary-General to recommit to multilateralism for global peace, justice and sustainability

## Geneva Declaration

# *Harnessing science, technology and innovation (STI) for a more peaceful and sustainable future*

*Endorsed by the 149th IPU Assembly  
(Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

We, Members of Parliament from around the world, gathered together at the 149th IPU Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, reaffirm our commitment to harnessing science, technology and innovation (STI) to address the pressing global challenges of our time and to advance peace, sustainable development and human rights.

We are meeting at a time of unprecedented technological advancement and interconnectedness. From the transformative potential of artificial intelligence and the urgent need to combat climate change, to the persistent digital divide and the ethical challenges posed by emerging technologies, the multifaceted opportunities, challenges and risks we face underscore the need for parliaments to take urgent collective and forward-looking action, informed by common ethical standards regarding STI development and governance. We note that some nations have already taken bold decisions to pre-emptively ban certain inhumane technologically advanced weapons, creating a good practice precedent. The challenges we face demand a shared global commitment to leveraging STI for the common good.

We conclude this Assembly recognizing the potential of STI, when guided by ethical principles and inclusive governance, as a powerful means for building trust, promoting cooperation, bridging divides and enhancing the contribution of parliaments and parliamentarians to build a more peaceful, equitable and sustainable world. We welcome the work of the IPU to foster dialogue and cooperation on issues related to STI and we commit to continue and expand these efforts.

We note with satisfaction that the themes of science, technology and innovation permeate the important commitments adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2024, namely the Pact for the Future, the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations. We are committed to working closely with the executive branches of our governments, the United Nations system and civil society on implementing these commitments.

As representatives of the people, we parliamentarians are keenly aware of our responsibility to ensure that the benefits of STI reach all segments of society, to bridge the technological divide between and within nations, communities, genders and generations, and to find consensus on how to overcome the challenges posed by rapid technological change.

We recognize that parliamentarians are uniquely positioned to develop and implement ethical frameworks for STI governance, ensuring that scientific and technological progress aligns with human rights standards and societal values, and contributes to the well-being of all.

Parliaments must address the complex challenges of an increasingly interconnected and rapidly changing world, leveraging strategic foresight to anticipate future trends, opportunities and risks. Parliaments have an important role to set legal boundaries, establish accountability mechanisms and prevent uses of technology that lead to human rights violations, exacerbate inequalities or undermine the rule of law and democratic processes.

We must pay particular attention to the situation of women, youth and groups in vulnerable or marginalized situations who risk being left behind in the digital age, and recognize the vital role they can and should play in shaping the future of STI. Parliamentary action is crucial in empowering all sections of society to participate in and benefit from technological advancements. Parliaments must address the specific needs of these groups by embracing inclusive technological solutions that simultaneously preserve dignity, uphold rights, reduce exposure to digital risks and provide the conditions for them to realize their socioeconomic potential.

We especially commit to fostering the more substantial involvement of women and youth in STI, including in education, public health, research, innovation and technology governance, and to the

effective implementation of gender-responsive and youth-inclusive STI policies by ensuring that technological development processes integrate diverse perspectives and guarantee the equal and meaningful participation of all segments of society.

We reiterate our commitment to evidence-based and efficient policymaking and to fostering a culture of scientific inquiry and innovation. We urge all States to invest in research and development, promote international science diplomacy, and adhere to global standards for responsible innovation. We advocate for increased recourse to scientific expertise in parliamentary decision-making processes as an essential mechanism for addressing complex global challenges.

We recognize the close link between STI, peace and development. The ethical and inclusive application of STI is crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, building resilient societies and strengthening accountability. Conversely, the misuse of or unequal access to technology can exacerbate existing inequalities and conflicts, or risk creating new ones.

Our focus should be on harnessing STI to tackle the underlying causes of global challenges, which are often rooted in socioeconomic exclusion, inequality, discrimination, lack of access to education and environmental degradation. We should increase our focus on leveraging technology to enhance human security, which encompasses citizens' protection by addressing essential needs such as food security, healthcare, shelter, education – including digital literacy – political security, environmental sustainability and climate action. STI can also be harnessed to anticipate and mitigate the impacts of natural hazards and public health emergencies.

We must monitor the potential risks and challenges posed by emerging technologies and take necessary and pre-emptive action to mitigate negative impacts, foster responsible innovation and ensure compliance with international standards and ethical principles. In this vein, we recognize the importance of ethical AI development, cybersecurity and digital privacy protection to ensure the peaceful use of technology that is grounded in human rights. In particular, we commit to ensuring a safe online environment to prevent harassment, bullying and cybercrime, particularly when they are gender-based. Particular attention must be paid to addressing, through regulation and targeted policy, the proliferation of misinformation, disinformation, and AI-generated content that propagates hate speech, as these can undermine public trust and threaten social cohesion.

Today's technological challenges transcend borders and demand a collective global response. As members of parliament, we agree on the importance of international cooperation in STI governance. It is only through collaborative efforts and upholding ethical standards that we can bridge the STI gap between and within nations, address growing technological risks, build digital solidarity, strengthen common security and trust to reduce tensions, find lasting solutions to establish a shared sense of security and prosperity in the digital age, and strengthen worldwide collaboration and exchange in scientific knowledge development and related technological innovations.

We reconfirm our commitment to inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation on STI issues. We emphasize the IPU's unique role in fostering global parliamentary cooperation on STI governance. We welcome the adoption of the IPU Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology and IPU resolution on *The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law*. We further acknowledge the reports, recommendations and guidelines on digital transformation and AI that have been developed through the IPU's Centre for Innovation in Parliament, including the World e-Parliament Report 2024. We commit to work for the implementation of these new standards.

We pledge to take this Declaration back to our respective parliaments, disseminate the outcome of our collective work to our national authorities and seek to implement its principles through legislative, budgetary and oversight actions.

As parliamentarians, we commit to lead the way towards a more equitable, sustainable and technologically advanced world, pursuing informed, inclusive and innovative approaches to STI governance. We therefore pledge to do our utmost, individually and collectively, to harness the power of science, technology and innovation for the benefit of all humanity and the preservation of our planet.

# The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law

*Resolution adopted unanimously by the 149th IPU Assembly  
(Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

The 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*Reaffirming* international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations, and *recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

*Recognizing* that rapid advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) may provide significant opportunities and challenges for humanity, with impacts, including on human rights, experienced differently between nations,

*Acknowledging* that greater knowledge and understanding of AI systems is a prerequisite for informed debate and decision-making, including the following considerations:

- a. ongoing initiatives that call for a balanced, inclusive and risk-based approach to the governance of AI, as a means to achieve an open, sustainable, fair, free and secure future for all,
- b. the methods by which AI systems are trained and deployed, which have the potential to entrench existing societal prejudices, discrimination, biases and inequalities, both within developing countries as well as between developing and more developed countries,
- c. the ways in which AI can facilitate the spread of false or misleading information, discrimination, and extremism leading to misinformation, disinformation, distrust and online violence, as well as AI-facilitated gender-based violence against women, including women serving in politics, all of which undermines the credibility of democratic institutions and actors, posing significant challenges to public discourse and societal trust,

*Noting* that advances in AI have impacts on democracy, human rights and the rule of law, including by facilitating the spread of misinformation and disinformation which can undermine democratic institutions, incite extremism and violate personal rights to privacy and data ownership, all of which may disproportionately affect children, women and girls, as well as disabled persons,

*Aware* that, at the same time, AI technologies, if developed and harnessed in a responsible manner and made available to all, can have a positive impact on democracy, including through increasing the accountability and transparency of public institutions, and facilitating citizens' engagement in political processes,

*Highlighting* the risk of AI widening economic inequalities on a global scale,

*Acknowledging* that an inclusive, responsible, human-centric and evidence-based approach to setting rules that mitigate risks pertaining to the creation, development, deployment and use of AI technologies is required in order to ensure equitable policy outcomes for the entire world, including the Global South and countries which may face unique challenges caused by disparities in keeping up with the rapid pace of AI development and deployment,

*Stressing* that, in the absence of gender-balanced perspectives, data and decision-making, AI technologies, in particular generative AI, can create, perpetuate and amplify gender inequalities and gender-based discrimination and violence,

*Noting* that AI-generated deepfake material can negatively impact all women, and that for women in politics, these impacts often have the effect of silencing and excluding them from public and political life,

*Concerned* by the lack of comprehensive legislation, regulations and a globally agreed upon framework for the responsible creation, deployment and use of AI technology, and by the slow pace of the global community in developing these rules, and *underlining* the need for transparency and respect for democratic values in AI development,

*Acknowledging* the importance of regulating AI without constraining the emergence of responsibly developed and managed innovations that positively benefit humanity,

*Alarmed* that big technology companies have lobbied extensively to influence and set rules that may primarily benefit them, and to assert their control over training data sets and thus the technological development of AI for the foreseeable future to the detriment of the global community and the preservation of individual rights, including through the manipulation of personal data, unethical business marketing, non-socially responsible behaviour and algorithmic biases that reinforce existing inequalities and discrimination,

*Noting* that countries may already have existing legislation and regulations that could be adapted to meet emerging challenges and opportunities relating to AI, and that the principle of national sovereignty should be recognized in any initiative to regulate AI,

*Noting also* numerous international and regional initiatives to develop ethical standards and governance frameworks for AI, and that any such initiatives should employ a multi-stakeholder approach that guarantees a broad consensus across the global community,

*Applauding* the welcome efforts of key international organizations to assist parliamentarians and other actors in developing regulatory frameworks and policies,

1. *Calls for* increased international multi-stakeholder cooperation, collaboration, and exchange of information and experiences to ensure a united worldwide effort to maximize the benefits of AI, while mitigating risks to humanity, including through initiatives designed to reduce disparities in technological development between nations;
2. *Calls for* urgent measures to bridge the divides among and within countries in terms of digital infrastructure, connectivity and skills, including by removing digital gender barriers and scaling up international digital cooperation, as a precondition for equitable and inclusive access to AI benefits for all;
3. *Insists* on the inclusion of perspectives from, and the equal participation of, all countries of the world in debates on AI standards, frameworks and other governance mechanisms, while emphasizing the need for the active presence of the Global South;
4. *Calls upon* parliaments to effectively and transparently adopt or maintain strong legal frameworks and policies for the responsible creation, deployment and use of AI technology, and to contribute to efforts to establish global standards and frameworks;
5. *Recommends* that these legal frameworks set out requirements for transparency and information in the implementation of AI systems, affirm the accountability of the public and private entities who use them, and provide recourse for victims whose rights are violated by AI technology;
6. *Invites* parliaments, in cooperation with civil society groups, academia and research groups, to give priority to reviewing existing legislation and regulations to ensure that advances in AI technology do not result in loopholes in existing protections for democracy, human rights, the rule of law and State sovereignty;
7. *Urges* parliaments to prioritize the prevention and elimination of, and response to, all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination generated or facilitated by AI, including better content moderation, accessible and effective reporting mechanisms and the establishment of procedures to remove illegal content;
8. *Calls on* parliaments, with a view to enhancing gender mainstreaming in the development of AI, to promote legislation and policies aimed at enabling and increasing girls' and women's access to education, careers and leadership in science, technology, engineering and mathematics;
9. *Invites* parliaments to ensure that advances in AI do not result in the perpetuation of discrimination stemming from biases present in training data and algorithms;
10. *Urges* legislative action to prevent the creation and distribution of deepfake intimate images, recognizing that most of such content is pornographic in nature and disproportionately targets women and girls, as well to as to prevent the distribution of other AI-generated content that propagates hate speech or incites violence, including gender-based violence;

11. *Calls for* the development, deployment and accessibility of new and existing tools to help people verify the provenance and authenticity of AI-generated images and content, to protect data privacy, and to prevent the misuse of personal information and data;
12. *Calls upon* parliaments to promote AI systems that advance, protect and preserve linguistic and cultural diversity, taking into account multilingualism in their training data and throughout the life cycle of the AI system;
13. *Urges* parliaments to place a high priority on debates related to AI and to ensure their policy responses evolve in line with advances in AI technology, so as to ensure these responses are conducive to the well-being of humanity and the principles of sustainable development;
14. *Calls on* parliaments to strengthen their capacity to proactively address rapid technological developments, particularly in the AI field, including through: training programmes for members of parliament and staff; the establishment of specialized bodies; innovative formats for policy dialogues with the technical and academic communities, the private sector and all other stakeholders; and platforms for enhanced inter-parliamentary cooperation and sharing knowledge, good practices and solutions related to AI;
15. *Calls for* the development of effective strategies to address the impact of AI on the labour market, including education, training and measures to mitigate the effects of automation on specific job sectors and to provide support to affected individuals;
16. *Urges* parliaments to cooperate with their governments in raising the awareness of citizens on the impact of AI on democracy, human rights and the rule of law;
17. *Calls for* increased and ongoing education and capacity-building on the uses and risks of AI, including for parliamentarians, to keep pace with quickly evolving technological developments;
18. *Calls upon* parliaments to accelerate efforts to tackle information privacy violations caused by the use of unacceptable AI practices, such as AI-enabled surveillance and biometric categorization technology in unwarranted political surveillance and personal data collection, which threatens citizens' fundamental rights and individual freedoms, thereby weakening democracy and the rule of law;
19. *Urges* parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to advocate against international decoupling of data sets and AI models in order to prevent censorship and the walling in of individual systems, and to make AI as inclusive, culturally open and nuanced as possible;
20. *Notes* the need for independent research on AI, guided by high ethical standards;
21. *Calls for* the promotion of sustainable research and development in the field of AI, encompassing innovations designed to address global challenges related to human rights, particularly in the areas of epidemic prevention, public health enhancement, educational development and climate change mitigation;
22. *Urges* the enhancement of transparency and accountability in the deployment of AI by establishing standards that require companies to disclose their data usage and decision-making processes involved in AI applications;
23. *Calls for* the development of specific cybersecurity standards for AI to safeguard systems against cyberattacks and bolster the security of personal and sensitive data;
24. *Invites* the Inter-Parliamentary Union, given the crucial role of parliaments in achieving internationally agreed AI commitments, to explore modalities of providing a parliamentary input to AI-related processes at multilateral organizations;
25. *Urges* parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to continue to focus attention on the responsible development, deployment and use of AI, including through capacity-building initiatives and establishing linkages with relevant global initiatives, as a critical goal of their work.

## Enforcing UN General Assembly resolution ES-10/24 and ensuring accountability

### Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Palestine on behalf of the Arab Group for the inclusion of an emergency item

#### Results

Affirmative votes.....	651	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	1,064
Negative votes .....	413	Two-thirds majority.....	709
Abstentions .....	346		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Albania	<i>Absent</i>			France		18		Oman	12		
Algeria	16			Gabon	<i>Absent</i>			Palestine	12		
Andorra		10		Gambia (The)	<i>Absent</i>			Paraguay		11	1
Angola	15			Germany		19		Peru	5		10
Argentina			16	Ghana	<i>Absent</i>			Philippines	20		
Armenia	10		1	Greece		10		Poland		15	
Australia		14		Guinea	10			Portugal		13	
Austria		12		Guinea-Bissau	8			Republic of Korea			17
Azerbaijan	<i>Absent</i>			Guyana	10			Romania			13
Bahamas	<i>Absent</i>			Hungary		10	2	Russian Federation	20		
Bahrain	11			Iceland	<i>Absent</i>			Rwanda			11
Belarus	12			India			23	San Marino			10
Belgium		10	3	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	19			Sao Tome and Principe		10	
Benin	<i>Absent</i>			Iraq	16			Saudi Arabia	15		
Bhutan	10			Ireland	6		6	Serbia	<i>Absent</i>		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	11			Israel		12		Seychelles	10		
Botswana	10			Italy		10		Slovakia		10	
Brazil			20	Jamaica	<i>Absent</i>			Slovenia	7	4	
Burkina Faso	<i>Absent</i>			Japan			20	Somalia	13		
Burundi	13			Jordan	13			South Africa	18		
Cabo Verde			10	Kenya	<i>Absent</i>			South Sudan			10
Cambodia			13	Latvia		11		Spain	8	8	
Cameroon	<i>Absent</i>			Lesotho	11			Suriname	8		2
Canada		15		Libya	12			Sweden		13	
Chad			13	Liechtenstein		10		Switzerland		12	
Chile	5	7	1	Lithuania		11		Thailand			18
China	23			Madagascar	<i>Absent</i>			Timor-Leste	11		
Côte d'Ivoire	15			Malawi			14	Tonga	10		
Croatia	2	9		Malaysia	15			Tunisia	13		
Cuba	13			Maldives	10			Türkiye	19		
Cyprus	2	4	5	Malta	10			Turkmenistan	<i>Absent</i>		
Czechia		13		Mexico		20		Uganda	<i>Absent</i>		
DR of the Congo			20	Monaco	<i>Absent</i>			Ukraine	2		13
Denmark		10		Mongolia	<i>Absent</i>			United Arab Emirates	13		
Djibouti	11			Montenegro	<i>Absent</i>			United Kingdom		18	
Dominican Rep.	<i>Absent</i>			Morocco	15			United Republic of Tanzania			18
Ecuador	11			Mozambique	<i>Absent</i>			Uzbekistan	15		
Egypt	20			Namibia	11			Viet Nam	<i>Absent</i>		
Equatorial Guinea	11			Nepal	<i>Absent</i>			Yemen	13		
Estonia		11		Netherlands		13		Zambia			14
Eswatini	<i>Absent</i>			New Zealand		12		Zimbabwe	13		
Ethiopia			20	Nigeria			22				
Fiji	<i>Absent</i>			North Macedonia	7	4					
Finland		12		Norway		12					

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. Parliaments participating in the IPU in a non-voting observer capacity in accordance with the decision of the 209th session of the Governing Council in Nusa Dua do not appear on this list.

## Response by parliamentarians to the urgent plea by the UN Secretary-General to recommit to multilateralism for global peace, justice and sustainability

**Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of  
France, United Kingdom, Germany, Netherlands, and Canada  
for the inclusion of an emergency item**

### Results

Affirmative votes .....795	Total of affirmative and negative votes .. 1,104
Negative votes .....309	Two-thirds majority ..... 736
Abstentions .....306	

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Albania		<i>Absent</i>		France	18			Oman		12	
Algeria		16		Gabon	<i>Absent</i>			Palestine		12	
Andorra	10			Gambia (The)	<i>Absent</i>			Paraguay	12		
Angola			15	Germany	19			Peru	15		
Argentina	16			Ghana	<i>Absent</i>			Philippines	20		
Armenia	10		1	Greece	10			Poland	15		
Australia	14			Guinea			10	Portugal	13		
Austria	12			Guinea-Bissau	4		4	Republic of Korea	17		
Azerbaijan	<i>Absent</i>			Guyana	10			Romania	13		
Bahamas	<i>Absent</i>			Hungary	12			Russian Federation		20	
Bahrain		11		Iceland	<i>Absent</i>			Rwanda			11
Belarus		12		India			23	San Marino	10		
Belgium	13			Iran (Islamic Republic of)		19		Sao Tome and Principe			10
Benin	<i>Absent</i>			Iraq		16		Saudi Arabia		15	
Bhutan			10	Ireland	12			Serbia	<i>Absent</i>		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	11			Israel			12	Seychelles		10	
Botswana			10	Italy	10			Slovakia	10		
Brazil	20			Jamaica	<i>Absent</i>			Slovenia	11		
Burkina Faso	<i>Absent</i>			Japan	20			Somalia		13	
Burundi			13	Jordan		13		South Africa		18	
Cabo Verde	10			Kenya	<i>Absent</i>			South Sudan			10
Cambodia	13			Latvia	11			Spain	16		
Cameroon	<i>Absent</i>			Lesotho			11	Suriname	8		2
Canada	15			Libya		12		Sweden	13		
Chad	13			Liechtenstein	10			Switzerland	12		
Chile	10		3	Lithuania	11			Thailand	18		
China		23		Madagascar	<i>Absent</i>			Timor-Leste			11
Côte d'Ivoire	5		10	Malawi	14			Tonga	10		
Croatia	11			Malaysia			15	Tunisia		13	
Cuba			13	Maldives		10		Türkiye	2	17	
Cyprus	11			Malta	10			Turkmenistan	<i>Absent</i>		
Czechia	13			Mexico	20			Uganda	<i>Absent</i>		
DR of the Congo			20	Monaco	<i>Absent</i>			Ukraine	15		
Denmark	10			Mongolia	<i>Absent</i>			United Arab Emirates		13	
Djibouti			11	Montenegro	<i>Absent</i>			United Kingdom	18		
Dominican Rep.	<i>Absent</i>			Morocco	15			United Republic of Tanzania	18		
Ecuador			11	Mozambique	<i>Absent</i>			Uzbekistan			15
Egypt		20		Namibia			11	Viet Nam	<i>Absent</i>		
Equatorial Guinea			11	Nepal	<i>Absent</i>			Yemen		13	
Estonia	11			Netherlands	13			Zambia	14		
Eswatini	<i>Absent</i>			New Zealand	12			Zimbabwe			13
Ethiopia			20	Nigeria	22						
Fiji	<i>Absent</i>			North Macedonia	10	1					
Finland	12			Norway	12						

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. Parliaments participating in the IPU in a non-voting observer capacity in accordance with the decision of the 209th session of the Governing Council in Nusa Dua do not appear on this list.

## The security and humanitarian situation in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

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

#### R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes.....	121	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..745
Negative votes .....	624	Two-thirds majority.....497
Abstentions .....	665	

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Albania		<i>Absent</i>		France			18	Oman		12	
Algeria		16		Gabon		<i>Absent</i>		Palestine		12	
Andorra		10		Gambia (The)		<i>Absent</i>		Paraguay			12
Angola			15	Germany		19		Peru			15
Argentina			16	Ghana		<i>Absent</i>		Philippines	20		
Armenia			11	Greece		10		Poland		15	
Australia		14		Guinea			10	Portugal		13	
Austria		12		Guinea-Bissau	4		4	Republic of Korea			17
Azerbaijan		<i>Absent</i>		Guyana			10	Romania			13
Bahamas		<i>Absent</i>		Hungary		12		Russian Federation		20	
Bahrain		11		Iceland		<i>Absent</i>		Rwanda		11	
Belarus		12		India			23	San Marino			10
Belgium			13	Iran (Islamic Republic of)			19	Sao Tome and Principe			10
Benin		<i>Absent</i>		Iraq			16	Saudi Arabia		15	
Bhutan			10	Ireland	3	9		Serbia		<i>Absent</i>	
Bosnia and Herzegovina			11	Israel			12	Seychelles			10
Botswana			10	Italy			10	Slovakia			10
Brazil			20	Jamaica		<i>Absent</i>		Slovenia		11	
Burkina Faso		<i>Absent</i>		Japan			20	Somalia			13
Burundi	13			Jordan			13	South Africa			18
Cabo Verde			10	Kenya		<i>Absent</i>		South Sudan			10
Cambodia			13	Latvia		11		Spain		16	
Cameroon		<i>Absent</i>		Lesotho			11	Suriname			10
Canada		15		Libya			12	Sweden		13	
Chad			13	Liechtenstein			10	Switzerland		12	
Chile		10	3	Lithuania			11	Thailand			18
China			23	Madagascar		<i>Absent</i>		Timor-Leste			11
Côte d'Ivoire	5		10	Malawi			14	Tonga			10
Croatia		11		Malaysia			15	Tunisia		13	
Cuba			13	Maldives			10	Türkiye		19	
Cyprus		11		Malta			10	Turkmenistan		<i>Absent</i>	
Czechia		13		Mexico			20	Uganda		<i>Absent</i>	
DR of the Congo	20			Monaco		<i>Absent</i>		Ukraine			15
Denmark			10	Mongolia		<i>Absent</i>		United Arab Emirates		13	
Djibouti		11		Montenegro		<i>Absent</i>		United Kingdom		18	
Dominican Rep.		<i>Absent</i>		Morocco			15	United Republic of Tanzania			18
Ecuador			11	Mozambique		<i>Absent</i>		Uzbekistan			15
Egypt		20		Namibia	11			Viet Nam		<i>Absent</i>	
Equatorial Guinea			11	Nepal		<i>Absent</i>		Yemen		13	
Estonia		11		Netherlands			13	Zambia	7	5	2
Eswatini		<i>Absent</i>		New Zealand			12	Zimbabwe	13		
Ethiopia			20	Nigeria	22						
Fiji		<i>Absent</i>		North Macedonia	3	8					
Finland		12		Norway			12				

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## Mobilizing parliamentarians for the protection of children in armed conflicts to avoid risks, suffering and consequences

### Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of Argentina, Chile, Peru, Mexico, Brazil and Guyana for the inclusion of an emergency item

#### Results

Affirmative votes .....	709	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	1,029
Negative votes .....	320	Two-thirds majority .....	686
Abstentions .....	381		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Albania		Absent		France	18			Oman		12	
Algeria		16		Gabon	Absent			Palestine		12	
Andorra	10			Gambia (The)	Absent			Paraguay	12		
Angola	15			Germany	19			Peru	15		
Argentina	16			Ghana	Absent			Philippines	20		
Armenia	11			Greece	10			Poland	15		
Australia	14			Guinea			10	Portugal	13		
Austria	12			Guinea-Bissau	8			Republic of Korea	17		
Azerbaijan	Absent			Guyana	10			Romania	13		
Bahamas	Absent			Hungary	12			Russian Federation		20	
Bahrain		11		Iceland	Absent			Rwanda			11
Belarus		12		India			23	San Marino			10
Belgium	13			Iran (Islamic Republic of)		19		Sao Tome and Principe			10
Benin	Absent			Iraq		16		Saudi Arabia		15	
Bhutan			10	Ireland	12			Serbia		Absent	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	11			Israel			12	Seychelles		10	
Botswana			10	Italy	10			Slovakia	10		
Brazil	20			Jamaica	Absent			Slovenia	11		
Burkina Faso	Absent			Japan	10		10	Somalia		13	
Burundi			13	Jordan		13		South Africa		18	
Cabo Verde	10			Kenya	Absent			South Sudan			10
Cambodia			13	Latvia	11			Spain	16		
Cameroon	Absent			Lesotho			11	Suriname	10		
Canada	15			Libya		12		Sweden	13		
Chad			13	Liechtenstein	10			Switzerland	12		
Chile	13			Lithuania	11			Thailand	18		
China	23			Madagascar	Absent			Timor-Leste			11
Côte d'Ivoire			15	Malawi			14	Tonga	10		
Croatia	11			Malaysia			15	Tunisia		13	
Cuba			13	Maldives		10		Türkiye		19	
Cyprus	11			Malta	10			Turkmenistan	Absent		
Czechia	13			Mexico	8	8	4	Uganda	Absent		
DR of the Congo			20	Monaco	Absent			Ukraine	15		
Denmark	10			Mongolia	Absent			United Arab Emirates		13	
Djibouti		11		Montenegro	Absent			United Kingdom	18		
Dominican Rep.	Absent			Morocco			15	United Republic of Tanzania			18
Ecuador			11	Mozambique	Absent			Uzbekistan			15
Egypt		20		Namibia			11	Viet Nam	Absent		
Equatorial Guinea			11	Nepal	Absent			Yemen		13	
Estonia	11			Netherlands	13			Zambia	14		
Eswatini	Absent			New Zealand	12			Zimbabwe		13	
Ethiopia			20	Nigeria			22				
Fiji	Absent			North Macedonia	10	1					
Finland	12			Norway	12						

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. Parliaments participating in the IPU in a non-voting observer capacity in accordance with the decision of the 209th session of the Governing Council in Nusa Dua do not appear on this list.

## Response by parliamentarians to the urgent plea by the UN Secretary-General to recommit to multilateralism for global peace, justice and sustainability

*Resolution adopted unanimously by the 149th IPU Assembly  
(Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

The 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*Deeply concerned* that, at the United Nations General Assembly on 24 September 2024, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said: “Our world is in a whirlwind. We are in an era of epic transformation – facing challenges unlike any we have ever seen – challenges that demand global solutions. Yet geo-political divisions keep deepening. The planet keeps heating. Wars rage with no clue how they will end. And nuclear posturing and new weapons cast a dark shadow. We are edging towards the unimaginable – a powder keg that risks engulfing the world”, echoing his warning just two years earlier, on 20 September 2022, when he underscored his increasing despair at the state of global affairs, saying: “Our world is in big trouble. Divides are growing deeper, inequalities are growing wider, challenges are spreading faster... We need hope... We need action across the board”,

*Alarmed* that the UN Secretary-General has also consistently described numerous times in recent years international action on major challenges as being “paralyzed by dysfunction and held hostage to geopolitical tensions”,

*Fully comprehending* the UN Secretary-General’s concerns of a world destabilized by interconnected crises driven by impunity, inequality and uncertainty, which threaten global stability and solidarity and undermine the collective commitment to the principles of multilateralism,

*Comprehending* the dire circumstances facing the world, which motivated the UN Secretary-General to call on the international community to mobilize collectively to address these crises, uphold human rights and work towards sustainable solutions,

*Preoccupied* by the erosion of global commitments to democratic values and universal human rights,

1. *Reaffirms* its unwavering support for multilateralism, both through the United Nations system and other key global and regional institutions, and its attachment to an international order based on the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as laid out in the Pact for the Future;
2. *Fully respects* that the United Nations remains the cornerstone of the multilateral system and of international cooperation and *pledges* its full support to its mission through a deepening cooperation;
3. *Highlights* the gravity of the challenges the global community is facing, from a growing number of international conflicts to the consequences of climate change and the risk of pandemics, as well as other global threats like famine and food insecurity, resulting in a multiplication of humanitarian crises;
4. *Emphasizes* the urgent need for a collective response, founded on renewed political will, to cooperate at the international level and to share responsibilities across geopolitical divisions, to build a more peaceful world and create a better future for current and succeeding generations;
5. *Calls for* a significant concerted effort by the international community, including the IPU membership, to achieve:

- a. complete rejection of the indiscriminate targeting by armed forces of civilians, wherever they may be, particularly emergency personnel, health and education workers, and medical, education and other public infrastructure, which represents a grave breach of international humanitarian law based on the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols;
  - b. the end of sexual violence, war crimes against women and girls in international and domestic conflicts; greater recognition of the insidious impact of gender discrimination and the undermining of women's rights; and the identification of urgent remedies to address these phenomena;
  - c. concerted action to end the appalling impact of conflict on children, who are experiencing unacceptable levels of death and injury in war, forced displacement and kidnapping, loss of education and economic opportunity, and the wanton destruction of their families and wider communities;
6. *Expresses its full commitment to:*
- a. strengthen multilateralism by working tirelessly to uphold and reinforce the multilateral frameworks that are essential for addressing global challenges, including undertaking the necessary reforms to ensure the legitimacy and efficiency of the multilateral system, such as: the expansion of the membership of the Security Council, ensuring fair and balanced representation of all regions of the globe; the modernization of UN peacekeeping tools in compliance with the New Agenda for Peace; and the reform of international financial institutions;
  - b. promote equity and justice by advocating for food security and fair access to resources, including water and health supplies, and strive to bridge the gaps which perpetuate inequality and poverty to ensure that no one is left behind, especially the most vulnerable in our communities, particularly women and girls, people with disabilities and the elderly;
  - c. tackle the climate crisis by pursuing ambitious climate action in line with the Paris Agreement, fully appreciating that the urgency of the situation requires immediate and sustained efforts to reduce emissions and support climate resilience, particularly through financial support for developing countries;
  - d. defend the rights of all people by being champions for the protection and promotion of universal human rights, ensuring that the fundamental freedoms and dignity of all individuals are respected and upheld, including by rebuilding faith in the integrity of independent accountability and human rights institutions;
  - e. call for action against impunity for international crimes;
  - f. rebuild trust by addressing misinformation on both social and traditional media and by addressing the new challenges posed by rapidly developing advances in artificial intelligence and other technologies;
  - g. foster inclusive dialogue, particularly encompassing the most vulnerable in our societies, to enhance global prospects for cooperation based on collective values, shared principles and common objectives in the interests of all peoples;
7. *Resolves to raise awareness that a recommitment to the cause of multilateralism and the collective efforts of the international community through the United Nations and other global institutions is a critical move in stepping back from the brink of a geopolitical abyss of increasingly violent conflict, social injustice and economic decline, which, without a change in course, threatens all countries;*
8. *Underscores the full relevance of the founding principles of the IPU in its 135th year of existence, in favour of the pursuit of peace and cooperation through worldwide parliamentary dialogue, and reaffirms its commitment to deepening parliamentary cooperation with the United Nations and other multilateral institutions;*

9. *Highlights* the obligations of Member Parliaments to ensure legislators hold to account their respective national governments to show full respect for the Charter of the United Nations, redouble their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to fully implement the newly adopted Pact for the Future, which also seeks to deepen cooperation between the IPU and the United Nations;
10. *Reaffirms* its commitment to the defence of the principles of peace, human rights, dignity, equality, justice and solidarity, and *confirms* the determination of Member Parliaments to play a key role in navigating the complexities of current crises, to recommit to the purposes and principles of multilateralism, and to contribute to building a more resilient, just and sustainable world for the benefit of every nation and the constituents of all parliamentarians.

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

*Noted by the 149th IPU Assembly  
(Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security held two sittings during the 149th IPU Assembly. Ms. F. Belhirsch (Netherlands) and Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland) served as acting Chairs respectively on 14 and 16 October due to the absence of the President of the Committee, Ms. A. Kuspan (Kazakhstan), and the vacancy left by the Vice-President, Mr. M. Rezakhah (Islamic Republic of Iran).

On 14 October, after procedural items and official communications, Ms. F. Belhirsch (Netherlands) introduced the first panel discussion on *The role of parliamentarians in preventing conflicts over natural resources*. The moderator, Mr. J.-M. Rousseau, Head of the Business and Security Division at the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF), set the tone by emphasizing the role of parliamentarians in governing resource wealth, in particular their responsibility in mitigating conflicts over natural resources.

The first panellist, Ms. C. Seymour, Senior Researcher at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding at the Graduate Institute (IHEID), provided a comprehensive analysis of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a country rich in natural resources but plagued by conflict and poor human development. She pointed out the stark contrast between the country's immense resource wealth and its low ranking on the Human Capital Index. Speaking from a political economy perspective, Ms. C. Seymour stressed the need to address the root causes of the conflict, particularly the economic drivers. She also linked the ongoing humanitarian crisis to violent resource extraction practices and advocated for honest narratives about the situation, urging parliamentarians to take proactive roles in governance to alleviate these issues.

Mr. A. Ware, Global Coordinator of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) focused on the multifaceted risks of uranium mining, including its health, environmental and territorial impacts, particularly on indigenous communities. He also discussed the proliferation risks of uranium, noting its potential use in nuclear weapons, and emphasized the need for rigorous parliamentary oversight to ensure its peaceful use. Mr. A. Ware highlighted the economic implications and long-term costs of land rehabilitation, and stressed the importance of sustainable development. He provided successful examples of parliamentary oversight, such as the Costa Rican Supreme Court's involvement in uranium mining regulation, demonstrating the importance of international cooperation.

Fourteen delegates took the floor and contributed to the discussion, focusing on various aspects of resource management. One delegate highlighted the importance of democratic processes and regional cooperation in preventing conflicts, while another stressed the need for equitable access to resources and sustainable lifestyles. Additional contributions included calls for developing recycling technologies to reduce resource dependency and proposals to establish climate action committees, particularly with a focus on enhancing women's roles in resource management. Another delegate underscored the importance of parliamentarians fostering dialogue and addressing grievances to ensure equitable resource distribution.

The session concluded with the panellists calling for collective action and the involvement of local communities in resource management, alongside honest analyses of who benefits from resource extraction. Both panellists emphasized the importance of due diligence and oversight in preventing resource-related conflicts, and of exploring success stories like Costa Rica.

Ms. F. Belhirsch (Netherlands) introduced the second panel discussion on *The role of parliamentarians in nuclear security*. The session featured three panellists and was moderated by Ms. S. Case Lackner, Senior Fellow at the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP), who highlighted the importance of nuclear security and the critical role parliamentarians play in safeguarding nuclear and radiological materials through legislation and budget oversight.

Ms. E. Buglova, Director of the Division of Nuclear Security at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), stressed the importance of a strong nuclear security regime to prevent nuclear terrorism and promote the safe use of nuclear technologies in energy, healthcare and food security. She emphasized

the need for countries to adopt the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its 2005 Amendment, as nuclear security is both a national responsibility and a contributor to global safety.

Ms. M. Lorenzo Sobrado, Head of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism Prevention Programme, Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB), at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) focused on the legal frameworks for nuclear security, stressing the importance of international cooperation. She outlined seven key legal instruments that address the misuse of nuclear materials and are crucial for preventing nuclear terrorism and ensuring justice. She urged parliamentarians to ratify and implement these treaties and work closely with international organizations like the IAEA and UNODC.

Ms. C. Scotto de César, Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Policy Analyst at the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), highlighted the role of law enforcement in nuclear security, detailing INTERPOL's efforts to track incidents involving radioactive materials. She emphasized that non-State actors pose a real threat and called for stronger cooperation between law enforcement and legislators to create legal frameworks that criminalize nuclear offences and ensure international coordination.

The debate that followed involved eight delegates and covered a wide range of concerns, focusing on the role of parliamentarians in shaping and enforcing policies that promote transparency, public accountability and international cooperation. The importance of democratic processes was emphasized as crucial for managing nuclear resources and preventing conflicts. Participants highlighted the need for equitable access to energy, particularly stressing that sustainable nuclear energy can address energy shortages and contribute to economic growth, and that public education is vital to overcoming misconceptions that equate nuclear energy solely with weapons. Legal frameworks and international treaties, such as the CPPNM, were identified as key tools in preventing nuclear proliferation and ensuring cross-border security. The debate also brought attention to environmental issues, particularly the health and ecological risks associated with uranium mining, calling for stronger parliamentary oversight to ensure safe nuclear energy development and proper environmental rehabilitation. Challenges related to nuclear proliferation and the risk of non-State actors gaining access to nuclear materials were discussed, with participants urging more proactive legislative measures to criminalize illegal activities and enhance international enforcement cooperation.

The panel concluded with a call for parliamentarians to continue to strengthen nuclear security measures, ensure responsible management of nuclear materials and foster global peace.

On 16 October, the Committee, chaired by Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland), held a hearing of experts on *The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine*. The purpose of the hearing was to inform members in advance of a resolution on the subject, which is scheduled for discussion and adoption at the 150th IPU Assembly in April 2025.

The hearing was introduced by a video presentation featuring two activists from the region.

Ms. M. Pundak, Co-Director of A Land for All – Two States, One Homeland, and Ms. R. Salman, Co-Director of Combatants for Peace, outlined a vision for a two-State solution grounded in the principles of self-determination, equality and sustainability. They emphasized the urgent need to end the ongoing conflict, stressed the importance of a shared future for both Israelis and Palestinians and highlighted the crucial role of the international community in seizing the opportunity to implement a two-State solution. Both underscored the importance of a people-driven peace process and called for new leadership to foster reconciliation and coexistence between the two communities.

Ms. M. Durrieu, a specialist in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and lecturer at Sciences Po Paris, emphasized that the conflict is fundamentally about land, with both sides laying claim to the same territory. She provided a comprehensive overview of the historical evolution of the two-State solution, presenting it as the only viable option to resolve the territorial dispute between Israelis and Palestinians. While initially rejected by Palestinians, she noted that over time, this solution emerged as the most realistic path forward. Ms. M. Durrieu also outlined key challenges, including the difficulty of legitimizing the Palestinian Authority, the urgent need to stop Israeli settlement expansion in the occupied territories, and the growing disillusionment among younger Palestinians who are losing faith in the two-State solution due to ongoing violence. She stressed the importance of international organizations and parliaments in ensuring that any resolution is fair, enforceable and leads to the establishment of a legitimate, sovereign Palestinian state.

Ms. A. Chenoy, Adjunct Professor at Jindal Global University in India, and Member of the International Peace Bureau (IPB) Common Security working group, emphasized the importance of a *common security* approach, linking the two-State solution to broader principles of peace, justice and human security, while reflecting on the lessons of decolonization and non-alignment. Drawing on her experience in conflict zones and decolonization, she argued that lasting peace can only be achieved by recognizing the rights, dignity, and security of both Palestinians and Israelis, and by addressing the root causes of violence, including militarization and occupation. Ms. A. Chenoy also underscored the historical support of the Global South for a two-State solution and called for greater involvement of non-aligned countries in the peace process, advocating for solutions that go beyond traditional power politics to embrace a more inclusive, multilateral approach. She also urged the international community to bolster its support for a two-State solution and to prioritize the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people in this pursuit.

Following the expert interventions, three out of the six co-Rapporteurs for the forthcoming resolution, Mr. M. Bouchouit (Algeria), Mr. J. Buttimer (Ireland), and Ms. M. Guerra Castillo (Mexico), provided their initial reflections on the subject. They stressed the importance of maintaining a focus on human rights, international law and political will in advancing a two-State solution. Mr. Bouchouit called for fairness and humanity in addressing the plight of Palestinians, while Mr. J. Buttimer, in a recorded video, highlighted the need for mutual recognition between Israelis and Palestinians to break the cycle of violence, and emphasized the importance of trust, cooperation and courage to continue talks to build peace. Ms. M. Guerra Castillo emphasized the importance of intercultural dialogue, diplomacy and respect for international humanitarian law, urging parliaments to support a ceasefire and humanitarian aid to Gaza.

The debate that followed featured interventions from 16 delegates, parliamentarians representing various regions and one permanent observer. Key themes included the importance of international law and the critical role of parliaments in promoting diplomatic efforts for conflict resolution. While there were differing views on the two-State solution, most speakers reaffirmed their support for the two-State framework, calling for international collaboration to achieve peace. Additionally, there were recommendations to leverage artificial intelligence for positive outcomes in international security, and calls for reforms in global parliamentary systems to enhance their impact. Discussions also highlighted ongoing challenges, particularly related to actions perceived as undermining international institutions. This prompted calls to recognize Palestine as a State, emphasizing the importance of including women in peacebuilding efforts. Overall, the discussions highlighted the need for continued negotiation, multilateral cooperation and inclusive strategies to achieve a peaceful resolution, with parliaments playing a central role in these processes. A written declaration from a delegation that was directly concerned but unable to attend was made available and will be included in the summary records.

The hearing concluded with a call from panellists for parliamentarians to take proactive steps in supporting peace efforts, advocating for human dignity and fostering international collaboration to achieve a just and lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

At the end of the Hearing, the Committee elected Mr. H. Mohammad (Malaysia) both as a Bureau member and as its Vice-President to complete the mandate of the Asia-Pacific Group until October 2025.

The report on the work of the Committee was presented to the Assembly at its last sitting on 17 October by Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland) as acting Chair.

The Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security met on 16 October 2024. Ten members, including the representatives of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, and the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, were present. Discussions addressed what Bureau members have been working on regarding peace and security since the last meeting, as well as their feelings and willingness to act on the proliferation of conflicts in the world. Bureau members also started thinking of potential subjects to be submitted in March 2025 to the Standing Committee. The meeting ended with a lively discussion on the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the impact of landmines on individuals and communities with Prince Mired Bin Raad Zeid Al-Hussein of Jordan, who is leading efforts to promote the universalization of the Convention.

## Report of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development

*Noted by the 149th IPU Assembly  
(Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development held its sittings on 15 and 16 October. Both sittings were chaired by the Committee President, Mr. W. William (Seychelles).

### **Debate on the theme of the next resolution entitled *Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development***

The theme of the next resolution was introduced by four experts: Ms. A. Gill, Team Leader, Core Government Functions and Local Governance, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Crisis Bureau; Mr. G. Connor, Programme Specialist, Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding, UNDP Crisis Bureau; Mr. M. Talhami, Strategic Programme Manager at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); and Mr. H. Born, Head of the Policy and Research Department at the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF). The co-Rapporteurs, Ms. H. Fayez (Bahrain), Ms. E. Muteka (Namibia) and Mr. R. Fogiel (Poland), were also present.

Ms. A. Gill and Mr. G. Connor from the UNDP highlighted the importance of inclusion and participation as essential for sustainable development and peace. They emphasized linking efforts at the subnational level to national processes, ensuring local voices are heard. However, growing inequalities and the rise of AI and digital technologies, which have fuelled hate speech and misinformation, complicate peacebuilding efforts and underscore the need for proactive governance. They pointed to the critical role of parliaments in combating hate speech, with the UNDP providing resources and guidelines to assist in these efforts. An example from North Macedonia was shared, where a parliamentary committee on inter-community relations has successfully promoted dialogue between ethnic groups, demonstrating how inclusive governance can foster peace.

Mr. M. Talhami from the ICRC said that modern conflicts are increasingly centred in urban areas, amplifying the complexity of humanitarian responses. He emphasized that the growing frequency and intensity of climate hazards must be integrated into planning efforts, as these risks compound the challenges faced in conflict zones. Today, nearly two billion people live in fragile environments with limited or no access to clean water and other essential services, leaving them especially vulnerable to both conflict and environmental crises.

To address these challenges, Mr. M. Talhami presented five key recommendations for the Rapporteurs' consideration. First, he stressed the importance of protecting and ensuring safe access to essential services, such as healthcare and water, during conflicts. Second, he advocated for open-ended exemptions in sanctions regimes to allow for the uninterrupted delivery of humanitarian aid. Third, he recommended securing flexible, multi-year financing that takes into account the risks posed by climate change. Fourth, he called for a shift towards forward-thinking strategies that anticipate future hazards. Lastly, he urged an all-hazard approach to emergency planning and preparedness that incorporates a wide range of potential risks, from armed conflict to natural disasters, into response frameworks.

Mr. H. Born from DCAF reminded the Committee that all governments have committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing the particular relevance of SDG 16, which focuses on promoting peace, justice and strong institutions. He underscored that the successful implementation of SDG 16 requires not only robust institutions but also a proactive and sustained engagement with the security sector and the military. In this context, he highlighted the critical role of parliamentary oversight in ensuring accountability and transparency within the armed forces, advocating for their inclusion in broader governance and development frameworks. This, he argued, is key to fostering stability, building trust between civilians and the military and reinforcing democratic governance.

Following the expert presentations, twenty delegates shared their countries' experience in addressing the interconnected nature of conflict and sustainable development. Delegates unanimously recognized that conflicts hinder progress towards the SDGs, often reversing gains already made. Parliamentarians were urged to advocate for sustainable development strategies that positively impact conflict prevention, response and recovery. Central to these efforts is engaging with communities, addressing their needs, and empowering them to participate in decision-making. Additionally, responses should be climate sensitive.

Delegates shared specific examples of how their countries are addressing conflict and promoting sustainable development. Many focused on efforts to engage internally with conflict-prone regions, emphasizing the importance of fostering public participation and driving economic development. One example highlighted as a best practice was the prohibition of trade in conflict minerals sourced from countries of origin. More broadly, parliamentary diplomacy and the promotion of trade relationships were seen as crucial for identifying and advancing common interests among nations.

The co-Rapporteurs addressed the Committee at the end of the sitting, thanking everyone for their contributions, which would be helpful in their work on the draft resolution.

### **Preparations for the Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Azerbaijan**

The Chair highlighted that the IPU has promoted parliamentary engagement in climate change processes for more than a decade and that the annual Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conferences (COPs) is an important vehicle for advancing climate action among parliaments. The Parliamentary Meeting at COP29 will take place on 16-17 November 2024 in the Green Zone in Baku, Azerbaijan and will, for the first time, be a two-day event.

The Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Meeting, Mr. S. Mammadov, a member of the Parliament of Azerbaijan, described his country's commitment to advancing climate action, including by investing in renewable energy. He then presented the main orientations of the preliminary draft outcome document that is expected to be adopted at the meeting.

Mr. S. Mammadov highlighted that the draft outcome document calls on parliaments to take several actions to enhance climate efforts, including: to support legislation that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, to facilitate the transition to green and renewable energy and to support the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. Amendments to the draft outcome document were received from five countries by the deadline of 4 October 2024, and were being thoroughly considered. Parliamentarians from eight countries and from the IPU Advisory Group on Health provided additional suggestions during the discussion, including on incorporating language on green jobs, agroforestry, sustainable tourism, health-related climate impacts and climate finance.

### **Panel discussion: *Towards a fair global financial system: The role of parliaments in preventing corporate tax avoidance and achieving sustainable development***

The panel featured experts from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), who engaged in a discussion moderated by Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia) on how tax revenue can support the achievement of the SDGs.

It was noted that approximately USD 4 trillion is required to achieve the SDGs, and taxation can play a key role in reaching these targets. Effective taxation can generate the necessary funds for public services, promote economic growth, combat illicit financial flows, reduce inequality and foster fairness. It also has the potential to reduce reliance on financial aid.

Parliaments have a crucial role in mobilizing domestic resources, overseeing tax authorities and helping citizens understand how taxes contribute to public services and sustainable development.

Parliamentarians should also share evidence on how taxes can improve service delivery for sustainable development.

Delegates strongly supported the need for action in this area, emphasizing the importance of enforcing stricter regulations, preventing corporate tax avoidance, promoting transparency and strengthening multilateral cooperation.

As companies can operate across borders without a physical presence, addressing loopholes is critical. This calls for a robust legal framework, enhanced global collaboration and transparency in information exchange. A global minimum standard of cooperation should be established, and tax incentives should be carefully evaluated for their effectiveness.

Tax evasion undermines fair competition, deepens inequality – especially for vulnerable and marginalized groups – and can negatively impact employment. Parliaments must address tax evasion and avoidance to prevent these outcomes.

Progress will depend on countries adopting transparent approaches and showing a real commitment to addressing these challenges, with a strong emphasis on prioritizing the mobilization of domestic resources.

## Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

*Noted by the 149th IPU Assembly  
(Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

The Committee held two sittings on 15 and 16 October 2024 with the President of the Committee, Mr. D. McGuinty (Canada), presiding as Chair. Drawing attention to the new IPU anti-harassment policy, he opened the session and invited all present to adopt the agenda of the session and approve the summary record of the previous session, held at the 148th Assembly in Geneva in March 2024.

### **Financing the United Nations system: A critical perspective**

This event was the first of a series to help MPs better understand how the United Nations (UN) is funded, looking at both quantitative and qualitative aspects. Presenters included Mr. P. Linnér, Programme Director at the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation; Ms. S. Gruener, Deputy Director at the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation; and Mr. B. Christiaens, Portfolio Manager, Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Thirty-one delegations were present and eight took the floor during the discussion.

The Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office have formed a partnership to help the general public and decision-makers understand the UN budget process. After acknowledging that the UN budget remains somewhat opaque and unintelligible, the presenters explained the basic principles governing the process, the main sources of funding, and the constraints and gaps that impinge on the overall performance of the UN system. The presentations included a live survey of participants, which revealed a low level of familiarity with the subject matter.

The UN budget consists of a mix of core and non-core resources. Core funding includes assessed contributions, which account for only 18% of the total UN budget, and voluntary contributions that donor countries pay to various UN system agencies and programmes. Core funding gives the recipient agency the flexibility to prioritize spending in response to shifting needs on the ground. Non-core funding consists of donations earmarked for specific projects or programmes and cannot be reallocated for other purposes. Earmarked funds are given directly to each UN entity (hard earmarking) or pooled into common funds (soft earmarking), the latter being preferable to reduce transaction and reporting costs.

The current UN budget is just over \$74 billion annually, which, surprisingly, equates to 1–2% of global military spending. While the UN budget has increased in real terms from previous years (factoring in inflation), it is significantly below actual development needs, and about 40% of the total budget comes from a shortlist of five donors who have signaled plans to cut their contributions in future years. On the expenditure side, half of the budget is spent on assistance to some 42 developing countries. Finally, while most of the budget comes from government sources, a small share comes from the private sector and other non-governmental entities.

The lion's share of the UN budget is dedicated to humanitarian needs. Development assistance receives a comparatively lower level of funding. This imbalance between humanitarian and development spending leads to an underinvestment in preventing the root causes of humanitarian crises. Investing in development assistance would be vastly more efficient from a value-for-money standpoint. However, it is important to acknowledge that the growing number of conflicts around the world, along with millions of people internally displaced or forced to seek refuge in other countries, is putting a significant strain on specialized UN agencies.

A Funding Compact was recently established between the UN and its Member States, in which Member States pledged to improve the quality of funding (through pooled funding, less earmarking and long-term predictability), and the UN committed to improving transparency and cost-saving efficiencies.

The debate that followed highlighted the following key points:

- Parliaments have a key role to play in overseeing the UN budget process. This means first and foremost ensuring that their nation's assessed contributions are paid in full and on time.
- Parliamentarians need a better understanding of the UN budget process, and more discussion within the Committee is welcome. Parliaments should not hesitate to invite the UN Resident Coordinator or other UN officials for briefings.

- The current financial crisis at the UN needs to be addressed without delay to ensure continuity of support to countries in need.
- While funding for the UN needs to increase, the Organization also needs to improve efficiency and make the best use of available resources. This includes using innovative approaches and cost saving technologies.
- Understandably, donor countries of the UN will always consider their national interests when setting funding priorities, but this must be better aligned with the global mission of the UN.
- Where possible, the UN should try to increase the contribution of private donors to be relatively less reliant on public funding.

### **United Nations treaties: A review of ratifications and entry into force**

This 30-minute segment provided a broad view of the UN treaty-making process as one of the most important expressions of multilateralism. The two presenters were Ms. M. Régimbal, Chief of Service of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in Geneva, and Deputy Secretary General to the Conference on Disarmament; and Mr. A. Motter, Senior Advisor, Economic and Social Affairs, IPU. Thirty delegations were in attendance and six took the floor during the debate.

The presenters walked participants through the stages of the treaty-making process, including negotiation, consent, and entry into force. Each stage was broken down to show opportunities for active parliamentary engagement. This includes providing input during the negotiation process, giving a final seal of approval to a treaty negotiated at the UN, and helping translate the treaty into national legislation.

It was noted in particular that while the UN General Assembly is the principal locus for the adoption of all treaties, in the case of disarmament instruments, a special role is played by the Conference on Disarmament. Disarmament treaties often have a regional dimension, making it important for parliaments to work with others in a region to better understand the real implications of treaties or to coordinate their implementation. Unfortunately, many disarmament treaties signed by governments have not been ratified by their parliaments, which means that some treaties have never come into force or are not applicable to a large number of countries. Disarmament treaties need to be taken more seriously as they have direct implications for development, in addition to global security.

The debate that followed the presentations highlighted the following key points:

- Parliaments have a role to play in the ratification and implementation of treaties, even where the constitution establishes a strict separation of powers between executive and legislative branches. At a minimum, parliaments can help raise public awareness of a new treaty while it is being negotiated and can ask the government for regular briefings on the treaty-making process.
- International treaties that have come into force must be fully implemented in a way that is faithful to the letter and the spirit of the original text. Not all parliaments have the capacity to adopt enabling legislation, however, and may need support from the IPU or the UN.
- A good review of current disarmament treaties and how they work is available through the handbook, *Supporting Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament*, produced jointly by the IPU and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND).

### **The United Nations and the G20: Complementarity or redundancy?**

The Chair opened the segment by posing key questions regarding the role of the G20 in global economic governance. He asked whether the G20 was filling a gap in a weakened multilateral system or merely contributing to an already crowded landscape of international organizations. He also asked where the legitimacy of the G20 comes from, and how effective it is compared to the United Nations.

Twenty-five delegations were in attendance and eight took the floor during the debate.

The presenters were Mr. B. Ellmers, Director, Sustainable Development Finance, Global Policy Forum (participating virtually from Berlin) and Ms. L. Crexell (Argentina), Vice-President of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs.

In response to the Chair's questions, the presenters noted that the G20 had a soft start in 1999 as an extension of the G8 at the ministerial level, and only came of age at the level of heads of government in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.

For years, the group was seen as lacking legitimacy as a global body because it mainly represented leading economies and left out most of the Global South. This has changed somewhat as the Group now includes the African Union. The G20 also strives to include outside constituencies (engagement groups) such as civil society (C20), the private sector (B20), labour unions (L20), parliamentarians (P20) and others who seek to influence outcomes. While the G20 countries account for most of the global economy, the G20 does not represent all members of the United Nations. The engagement groups are not equal in the eyes of the G20, which seems more receptive to input from the business community. Also, the G20's original focus on the global economy has been extended to a host of other issues where the UN remains the principal actor.

In terms of its effectiveness, the G20 has both advantages and disadvantages. On the positive side, the Group appears more nimble than the more bureaucratized UN. When heads of government convene, they not only address the official agenda, but also take the opportunity to meet bilaterally and get to know each other better, which helps to build trust and smooth over political differences. A significant drawback of the G20 is its lack of accountability, as there is no permanent Secretariat or other mechanism to track the implementation of agreed commitments. Because the G20 agenda is set by a different host country each year, there is little continuity in the work undertaken over time.

While the G20 claims special expertise on global economic issues, with economic growth as its overarching priority, the UN, through its Economic and Social Council, takes a broader sustainable development perspective that is rooted in human rights and integrates economic issues with social and environmental ones.

In reality, the UN does have a mandate to lead on global economic governance. All of the issues routinely discussed at G20 meetings are within the remit of the Economic and Financial Committee of the General Assembly as well as of the Economic and Social Council. While these bodies may be cumbersome, they can deliver on important issues like the reform of international taxes (a UN convention on international taxation is underway). Although these UN bodies have been under reform for many years, certainly more can be done to make their work more effective.

During the negotiation of the Pact for the Future, UN Member States had an opportunity to clarify their relationship with the G20 in the chapter dedicated to reforming global governance. An earlier proposal to create a coordination mechanism between the two bodies was dropped in the final text, suggesting that the UN is uneasy seeing itself on par with the G20.

The following key points emerged from the discussion with participants:

- Ideally, the UN should have a lead role in coordinating global economic governance and the G20 should be focused on implementing those UN outcomes that are more fully within the power of leading economies to deliver on. For this to happen, however, the UN would first need to strengthen its own deliberative processes.
- Parliaments are ultimately responsible for funding the UN and the G20 and for making sure that the two bodies work well together. This means asking some hard questions and looking deeper into the ways the two bodies work alone and complementarily. Every effort should be made to avoid competition and duplication of work between the two organizations.
- The P20's role needs further clarification, which may be the subject of a future Committee motion. The concerned parliaments need to contribute more actively in P20 deliberations with debates held within the relevant parliamentary committees. There needs to be a stronger institutional link between the P20 and the G20 so that the input of the parliamentary community is heard.

### **Sharing best practices and lessons learned: Follow-up on the first two motions of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs**

This 30-minute segment was intended as follow-up to two motions adopted by the Committee in the past two years: one on gender equality in the General Assembly, and another on Security Council reform.

The Chair said that the practice of adopting motions would be extended to the other three IPU Standing Committees if statutory changes were adopted during the 149th Assembly. He invited participants to report on any actions undertaken in support of the two motions.

Delegates from the United Arab Emirates, Germany, India, Thailand, and Zimbabwe took the floor to report on progress on gender equality in their own foreign service and in other government branches, including the parliament. Some interventions also highlighted the need for reforming the Security Council.

In particular, a delegate from India noted that his country has long been a pioneer in women's leadership, including at the UN, where the first female President of the General Assembly was Indian. A delegate from Germany noted that his parliament's sub-committee on UN affairs was set up precisely to discuss such reform issues, and may serve as a model for other parliaments to follow.

# IPU Budget for 2025

*Approved by the IPU Governing Council at its 214th session  
(Geneva, 14 October 2024)*

	2024 Budget	2025 Budget		
		Regular budget	Other sources	All funds
Assessed contributions	11,585,700	11,937,000		11,937,000
Working Capital Fund (IPSAS)	230,000	230,000		230,000
Working Capital Fund (liquid)	498,400	435,700		435,700
Staff assessment	1,159,400	1,162,100		1,162,100
Interest	100,000	100,000		100,000
Programme support costs	0	320,200	(320,200)	0
Other revenue	18,000	16,000		16,000
Voluntary contributions	4,116,900		4,323,300	4,323,300
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>17,708,400</b>	<b>14,201,000</b>	<b>4,003,100</b>	<b>18,204,100</b>
<b>1. Building effective and empowered parliaments</b>	<b>3,748,000</b>	<b>2,200,000</b>	<b>1,816,800</b>	<b>4,016,800</b>
<b>2. Promoting inclusive and representative parliaments</b>	<b>1,340,400</b>	<b>687,700</b>	<b>491,200</b>	<b>1,178,900</b>
<b>3. Supporting resilient and innovative parliaments</b>	<b>824,600</b>	<b>367,400</b>	<b>549,400</b>	<b>916,800</b>
<b>4. Catalysing collective parliamentary action</b>	<b>8,242,400</b>	<b>7,052,500</b>	<b>1,444,300</b>	<b>8,496,800</b>
<b>5. Strengthening the IPU's accountability</b>	<b>3,753,400</b>	<b>3,748,800</b>	<b>21,600</b>	<b>3,770,400</b>
Other charges	104,600	144,600		144,600
Eliminations	(305,000)		(320,200)	(320,200)
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>17,708,400</b>	<b>14,201,000</b>	<b>4,003,100</b>	<b>18,204,100</b>

## Approved 2025 capital budget

Item	2025
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 2025

Scale of contributions for 2025 based on the UN scale of assessment

*Approved by the IPU Governing Council at its 214th session  
(Geneva, 14 October 2024)*

Country name	UN 2022–2024	Approved 2025 scale	
	Per cent	Per cent	CHF
Afghanistan	0.006%	0.110%	13 100
Albania	0.008%	0.110%	13 100
Algeria	0.109%	0.240%	28 600
Andorra	0.005%	0.110%	13 100
Angola	0.010%	0.110%	13 100
Argentina	0.719%	0.940%	111 900
Armenia	0.007%	0.110%	13 100
Australia	2.111%	2.470%	294 000
Austria	0.679%	0.890%	105 900
Azerbaijan	0.030%	0.140%	16 700
Bahamas	0.019%	0.120%	14 300
Bahrain	0.054%	0.170%	20 200
Bangladesh	0.010%	0.110%	13 100
Belarus	0.041%	0.150%	17 900
Belgium	0.828%	1.060%	126 200
Benin	0.005%	0.110%	13 100
Bhutan	0.001%	0.100%	11 900
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.019%	0.120%	14 300
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.012%	0.120%	14 300
Botswana	0.015%	0.120%	14 300
Brazil	2.013%	2.370%	282 100
Bulgaria	0.056%	0.170%	20 200
Burkina Faso	0.004%	0.100%	11 900
Burundi	0.001%	0.100%	11 900
Cabo Verde	0.001%	0.100%	11 900
Cambodia	0.007%	0.110%	13 100
Cameroon	0.013%	0.120%	14 300
Canada	2.628%	3.030%	360 700
Central African Republic	0.001%	0.100%	11 900
Chad	0.003%	0.100%	11 900
Chile	0.420%	0.600%	71 400
China	15.254%	11.750%	1 398 600
Colombia	0.246%	0.400%	47 600
Comoros	0.001%	0.100%	11 900
Congo	0.005%	0.110%	13 100
Costa Rica	0.069%	0.190%	22 600
Côte d'Ivoire	0.022%	0.130%	15 500
Croatia	0.091%	0.220%	26 200
Cuba	0.095%	0.220%	26 200
Cyprus	0.036%	0.150%	17 900
Czechia	0.340%	0.510%	60 700
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.005%	0.110%	13 100
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.010%	0.110%	13 100
Denmark	0.553%	0.750%	89 300
Djibouti	0.001%	0.100%	11 900
Dominican Republic	0.067%	0.190%	22 600
Ecuador	0.077%	0.200%	23 800
Egypt	0.139%	0.270%	32 100

Country name	UN 2022–2024	Approved 2025 scale	
	Per cent	Per cent	CHF
El Salvador	0.013%	0.120%	14 300
Equatorial Guinea	0.012%	0.120%	14 300
Estonia	0.044%	0.160%	19 000
Eswatini	0.002%	0.100%	11 900
Ethiopia	0.010%	0.110%	13 100
Fiji	0.004%	0.100%	11 900
Finland	0.417%	0.600%	71 400
France	4.318%	4.820%	573 700
Gabon	0.013%	0.120%	14 300
Gambia (the)	0.001%	0.100%	11 900
Georgia	0.008%	0.110%	13 100
Germany	6.111%	6.630%	789 200
Ghana	0.024%	0.130%	15 500
Greece	0.325%	0.490%	58 300
Guatemala	0.041%	0.150%	17 900
Guinea	0.003%	0.100%	11 900
Guinea-Bissau	0.001%	0.100%	11 900
Guyana	0.004%	0.100%	11 900
Hungary	0.228%	0.380%	45 200
Iceland	0.036%	0.150%	17 900
India	1.044%	1.300%	154 700
Indonesia	0.549%	0.750%	89 300
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.371%	0.540%	64 300
Iraq	0.128%	0.260%	30 900
Ireland	0.439%	0.620%	73 800
Israel	0.561%	0.760%	90 500
Italy	3.189%	3.630%	432 100
Jamaica	0.008%	0.110%	13 100
Japan	8.033%	8.490%	1 010 600
Jordan	0.022%	0.130%	15 500
Kazakhstan	0.133%	0.270%	32 100
Kenya	0.030%	0.140%	16 700
Kuwait	0.234%	0.390%	46 400
Kyrgyzstan	0.002%	0.100%	11 900
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.007%	0.110%	13 100
Latvia	0.050%	0.160%	19 000
Lebanon	0.036%	0.150%	17 900
Lesotho	0.001%	0.100%	11 900
Liberia	0.001%	0.100%	11 900
Libya	0.018%	0.120%	14 300
Liechtenstein	0.010%	0.110%	13 100
Lithuania	0.077%	0.200%	23 800
Luxembourg	0.068%	0.190%	22 600
Madagascar	0.004%	0.100%	11 900
Malawi	0.002%	0.100%	11 900
Malaysia	0.348%	0.520%	61 900
Maldives	0.004%	0.100%	11 900
Mali	0.005%	0.110%	13 100
Malta	0.019%	0.120%	14 300
Marshall Islands	0.001%	0.100%	11 900
Mauritania	0.002%	0.100%	11 900
Mauritius	0.019%	0.120%	14 300
Mexico	1.221%	1.500%	178 500
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001%	0.100%	11 900
Monaco	0.011%	0.110%	13 100
Mongolia	0.004%	0.100%	11 900
Montenegro	0.004%	0.100%	11 900

Country name	UN 2022–2024	Approved 2025 scale	
	Per cent	Per cent	CHF
Morocco	0.055%	0.170%	20 200
Mozambique	0.004%	0.100%	11 900
Myanmar	0.010%	0.110%	13 100
Namibia	0.009%	0.110%	13 100
Nepal	0.010%	0.110%	13 100
Netherlands	1.377%	1.670%	198 800
New Zealand	0.309%	0.470%	55 900
Nicaragua	0.005%	0.110%	13 100
Niger	0.003%	0.100%	11 900
Nigeria	0.182%	0.320%	38 100
North Macedonia	0.007%	0.110%	13 100
Norway	0.679%	0.890%	105 900
Oman	0.111%	0.240%	28 600
Pakistan	0.114%	0.240%	28 600
Palau	0.001%	0.100%	11 900
Palestine		0.100%	11 900
Panama	0.090%	0.210%	25 000
Paraguay	0.026%	0.130%	15 500
Peru	0.163%	0.300%	35 700
Philippines	0.212%	0.360%	42 900
Poland	0.837%	1.070%	127 400
Portugal	0.353%	0.520%	61 900
Qatar	0.269%	0.430%	51 200
Republic of Korea	2.574%	2.970%	353 500
Republic of Moldova	0.005%	0.110%	13 100
Romania	0.312%	0.480%	57 100
Russian Federation	1.866%	2.210%	263 100
Rwanda	0.003%	0.100%	11 900
Saint Lucia	0.002%	0.100%	11 900
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001%	0.100%	11 900
Samoa	0.001%	0.100%	11 900
San Marino	0.002%	0.100%	11 900
Sao Tome and Principe	0.001%	0.100%	11 900
Saudi Arabia	1.184%	1.460%	173 800
Senegal	0.007%	0.110%	13 100
Serbia	0.032%	0.140%	16 700
Seychelles	0.002%	0.100%	11 900
Sierra Leone	0.001%	0.100%	11 900
Singapore	0.504%	0.700%	83 300
Slovakia	0.155%	0.290%	34 500
Slovenia	0.079%	0.200%	23 800
Somalia	0.001%	0.100%	11 900
South Africa	0.244%	0.400%	47 600
South Sudan	0.002%	0.100%	11 900
Spain	2.134%	2.500%	297 600
Sri Lanka	0.045%	0.160%	19 000
Suriname	0.003%	0.100%	11 900
Sweden	0.871%	1.110%	132 100
Switzerland	1.134%	1.400%	166 600
Syrian Arab Republic	0.009%	0.110%	13 100
Tajikistan	0.003%	0.100%	11 900
Thailand	0.368%	0.540%	64 300
Timor-Leste	0.001%	0.100%	11 900
Togo	0.002%	0.100%	11 900
Tonga	0.001%	0.100%	11 900
Trinidad and Tobago	0.037%	0.150%	17 900
Tunisia	0.019%	0.120%	14 300

Country name	UN 2022–2024	Approved 2025 scale	
	Per cent	Per cent	CHF
Türkiye	0.845%	1.080%	128 600
Turkmenistan	0.034%	0.140%	16 700
Tuvalu	0.001%	0.100%	11 900
Uganda	0.010%	0.110%	13 100
Ukraine	0.056%	0.170%	20 200
United Arab Emirates	0.635%	0.840%	100 000
United Kingdom	4.375%	4.870%	579 700
United Republic of Tanzania	0.010%	0.110%	13 100
Uruguay	0.092%	0.220%	26 200
Uzbekistan	0.027%	0.140%	16 700
Vanuatu	0.001%	0.100%	11 900
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.175%	0.320%	38 100
Viet Nam	0.093%	0.220%	26 200
Yemen	0.008%	0.110%	13 100
Zambia	0.008%	0.110%	13 100
Zimbabwe	0.007%	0.110%	13 100

Associate Member	UN 2022-2024	Approved 2025 scale	
	Per cent	Per cent	CHF
Andean Parliament		0.020%	2,400
Arab Parliament		0.020%	2,400
Central American Parliament		0.020%	2,400
East African Legislative Assembly		0.020%	2,400
European Parliament		0.060%	7,100
Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States		0.020%	2,400
Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union		0.020%	2,400
Latin American and Caribbean Parliament		0.020%	2,400
Parliament of MERCOSUR		0.040%	4,700
Pan-African Parliament		0.020%	2,400
Parliament of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community		0.020%	2,400
Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States		0.020%	2,400
Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation		0.020%	2,400
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe		0.040%	4,700
Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie		0.020%	2,400
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>11,937,000</b>

# Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

## Statutes

### *Amendments adopted by the 149th IPU Assembly (Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

Throughout the Statutes, where applicable, change “Member” to “Member Parliament” (Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 15, 18, 19, 21, 25, 27, 28 and 30)

#### Article 10 (composition of the Assembly)

Amend the footnote to sub-paragraph 3 as follows:

3. In these Statutes, whenever the words "young parliamentarians" are used, they should be construed as referring to parliamentarians who are below the age of ~~45~~ **40** years.

#### Article 11 (Vice-Presidents of the Assembly)

Amend sub-paragraph 1 as follows:

1. The Assembly shall be opened by the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union or, in his/her absence, by the Vice-President of the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Inter-Parliamentary Union** designated in conformity with Rule 5.2 of the Rules of the Executive Committee.

Amend sub-paragraph 3 as follows:

3. ~~The number of Vice-Presidents shall be equal to that of the Members of the IPU represented at the Assembly. Every Member Parliament of the IPU attending an Assembly is entitled to designate a Vice-President of the Assembly. In the event that the President of the Assembly is unavailable to chair a sitting, a replacement shall be invited to chair from among the designated Vice-Presidents, and efforts shall be made to ensure geopolitical and gender balance among those serving in this capacity during a given Assembly.~~

#### Article 18

Delete sub-paragraph 3:

~~3. In case of the death or resignation of a representative, or a representative's inability to attend, the IPU Member concerned shall appoint a substitute.~~

#### Article 19 (Governing Council – IPU President)

Amend sub-paragraph 2:

2. The retiring President shall not be eligible for re-election ~~for three years~~ and shall be replaced by a person belonging to another Parliament. An endeavour will be made to ensure a regular rotation between the different geopolitical groups, **as well as between men and women parliamentarians.**

Amend sub-paragraph 4 as follows:

4. In case of the resignation, loss of parliamentary mandate or death of the President, the functions of the President shall be exercised by the Vice-President ~~of the Executive Committee appointed by the latter~~ **of the Inter-Parliamentary Union designated in conformity with Rule 5.2 of the Rules of the Executive Committee**, until such time as the Governing Council elects a new President. The same provision shall apply in the case of the suspension of the rights or affiliation of the Member of the IPU to which the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union belongs.

Amend sub-paragraph 5 as follows:

5. The President shall also be assisted in his/her work between the statutory sessions by a group of six ~~vice-presidents~~ **Vice-Presidents of the Executive Committee** representing each of the geopolitical groups and appointed from among the members of the Executive Committee for a renewable term of one year (**cf. Rule 5.2bis of the Rules of the Executive Committee**).

Add a new sub-paragraph 5bis:

**5bis. The President shall report at each ordinary session of the Governing Council on his/her activities since the previous session, in conjunction with the report on the activities of the Executive Committee (cf. Article 26.2g).**

Article 21 (functions of the Governing Council)

Add a new sub-paragraph (g)bis:

**g)bis. Adopt the IPU Strategy and oversee its implementation;**

Article 24 (of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians)

Amend Article 24 as follows:

24. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU shall meet on the occasion of both annual sessions of the Assembly and shall report on its work to the Governing Council. The Forum shall establish its own Rules, which shall be approved by the Governing Council. **The Forum is assisted by a Bureau, which shall meet during both annual sessions of the Assembly.**

Article 25

Change all instances of “Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians” to “Bureau of Young Parliamentarians”

Article 28.2 (functions of the IPU Secretariat)

Add a new sub-paragraph (f)bis as follows:

**f)bis. Ensure the implementation of the IPU Strategy, as adopted by the Governing Council;**

Articles 27-30

Reorder the sub-sections of the Statutes as follows:

VI. IPU Secretariat (formerly VII)

**VII. Oversight and Ethics Committee** (new – see below)

VIII. Geopolitical Groups (formerly VI)

IX. Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (formerly VIII)

X. Amendments to the Statutes (formerly IX)

New sub-section VII

Add a new sub-section (“Oversight and Ethics Committee”), with one Article as follows:

**An Oversight and Ethics Committee shall be established with a view to ensuring compliance with the *Code of Conduct for IPU Governance Officials* and the *Policy to prevent and address harassment, including sexual harassment, at IPU Assemblies and other IPU events* (cf. Rules of the Oversight and Ethics Committee [link]).**

\* \* \* \* \*

## Rules of the Assembly

*Amendments adopted by the 149th IPU Assembly  
(Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

Throughout the Rules, where applicable, change “Member” to “Member Parliament” (Rules 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 29, 36, 39 and 40, and Special Rules for virtual sessions 1, 2 and 6)

Rule 7

Amend sub-paragraph 1 as follows:

1. The Assembly shall be opened by the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union or, in his/her absence, by the Vice-President of the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Inter-Parliamentary Union** designated in conformity with Rule 5.2 of the Rules of the Executive Committee.

Amend sub-paragraph 3 as follows:

3. ~~The number of Vice-Presidents shall be equal to that of the Members of the IPU represented at the Assembly.~~ **Every Member Parliament of the IPU attending an Assembly is entitled to designate a Vice-President of the Assembly. In the event that the President of the Assembly is unavailable to chair a sitting, a replacement shall be invited to chair from among the designated Vice-Presidents, and efforts shall be made to ensure geopolitical and gender balance among those serving in this capacity during a given Assembly.**

#### Rule 9

Amend sub-paragraph 1 as follows:

1. The Steering Committee of the Assembly shall be composed of the President of the Assembly, the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, ~~and the Vice-President of the Executive Committee~~ **Inter-Parliamentary Union** designated in conformity with Rule 5.2 of the Rules of the Executive Committee, ~~the Presidents of the Standing Committees may take part in its work in an advisory capacity,~~ **the President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, and the President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians, or their representatives.**

Add a new sub-paragraph 2bis as follows:

**2bis. With a view to ensuring a smooth and cohesive functioning of the IPU and the effective implementation of its decisions, at each Assembly the IPU President, assisted by the Secretary General, shall hold a joint meeting with the Chairs of the geopolitical groups and the Presidents of the Standing Committees. The Presidents of the subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council, the President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and the President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians may also be invited to take part in this meeting.**

#### Rule 9

Amend sub-paragraph 1 as follows:

1. The Steering Committee of the Assembly shall be composed of the President of the Assembly, the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Vice-President of the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Inter-Parliamentary Union** designated in conformity with Rule 5.2 of the Rules of the Executive Committee. The Presidents of Standing Committees may take part in its work in an advisory capacity.

#### Rule 11

Modify sub-paragraph 1 as follows:

1. Any Member of the IPU may request the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda. Such a request must be accompanied by a brief explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution, which clearly define the scope of the subject covered by the request, **and indicate how it is in line with the principles and values of the IPU and its Strategy.** The IPU Secretariat shall communicate the request and any such documents immediately to all Members.

#### Rule 13

Modify Rule 13 as follows:

13. As a rule, the Assembly will appoint two rapporteurs for each subject item proposed by a Standing Committee. These rapporteurs will prepare a succinct, action-oriented draft resolution and an accompanying explanatory memorandum. Members of the IPU may contribute to the drafting process by submitting their brief written inputs in one of the official languages of the IPU (cf. Assembly, Rule 37.1). The arrangements for the submission of such written inputs shall be indicated in the convocation of the Assembly (cf. Standing Committees, Rule 13.1). **Throughout the process, a human rights-based approach and gender mainstreaming shall be duly applied.**

Rule 17

Amend sub-paragraph 1 as follows:

1. Any delegate may submit amendments relating to the draft resolutions prepared by the Trapporteurs on the subject item included in the agenda approved by the Assembly. They shall be deposited with the IPU Secretariat no later than ~~45~~ **21** days before the opening of the Assembly. However, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians shall be permitted to submit amendments incorporating a gender perspective at any time prior to the closure of the first sitting of the respective Standing Committee (cf. Standing Committees, Rule 13.2).

Rule 22

Amend the footnote related to Rule 22, as follows:

In these Statutes, whenever the words "young parliamentarians" are used, they should be construed as referring to parliamentarians who are below the age of ~~45~~ **40** years.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Rules of the Governing Council

### *Amendments adopted by the IPU Governing Council at its 214th session (Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

Throughout the Rules, where applicable, change "Member" to "Member Parliament" (Rules 1, 9, 10, 36, 43 and 45, and Special Rules for virtual sessions 2, 3, 9 and 10)

Rule 2

Delete the entire Rule:

~~2. — A member of the Governing Council who is unable to attend may be replaced by another representative of the IPU Member in question duly authorized for that purpose (cf. Statutes, Art 18.3 and Governing Council, Rule 1.1).~~

Rule 3

Amend sub-paragraph 2 as follows:

2. The Presidents of the Standing Committees may participate in Council meetings in an advisory capacity when questions concerning the work of their Committees are being discussed (cf. Standing Committees, Rule 17.2). **The President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and the President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians may also participate in Council meetings in an advisory capacity when questions concerning the work of their respective Forums are being discussed.**

Rule 9

Amend sub-paragraph 1 as follows:

1. If the President is absent, he/she shall be replaced by the Vice-President of the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Inter-Parliamentary Union**, designated in conformity with Rule 5.2 of the Rules of the Executive Committee.

Amend sub-paragraph 2 as follows:

2. In case of resignation, loss of parliamentary mandate or death, the President's functions shall be exercised by the Vice-President of the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Inter-Parliamentary Union** until such time as the Governing Council elects a new President. The same provision shall apply when the rights or affiliation of the Member of the IPU to which the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union belongs are suspended (cf. Statutes, Art. 19.4).

Rule 28

Add a new sub-paragraph 2bis:

**2bis. For expediency, on procedural and organizational questions and upon the proposal of the President, a vote on a one-country-one-vote basis may be conducted by show of hands.**

#### Rule 44

Amend Rule 44 as follows:

44. The Secretary General shall submit to each ordinary session of the Governing Council a written report on the state and work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, **including progress made with the objectives of its Strategy**.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Rules of the Executive Committee**

*Amendments adopted by the IPU Governing Council at its 214th session  
(Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

Throughout the Rules, where applicable, change “Member” to “Member Parliament” (Rules 2 and 5).

#### Rule 1 & 2

Change all instances of “Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians” to “Bureau of Young Parliamentarians”

#### Rule 5

Amend sub-paragraph 2 as follows:

2. A Vice-President of the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Inter-Parliamentary Union** shall be appointed by the Executive Committee each year at its last session to replace the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in case of the latter's absence, or to exercise the latter's functions until such time as a new President is elected by the Governing Council in case of resignation, loss of parliamentary mandate, death or of the suspension of the rights or affiliation of the Member of the IPU to which the President belongs

Add a new sub-paragraph 2bis as follows:

**2bis. The Executive Committee shall appoint six Vice-Presidents of the Executive Committee, nominated by each of the geopolitical groups respectively, who shall assist the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in his/her work between statutory sessions.**

#### Rule 13

Amend sub-paragraph 2 as follows:

2. The Executive Committee shall adopt and amend the ~~Terms of Reference~~ **Rules** of the Sub-Committee on Finance.

#### Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee on Finance

Change the title as follows:

~~Terms of Reference~~ **Rules** of the Sub-Committee on Finance

#### Rule 3 of the Sub-Committee on Finance

Amend sub-paragraph 2 as follows:

2. The Sub-Committee shall elect a ~~Chairperson~~ **President** from among its members.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Rules of the Standing Committees

### *Amendments adopted by the IPU Governing Council at its 214th session (Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

Throughout the Rules, where applicable, change “Member” to “Member Parliament” (Rules 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 18, 19, 39, 42 and 43, and Special Rules for virtual sessions 1 and 5).

#### Rule 6

Add a new sub-paragraph 5bis:

**5bis. At sessions when they are not adopting resolutions, the Standing Committees may adopt short motions expressing an opinion or calling for action on issues of relevance to their mandates. Motions thus adopted shall be submitted to the Assembly for information.**

#### Rule 7

Amend sub-paragraph 1 as follows:

1. Each Standing Committee shall elect a Bureau composed of three representatives of each of the existing geopolitical groups, which shall designate to each Bureau not more than two candidates of the same sex. The President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and the President of the ~~Board of the Forum~~ **Bureau** of Young Parliamentarians, **or their representatives**, shall be ex officio members of each Bureau. Every effort shall be made to include young parliamentarians and encourage candidatures from new Member **Parliaments** of the IPU as well as Member Parliaments that do not hold other offices in the IPU.

Amend sub-paragraph 5 as follows:

5. The Standing Committees shall elect a President and a Vice-President from among the members of their Bureau. The posts of President and Vice-President shall normally be filled at a single election. The geopolitical groups shall coordinate among themselves so as to ensure, ~~to the extent possible,~~ **gender parity and an equitable distribution between the geopolitical groups** of the posts of President and Vice-President of **the** Standing Committees.

#### Rule 13

Amend sub-paragraph 2 as follows:

2. The IPU Secretariat shall send the draft resolution and the explanatory memorandum to the Member **Parliaments** in advance of the session. Member **Parliaments** may propose amendments to the draft resolution no later than ~~45~~ **21** days before the opening of the Assembly. However, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians shall be permitted to submit amendments which incorporate a gender perspective into the draft resolutions at any time prior to the closure of the first sitting of the respective Standing Committee. The Committee will finalize the draft resolution and submit it to the Assembly for adoption (cf. Assembly Rule 17.4).

#### Rule 16

Add a new subparagraph 3bis as follows:

**3bis. When a draft resolution is tabled for consideration by the Standing Committees, it shall be accompanied by a brief evaluation of its programme and budget implications, prepared by the Secretariat.**

\* \* \* \* \*

## Rules of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians

*Amendments adopted by the IPU Governing Council at its 214th session  
(Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

Throughout the Rules, where applicable, change “Member” to “Member Parliament” (Rules 6, 11, 21, 23, 32, 36 and 39).

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## Rules and Working Modalities of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU

*Amendments adopted by the IPU Governing Council at its 214th session  
(Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

Change the title as follows:

Rules ~~and Working Modalities~~ of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU

Throughout the Rules, where applicable, change “Member” to “Member Parliament” (Rules 4 and 7)

Throughout the Rules, change all occurrences of “Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians” to “Bureau of Young Parliamentarians” and all occurrences of “Board” to “Bureau”

### Rule 4

Amend sub-paragraph 1 to read as follows:

1. The Member **Parliaments** of the IPU shall be represented at the meetings of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians by their delegates who are below the age of ~~45~~ **40** years.

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## Amended Cremer-Passy Prize Rules

*Approved by the IPU Governing Council at its 214th Session  
(Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

### **PREAMBLE**

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is the global organization of national parliaments. We promote democratic governance, institutions and values, working with parliaments and parliamentarians to articulate and respond to the needs and aspirations of the people. We work for [peace](#), [democracy](#), [human rights](#), [gender equality](#), [youth empowerment](#), [climate action](#) and [sustainable development](#) through political dialogue, cooperation and parliamentary action.

With a view to encouraging parliamentary diplomacy and fostering concrete action by parliamentarians in the pursuit and promotion of more lasting peace and effective democratic societies, the IPU Governing Council, on the proposal of the Executive Committee, adopted the present Rules establishing the “Cremer-Passy Prize”, to be awarded annually to a parliamentarian who makes an outstanding contribution to the defence and promotion of the IPU’s objectives as well as those who contribute to a more united, peaceful, sustainable and equitable world.

The Cremer-Passy Prize Rules and criteria are hereby approved as follows:

### **Article 1**

The Inter-Parliamentary Union hereby establishes a parliamentarians’ award for excellence entitled the “Cremer-Passy Prize”.

## Article 2

1. The Cremer-Passy Prize is awarded by the IPU and is intended to reward a parliamentarian who makes an outstanding contribution to the defence and promotion of the objectives of this organization and to a more united, peaceful, sustainable and equitable world.
2. The Cremer-Passy Prize shall be awarded annually, at the second IPU Assembly of each year.
3. The winner of the prize shall be invited to attend the IPU Assembly referred to in Article 2.2 and to address the Assembly in recognition of their achievement and to serve as an inspiration to the work of other Members of Parliament.
4. The Cremer-Passy Prize shall not be awarded posthumously. The nominee(s) should be alive at the time of their nomination.

## Article 3

All parliamentarians from IPU Member Parliaments, who at some point in the year to which the prize relates were sitting Members of Parliament, shall be eligible for the award.

## Article 4

1. Geopolitical groups shall accept nominations for the Cremer-Passy Prize only from their own geopolitical group, and submit them by 18:00 (CEST) on 30 June of each year to the IPU Secretariat by filling in a specific form available at [www.ipu.org](http://www.ipu.org). Groups who submit nominations that belong to more than one geopolitical group should specify which geopolitical group the nominations represent according to Article 27.2 of the IPU Statutes and Rules.
2. Each geopolitical group should submit two nominations: a man and a woman.
3. The nominations shall be accompanied by a cover letter setting out the reasons why it is considered that the parliamentarians deserve to be awarded the Cremer-Passy Prize.
4. Failure to comply with the time limit laid down in Article 4.1 cannot be remedied.

## Article 5

1. The IPU Secretariat shall check the content of the nominations submitted by the geopolitical groups within 30 days after the deadline for submitting nominations in order to assess whether the nominees have met the criteria.
2. The IPU Secretariat shall gather all the nominations deemed valid and submit them to the Prize Selection Board, together with a report on the nominations that have been rejected, setting out the reasons for their exclusion.
3. In the event of failure to comply with any of the criteria for the nominations, the IPU Secretariat shall inform the nominating geopolitical group accordingly.
4. Where the geopolitical group does not remedy the non-compliance within 10 days of notification from the Secretariat, the nomination in question shall be rejected by the IPU Secretariat.

## Article 6

1. The Prize Selection Board shall be composed of seven members, including the current IPU President, who shall chair the Board without voting rights except for the purposes of paragraph 6.8, and the most recent Honorary President from each geopolitical group.
2. Geopolitical groups that cannot be represented by an Honorary President shall nominate, in accordance with their rules of procedure, a retired Speaker or prominent MP.
3. The Secretary General of the IPU shall attend the Prize Selection Board as a non-voting observer in order to ensure that the proposals are assessed based on up-to-date knowledge of the current Members of the IPU.
4. The members of the Prize Selection Board shall have 30 working days from the date of receipt of the nominations from the Secretariat to consider them using the evaluation matrix appended to these rules.
5. The Prize Selection Board shall meet as soon as possible from the expiry of the period referred to in paragraph 6.4 in order to discuss and decide on the prize winner or winners.
6. The Cremer-Passy Prize winner will be decided through a majority vote of the Prize Selection Board members using the evaluation matrix referred to above.
7. In the event of a tie, the Prize Selection Board shall hold a second vote between the two nominees with the most votes.
8. Where the tie remains after the second vote count, the Prize Selection Board Chair shall have a casting vote to determine the winner.

9. The Prize Selection Board may unanimously decide not to award the Cremer-Passy Prize in a given year whenever unforeseen circumstances emerge (*force majeure*).
10. Members of the Prize Selection Board shall not score nominees from their own geopolitical Group.
11. If Members of the Prize Selection Board are unable to score the nominees within the given deadlines, their votes will be distributed equally among all nominees (except those from their own geopolitical group).
12. The IPU Secretariat shall make all the necessary arrangements to hold the meeting stipulated in paragraph 6.5 above.

#### **Article 7**

The prize to be awarded consists of a trophy with an appropriate inscription.

#### **Article 8**

All persons involved in the award procedure shall keep all nominations confidential.

#### **Article 9**

1. The periods referred to in these Rules shall be counted in working days.
2. In the event that the country of any IPU Member has a public holiday on 30 June, that day, for the purposes of the submission of nominations laid down in Article 4.1, shall be considered a working day.

#### **Article 10**

To ensure the implementation of the present Rules, which govern the Cremer-Passy Prize, it shall be mandatory that the annual IPU Budget has a specific allocation for the Cremer-Passy Prize.

#### **Article 11**

Any amendments to the present Rules shall be adopted by the Governing Council and take effect for subsequent editions of the Prize.

#### **Article 12**

The above rules shall constitute the whole Rules of Procedure for the Cremer-Passy Prize.

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## **IPU Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology**

*Adopted by the IPU Governing Council at its 214th Session  
(Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

### **Preamble**

*Reaffirming* the Inter-Parliamentary Union's commitment to peace, democracy and development, and *convinced* that scientific knowledge and expertise should substantively inform the efforts of parliamentarians, parliamentary researchers and decision and policymakers to attain the goals,

*Reaffirming also* the calling and commitment of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to prioritize a common understanding of science, placing humanity at its core, and to foster ethical considerations in the realm of science and technology, leveraging its platform to promote informed discussions, exchange good practices and develop frameworks that align scientific progress with ethical principles,

*Acknowledging* the profound impact of science and technology on humanity's progress, welfare and environment, the ethical responsibilities inherent in the pursuit and application of scientific knowledge, and the importance of ethical considerations in guiding the development, deployment and governance of emerging technologies,

*Acknowledging also* the persistent inequality between the Global North and South in accessing, benefiting from and contributing to scientific and technological progress, and the inherent gender, social and economic inequalities therein, and *emphasizing* the need for ethical frameworks that address these disparities and strive for equitable global participation, including youth participation, gender equality and social equality in accessing knowledge and contributing to advancements,

*Recognizing* the imperative for global collaboration and adherence to ethical principles in shaping the trajectory of scientific and technological advancements, mitigating their potential risks for the betterment of present and future generations without distinction and discrimination of any kind,

*Recognizing also* the profound influence of science and technology on societies, with the potential for both beneficial and adverse effects, the need for parliaments and parliamentarians to safeguard the interests of the people they serve and the ethical complexities inherent in the advancement of science and technology for the benefit of all humanity,

*Taking into account* the imperative of respecting the diversity of religions, beliefs, cultures and civilizations, of treating different social groups with fairness, equity and inclusiveness, and avoiding discrimination and biases in the pursuit and governance of scientific and technological advancements,

*Recognizing* the crucial need to safeguard and protect humanity from the potential risks and hazards inherent in scientific and technological advancements, including the risk of compromising human agency, autonomy and democratic principles, and from humanity being disempowered by present and future technological advancements,

We, parliamentarians present at the 149th IPU Assembly in Geneva, adopt the following Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology, to serve as a framework of ethical principles to uphold the dignity, human rights and well-being of individuals and societies, while fostering innovation, sustainability and responsible stewardship of scientific and technological endeavours, sharing of knowledge, advocacy for policies that promote ethical practices in science and technology, and the harmonization of progress with the values and aspirations of our constituents and the global community. We urge governments, parliaments, international organizations, civil society, the private sector, academic and research institutions, and all other relevant actors around the world to be guided by its content.

## **PART I: Key ethical principles for regulating science and technology**

In order to establish a comprehensive ethical framework, it is important to first clarify the scope of science as addressed by the present Charter. Science is referred to as a collective endeavour to advance knowledge and innovation across multiple fields, each contributing uniquely to the understanding, improvement and protection of human life and the environment, encompassing diverse disciplines such as natural, social and applied sciences.

### **Article 1 – Duty, responsibility and rational decision-making**

Parliaments and parliamentarians are endowed with the significant responsibility of crafting laws that promote societal values, well-being, human fulfilment and harmony. This responsibility underscores the importance of rational and evidence-informed decision-making in the legislative and anticipatory governance process. To achieve this, proactive understanding, assessment, shaping and regulation of scientific and technological developments, while considering their long-term impacts and ethical ramifications, are of the utmost importance.

### **Article 2 – Rule of law**

Acknowledging the foundational importance of the rule of law in enacting ethical principles for scientific and technological advancements, science and technology must be developed and applied within the framework of the rule of law at the national and international levels. Any development of science and technology should adhere to the ethical principles of equality, fairness, accountability and justice, established national and international legal principles, and human rights standards enshrined in international human rights law and international humanitarian law. Due process should guide the governance of technological innovation and its integration into societies. Upholding the rule of law safeguards against arbitrary use of power, fosters transparency, and promotes responsible behaviour in scientific and technological domains, ensuring alignment with ethical principles and societal well-being.

### **Article 3 – Preservation of research freedom and independence**

Scientific curiosity, intellectual freedom and independence are fundamental values of research, requiring the autonomy of scientific enquiry to be upheld and protected, with ethical considerations guiding the process to ensure responsible and morally sound practices throughout scientific endeavours. Researchers have the right and liberty to explore, investigate and disseminate their findings without undue influence, censorship or restrictions that inhibit the pursuit of knowledge and the advancement of scientific understanding. This includes safeguarding intellectual property rights and the rights of researchers to choose methodologies, pursue innovative avenues of enquiry, and communicate their results transparently and responsibly to contribute positively to societal progress and the common good.

### **Article 4 – Transparency and accountability**

Promoting transparent processes in scientific research, technological development and policymaking entails holding all involved parties accountable for their actions. It necessitates clear communication regarding the objectives, methodologies, outcomes and limitations of scientific research, as well as the reasoning behind policy decisions leading together to more comprehensive and inclusive public policy outcomes. Engaging a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including but not limited to scientists and researchers, ethicists, industry experts and civil society representatives in policy dialogue is essential, in order to ensure that scientific knowledge is properly integrated into political decision-making. Particularly in areas such as artificial intelligence and robotics, this principle underscores the need for clarity, transparency and human oversight to ensure societal well-being.

### **Article 5 – Data and privacy**

The ethical handling of data is a critical pillar in mitigating the risks of scientific and technological advancements, including emphasizing the importance of responsible management and use of data and advocating for robust frameworks that prioritize and protect the privacy rights of individuals, while harnessing the potential of data for societal progress. The ethical handling of data entails transparent data practices, informed consent and mechanisms to ensure accountability for data misuse. Cooperation and collaboration among nations is pivotal to establishing international standards for ethical data practices, fostering a future where scientific and technological advancements align with the ethical principles and values upheld by different societies.

### **Article 6 – Risk assessment and management**

Scientific and technological advancements must be subject to regular evaluation for risks, including in relation to any unintended consequences emerging from their use. Effective strategies should be put in place to manage, communicate and address risks as an essential component for maintaining public trust, for safely integrating new technologies into societies and for mitigating any harm caused to various societies, in both the Global North and Global South. Ensuring protection against foreseeable risks is integral to the responsible development, deployment and use of technological advancements. This approach will contribute to the creation of safer and more resilient technological and digital landscapes in societies.

### **Article 7 – Continuous learning and adaptation**

Acknowledging the rapid evolution of science and technology, the establishment of responsive policies and regulations founded on continuous learning is of crucial importance. This approach advocates for an iterative policymaking process that evolves in response to new information and changing circumstances. It emphasizes the need for ongoing learning, capacity-building, critical thinking and education that keeps pace with technological advancements and leads to the review and revision of standards, laws and regulations.

### **Article 8 – Preservation of peace and harmony**

The primary objective of legislation and policymaking, including in the area of technological advancements, must be to ensure integral and lasting peace, understanding and cooperation among individuals and nations. The fundamental goal of these legislative and policy endeavours remains the fostering of harmonious relations, both within societies and across borders, underscoring the importance of steering technological advancements in a direction that not only serves human progress but also actively contributes to the development of humanity, global peace and international cooperation. While science can be used to advance national or regional interests, it should also stand as a unifying force transcending geopolitical boundaries, enabling mutual

understanding and cultivating shared endeavours among nations. This includes leveraging the transformative potential of science in fostering diplomacy through dialogue, better international understanding, trust and collective problem-solving.

#### **Article 9 – International cooperation**

Humanity is a community with a shared future. Acknowledging that science transcends borders and should serve for the collective benefit of humankind, it is essential to strengthen worldwide collaboration and exchange in scientific knowledge development and related technological innovations, their ethical considerations, the assessment of impacts and mitigation of risks. Guided by principles of mutual respect, justice, equality, equity and non-discrimination, all countries and scientific research entities must have equal access to participate in international scientific and technological cooperation through inclusive and transparent international institutions. Any attempt to politicize, instrumentalize or militarize such cooperation must be firmly opposed. Countries must uphold genuine multilateralism, explore new models for global technological cooperation and partnerships that are mutually beneficial, and ensure that the achievements in scientific and technological innovation benefit humanity.

#### **Article 10 – Sustainability and environmental stewardship**

Recognizing the growing impact of technology on the environment, and ensuring that scientific and technological advancements are sustainable and environmentally benign, is of paramount importance. It is important that relevant actors advocate for and incentivize the development of technologies that contribute to the long-term sustainability of our planet, and call for international collaboration in formulating model regulations and international agreements that balance ecological sustainability with human rights, human integrity and human dignity.

#### **Article 11 – Social justice and equity**

A commitment to a fairer and more equitable distribution of the benefits of scientific and technological advancements across societies must underpin the work of all parliaments and governments. This approach addresses concerns that technology may exacerbate social inequalities, by ensuring that vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities and the poorest and most marginalized, are not overlooked, and advocating for technology to serve as an enhancer of human capabilities for all, actively combating societal disparities and ensuring equal access to knowledge for all.

## **PART II: Guidelines and recommendations for legislators**

Legislators should endeavour to:

1. Recognize the importance of maintaining, and promoting the creation of, parliamentary and inter-parliamentary structures for the presentation of regular, neutral and evidence-based information to parliamentarians on science and technology, including the provision of advice on the relevant ethical aspects of technological development.
2. Periodically interact with relevant national, regional and/or international competent organizations on the ethics of science and technology, to acquire the best and most up-to-date understanding of the ethical implications of ongoing research, studies and applications, as well as of the most probable future scenarios, as presented by scientists and technologists.
3. Periodically interact with relevant national, regional and/or international competent organizations with expertise in the field of ethics, to obtain diverse perspectives on current and future scientific and technological developments, including humanistic and philosophical points of view. This interaction and these exchanges will help to define the evolving ethical limits that science and technology must not exceed with regard to respect for human rights, human integrity and human dignity.
4. Make available in a usable format to parliamentarians evidence-based and validated information provided by “technical” internal parliamentary science and technology advisory bodies for specific consultations with competent organizations or groups of experts on ethics. This will provide parliamentarians with a solid basis to establish the ethical limitations when considering new legislation or amending and updating existing laws.

5. Develop and agree on simple and clear checklists, possibly in coordination with the international parliamentary community, that parliamentarians can use to scrutinize existing legislation against ethical aspects or their expected evolution over time, and to determine ethical principles when considering new legislation or amending and updating existing laws.
6. When considering, drafting and examining new legislation that requires scientific evidence, ensure from the outset that such evidence is openly accessible and of the highest possible quality, adhering to the validation standards of the relevant scientific community or communities. This scientific evidence, including impact assessments and risk mitigation, must be as comprehensive as possible.
7. Promote monitoring and regular exchanges of experiences with other parliaments, both multilaterally through the Inter-Parliamentary Union and directly through open-source databases and other tools, on any relevant acquired knowledge relating to the development and use of science and technology and any associated ethical considerations. Exchanges of good practices on how this knowledge is translated into legislation should also be promoted.
8. Set up adequate structures, tools and platforms to periodically inform and consult civil society and the general public on parliament's actions and programmes regarding the ethical considerations of science and technology in legislation, at the national, regional and international levels.
9. Before incorporating ethical principles related to science and technology into legislation, familiarize themselves with and evaluate the ethical guidelines that the science and technology communities have already established on their own. The ethical principles should be aligned with both national and international laws. Their incorporation into legislation should be the result of dedicated collaborative discussions and decisions by parliamentary committees, adhering to the diverse rules and procedures governing the legislative processes of each individual parliament.
10. Informed by open dialogue and extensive consultations with relevant experts from the areas of science, technology and ethics, monitor the adoption of new charters on the ethics of science and technology and the international instruments signed in this area, as well as the development of existing ethical charters, and intervene in legislation if its provisions breach national or internationally recognized ethical principles.
11. Regardless of the specific domain of application, regarding new legislation on science and technology related topics and the revision of existing laws, ensure respect of human rights, human integrity and human dignity, as well as compliance with the existing international conventions and charters recognized by the international community, as applicable.
12. Periodically review regulations and legislation concerning scientific research and technological innovation to ensure that they keep pace with rapid scientific and technological advancements, are effective in practice as intended and have no unintended consequences. Should parliaments deem it necessary, it is recommended to establish specialized parliamentary committees, to support the review and assessment of these regulations and legislation.
13. Support the dissemination of the results of scientific and technological innovation through open-access and peer-reviewed publications by allocating dedicated funding and necessary budgetary resources.
14. Integrate the ethical principles outlined in the present Charter into their national development plans, as well as into regulations and legislation related to scientific and technological advancements, ensuring that such progress prioritizes the well-being of humanity.



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

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 214th session  
(Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

Since its inception in March 2022, the Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine has aimed to promote political dialogue in support of peacebuilding initiatives and explore possible avenues for collaboration to alleviate the humanitarian consequences of the conflict. The Task Force continues to express significant concern regarding the ongoing war, which has led to the destruction of critical infrastructure in Ukraine and many casualties on both sides. In the interim, the Task Force has decided to focus on specific humanitarian issues that may ultimately allow it to foster dialogue and enhance understanding, possibly yielding positive outcomes. These issues are: (1) nuclear safety, (2) food security, (3) access to, treatment and exchange of prisoners of war, (4) safety of ecologically vulnerable sites, and (5) the situation of conflict-displaced children.

In March 2024, the IPU Task Force noted that plans were being made for a Summit on Peace in Ukraine to be held in Switzerland in June 2024, and indicated that the IPU should consider its potential involvement in this process. To this end, the Swiss authorities were contacted. The Summit was described as the first step towards establishing a diplomatic framework involving countries that had good relations with both parties. While ultimately the first phase of the Summit was only held at inter-governmental level, there was a shared interest in exploring avenues for future collaboration in view of a more inclusive second phase.

During the Task Force's March 2024 meeting, the parties to the conflict agreed to deepen cooperation with the IPU on the issue of Ukrainian children in the Russian Federation or in conflict zones who had been separated from their parents or legal guardians. The Task Force was encouraged by both parties' readiness to work on a case-by-case basis to assist and support measures that would facilitate family reunifications. Following this commitment, the IPU held a meeting with the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights and received details of a limited number of cases of children who had been relocated from Ukraine to the Russian Federation.

The Task Force held its thirteenth meeting on 15 October 2024 during the 149th IPU Assembly and began discussions with both delegations on the above-mentioned cases, as well as with a representative of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights. The Task Force was encouraged by the fact that parliamentarians from both countries underscored that any children who have been separated from their parents, siblings, legal guardians and/or close relatives should be reunited with them, as well as their readiness to assist the Task Force in this process. In light of the fact that a proposed direct meeting between the Ukrainian and Russian ombudspersons' institutions did not come to fruition during the 149th Assembly, the Task Force extended an invitation to both delegations to facilitate such a meeting in the near future, possibly during the 150th IPU Assembly in April 2025 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

The Task Force expressed deep concern over the escalating nuclear risks associated with the ongoing war and reiterated that parliamentarians had a particular responsibility to tone down narratives and discourses. The Task Force welcomed assurances by the parties that the use of nuclear weapons was a red line that should never be crossed and that nuclear energy facilities needed to be protected.

The Task Force remains committed to using parliamentary diplomacy to mitigate the severe humanitarian impacts of the war and to help bring about a peaceful resolution to the war in Ukraine.

# Report of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 214th session  
(Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

1. The 38th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was held on 13 October 2024. It brought together 147 participants, including 108 parliamentarians (99 women and 9 men) from 77 countries, along with representatives from various international organizations.

2. The President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), chaired the session. IPU President Dr. T. Ackson welcomed participants to the Forum and to the 149th IPU Assembly.

## **Initiatives to promote gender equality**

3. Ms. S. Mikayilova (Azerbaijan) reported on the work of the 51st session of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, which had taken place in Geneva in March 2024, and of the first sitting of its 52nd session held immediately prior to the Forum meeting. She also gave a brief report on the work of the Bureau's online meeting in July 2024 on proposals for amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules to strengthen its provisions on gender parity.

4. Speaking in her role as a member of the Gender Partnership Group, Ms. S. Mikayilova reported on the gender balance of delegations to the 149th Assembly. The Group had welcomed the drop in the number of all-male delegations and the record number of gender-balanced delegations at the Assembly. It had also noted the progress made in implementing the IPU's anti-harassment policy, including measures to ensure its visibility and raise awareness. The Group encouraged all delegates to promote the policy within their geopolitical groups.

5. Participants were informed of the IPU's recent and future activities to promote gender equality. Ms. C. López Castro announced that Mexico would host the First Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians in March 2025. Ms. Z. Hilal, Secretary of the Forum, briefed participants on recent IPU activities aimed at helping parliaments assess gender sensitivity, implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and support caucuses of women parliamentarians. She also announced that the IPU's priority theme for 2025 would be gender equality.

## **Contributions to the work of the 149th Assembly from a gender perspective**

6. As a contribution to the work of the Assembly, participants examined, from a gender perspective, the draft resolution of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights entitled *The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law*. The debate was opened with a presentation by one of the draft resolution's two co-Rapporteurs, Ms. M. Rempel (Canada). The debate continued in plenary, presided over by Ms. F. Ilimi Haddouche (Algeria) and with Ms. V. Riotton (France) as Rapporteur.

7. The discussions highlighted how technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI) can be used to accelerate gender equality when appropriately regulated and used responsibly. However, without a framework for combating discrimination, stereotyping and gender-based violence, AI can reproduce and amplify existing societal biases, risking further entrenchment of gender inequalities. AI can also exacerbate gender-based violence facilitated through technological means, which disproportionately affects women and girls. This violence also targets women in politics, often silencing them and excluding them from public and political life, thereby undermining democracy. To counter the harmful effects of AI, participants recommended implementing positive measures, such as quotas to encourage girls to pursue studies in science and technology, as well as quotas for women in AI governance roles. Protocols for developing AI technologies that incorporate gender equality criteria were also proposed as solutions. The discussion also emphasized preventing and addressing all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination generated or facilitated by AI. This includes implementing laws and regulations for the digital space to improve content moderation, establish accessible and effective reporting mechanisms and create procedures for the removal of illicit or harmful content.

8. The debate resulted in the formulation of three amendments to the Standing Committee's draft resolution, along with four expressions of support for amendments proposed by national delegations. Most of the Forum's proposed amendments were integrated into the draft resolution, incorporating a gender perspective into the text.

### **Panel discussion on *Sustaining peace and providing justice to women and girls***

9. During the panel discussion, participants examined how parliaments can strengthen women's and girls' access to justice in conflict and post-conflict situations, including by promoting their meaningful participation in transitional justice to restore peace.

10. The panel discussion opened with presentations from Ms. I. Kitwa Godalena, member of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and member of the IPU Executive Committee; Ms. C. Carlota, Member of the Parliament of Timor-Leste; Ms. S. Calltorp, Director and Chief of Humanitarian Action, UN Women Geneva, who participated online; and Ms. M. Rees, former Secretary-General of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Participants also viewed a video message from Ms. P. Patten, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

11. The discussion focused on legislative and policy measures to combat gender-based and sexual violence and other crimes committed against women and girls in situations of armed conflict. Participants stressed the importance of laws to punish the perpetrators of such violence, while advocating for a comprehensive approach aimed at eliminating all inequalities and violence against women, and putting in place appropriate support for victims. The discussion also highlighted the obstacles to implementing these laws, such as a lack of resources and the reluctance of victims to file complaints for fear of stigmatization and reprisals. Women's access to justice also depends on gender-sensitive judicial systems that take into account local customs, not only to judge these crimes but also to tackle their root causes. Investigations, analyses and evidence must also be gender-sensitive, and take the voices of women and girls seriously. Participants also called for greater international cooperation and solidarity, as well as a substantial increase in women's participation and the inclusion of the experience of conflict victims in peace talks and reconstruction processes. The aim is to achieve justice and dignity for victims, by effectively enforcing international instruments and national laws, which are essential for any lasting peace.

### **Elections to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians**

12. The Forum elected Ms. R. Maachaoui (Tunisia) to fill the vacant seat of the Arab Group, and Ms. V. Techateerawat (Thailand) to fill the vacant seat of the Asia-Pacific Group, for terms running until March 2027.

### **Bureau of Women Parliamentarians**

13. The Bureau met on 13 and 17 October 2024. The meeting of 13 October was dedicated to preparing the work of the Forum, and the meeting of 17 October took stock of the results of the 149th Assembly from a gender perspective and made preparations for the Forum's next session and future work.

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## **Report of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians**

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 214th session  
(Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

The Forum of Young Parliamentarians was held on 14 October 2024. It brought together almost 125 participants, including 67 parliamentarians (24 young women and 43 young men) from 47 countries, as well as representatives from partner organizations. The meeting was presided over by Mr. D. Carden (United Kingdom), President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians.

The 10th anniversary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians set the tone for the meeting. In his opening remarks, the President of the Board took stock of the successes of the Forum in empowering young MPs and raising awareness on youth participation in parliament and at the IPU, but also emphasized the need to redouble efforts given the persistent challenges blocking enhanced representation of young people. The IPU President, Dr. T. Ackson, commended the Forum and its leadership for bringing the IPU and parliaments closer to young people and youth organizations. She also praised the Forum's role as an incubator of innovation at the IPU. The IPU Secretary General, Mr. M. Chungong, celebrated the anniversary and highlighted the progress made by the Forum. He remarked that the Forum proved that when young people were given the opportunity to lead, they delivered. He called for continued work to break down barriers and further open up parliaments to young people, including through quotas and lowering the age of eligibility to run for office.

Continuing the celebration of the 10th anniversary, the young MPs heard a detailed retrospective of the Forum's creation, including interventions from former Presidents of the Board and leaders of the IPU youth movement, who highlighted how serving the Forum had left lasting impacts on their lives and empowered them in the years that followed. The Forum members shared their own experiences of the many ways in which the Forum had helped grow their professional capacities and create a community of solidarity among young MPs. The Forum then reflected on key focus areas for the coming years, including paying greater attention to young women and youth with disabilities.

The young MPs updated the Forum on recent developments in promoting youth participation in their respective countries. This included recent elections where the proportions of young MPs had changed, the building of new bridges with youth and children's parliaments, and new training courses for young parliamentarians.

Contributing to the work of the 149th Assembly, participants examined the theme of the General Debate, *Harnessing science, technology and innovation (STI) for a more peaceful and sustainable future*, from a youth perspective. In their remarks, young MPs stressed the importance of ensuring accessibility to STI for young people, especially by bridging digital divides through investment in infrastructure. The importance of education for STI was also emphasized.

Discussing the draft resolution under consideration at the Assembly, *The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law*, the young MPs were briefed on the youth overview report submitted during the resolution's drafting process. The young MPs called for the benefits of artificial intelligence (AI) to be harnessed while simultaneously mitigating the risks, including by integrating mechanisms that could "future-proof" legislation by anticipating future changes and protecting young people from misinformation, deepfakes and invasions of privacy. The importance of providing access to AI for underrepresented groups so that everyone could benefit from it, as well as of involving young people in AI policy-making, was stressed.

The young MPs then held a Q&A session on taking the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign to the next level. They took stock of the results of the campaign's first three years and its successful impacts, and agreed that the campaign, as well as its pledges, remained relevant. They stressed, however, the additional challenge of finance as a key obstacle preventing young people from getting involved in politics. They re-emphasized their enthusiasm for mentoring and supporting young aspirants to run for office.

In preparation for the 150th IPU Assembly, the Forum appointed the President of the Board, Mr. D. Carden (United Kingdom), to prepare a youth overview report on the proposed resolution on *The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine*, and Mr. W. Soto (Peru), to prepare a youth overview report on the proposed resolution on *Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflict, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development*.

Earlier in the day, the members of the Board took stock of the Tenth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, which had taken place in September 2024, and expressed their renewed thanks to the Armenian hosts for their warm hospitality and a highly successful Conference. Looking ahead, they expressed their hope that the next Conference could be hosted by the parliament of one of the Board members.

Marking the 10th anniversary of the Forum, the Board members exchanged views on the trajectory of the Forum and its Board over the past 10 years and identified new avenues for action in the coming years. They highlighted the great impact that the Board and Forum had had on their capacities and knowledge of international affairs. They called for the relationships that had been built with the United Nations youth mechanisms to remain a priority. They noted with appreciation the support provided by the IPU leadership to the Forum and other activities of the young MPs. They also called for increased attention and action on young women's participation in 2025, in line with the priority theme identified by the IPU. They agreed to pursue the implementation of the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign and to engage in the implementation of the pledge on mentorship after their terms had ended in April 2025.

The members of the Board held a minute of silence for Palestinian and Lebanese victims impacted by the current conflict in the Middle East. They lamented the growth of conflicts and war around the world, highlighting their disproportionate impact on young people, including the long-term impact of limited education and migration. The Board members regretted that young MPs also felt disempowered to speak and act, and agreed to focus on mobilizing young people to participate in peace efforts. They resolved to be involved in the IPU's peacebuilding and parliamentary diplomacy work and looked forward to being invited to participate in such efforts.

On 16 October 2024, the first-ever Open Session of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians was held, bringing together young MPs and youth leaders. A dynamic and vibrant dialogue between these two groups took place, including in the form of video contributions from around the world. The youth leaders raised their priority issues and aspirations with the young MPs, and discussed continued obstacles to political participation. The young MPs and youth leaders agreed that it was essential to continue strengthening their links to mutually empower one another and better advance youth participation and outcomes benefitting young people.

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## Report of the Committee on Middle East Questions

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 214th session  
(Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

Two informal meetings of the Committee on Middle East Questions were held virtually on 20 June and 11 July 2024 to coordinate the Committee's planned visit to Israel, Palestine and the region, with at least six members participating in each. Due to prevailing security concerns related to the situation on the ground and logistical challenges related to the availability of Committee members, it was agreed to postpone the visit and reschedule it for a time when conditions would be more favourable, ensuring both the safety of the delegation and the effective engagement of its members.

The inability of the Committee to take actionable steps towards de-escalating the conflict or facilitating dialogue between conflict parties had raised questions among Committee members about the Committee's effectiveness, mandate and role. Responding to this concern, the Secretariat issued a questionnaire to members in advance of the formal meeting during the Assembly, inviting them to share their expectations of the Committee. Four members (Indonesia, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Türkiye) submitted responses to the questionnaire.

A formal meeting of the Committee was held in two sittings on 14 and 16 October 2024 with at least nine members in attendance. Members heard a report from the Secretariat on regional developments since the 148th Assembly, and their impact on the Committee's planned activities. These included the spread of the conflict militarily into Lebanon, the deteriorating security situation in the West Bank and attacks on and from State and non-State actors allied with Hamas. The United Nations had passed several resolutions in an attempt to de-escalate the situation and appeals had been made to the International Court of Justice. The Secretariat presented an overview of a report it had compiled on the work of the IPU regarding the situation in and between Palestine and Israel, including the number of emergency items and resolutions which had addressed this conflict. The President of the Committee shared this report with the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security.

A discussion took place about the mandate of the Committee. In this regard, different perspectives on the root causes of the current state of the conflict were shared along with the role that the Committee could play. There was concern that despite numerous UN resolutions and diplomatic efforts to de-escalate tensions, the conflict continued and was spreading. Committee members expressed disappointment at the inability of IPU Member Parliaments to vote on an emergency item regarding this conflict at two consecutive Assemblies. The need to identify common ground, based on dialogue and the joint desire to establish trust, as a basis for continuing the committee's work, was agreed by members. Foundational issues pertaining to the future of the Committee that were raised included whether an acknowledgement of the ongoing occupation of Palestinian territory should be shared by all members of the Committee as a precondition for it to be able to continue its work. It was mentioned that Palestinian statehood could not be considered without first guaranteeing the security of Israel. It was reminded that the Committee was about a peace process and need not be tied to specific outcomes. The Committee also discussed the need for improvement in the coordination of the various actions of IPU bodies and representatives related to the situation in the Middle East. A coordinated and united approach was more effective than a fragmented one, and the Committee wished to discuss this topic with the Secretary-General.

The Secretariat mentioned that in its 36 years of existence, the Committee, which addressed the "conflict of all conflicts", had frequently faced situations of heightened regional tensions, and had still persevered. The unique nature of the Committee was noted, where both parties sit together at

the table, presenting a unique opportunity for direct and unmitigated dialogue. Members reiterated the importance of visiting the region to gain a first-hand impression of the situation on the ground. If the security situation did not allow a visit to Palestine and Israel, then a retreat could be planned in the region, where members could hear from experts involved in peacebuilding, directly related to the ongoing conflict.

The Committee discussed the upcoming resolution of the IPU Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, which would address the role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution, and how the Committee might support this. The Committee was dedicated to preserving its neutrality in respect to the different positions of its two ex officio members. Some members expressed support for the Standing Committee resolution and the importance of Palestinian statehood for the security of all States in the region. The Committee on Middle East Questions would provide the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security with all its data and research. It was noted, in connection with a vote in the Knesset in July 2024 against the establishment of a Palestinian state, which had passed with a strong majority, that any action at the present time towards supporting a Palestinian state could be interpreted as rewarding the violent actions of Hamas.

In its sitting on 16 October, the Committee heard from Mr. M. Lassouaoui of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), who provided an overview of the situation in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon, the work of UNRWA and how its work had been negatively impacted since 7 October 2023. Regarding the allegations made against UNRWA that it employed staff who were affiliated with Hamas, the representative presented the conclusions of reports on the matter, including from the UN Office of Oversight Services, which had not been able to independently authenticate information used as evidence to support the allegations.

Mr. M. Lassouaoui addressed a major concern of UNRWA, namely two bills currently before the Knesset which, if passed – which the Agency deemed likely – would prohibit UNRWA from operating in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza, remove the privileges and immunities granted to UNRWA staff and potentially put staff at risk. If passed, the bills would prevent UNRWA from delivering on its mandate, putting the lives of millions of people at risk: UNRWA is currently responsible for 60% of humanitarian aid in Gaza. Mr. M. Lassouaoui appealed to Committee members to take all possible action to stop these bills, as well as to petition their governments to financially support UNRWA's activities.

Following the presentation, the Members expressed their support for the work of UNRWA and its mandate. They recommended a firm and urgent appeal to the Knesset Members not to pass these motions and to do whatever was within their power to improve the delivery of humanitarian aid to all those in need, especially now that the winter was approaching, and to contribute to rebuilding mutual trust and cooperation with UNRWA, as a United Nations body with a unique, indispensable and irreplaceable position to deliver on what was desperately needed at present.

The Committee heard from the Deputy Chairperson of the King Hamad Global Center for Peaceful Coexistence, Mr. A. Al-Arabi, also a member of the Shura Council of Bahrain, who introduced the work of the Center to promote activities to help break down barriers between people and foster social cohesion, such as through education, multi-stakeholder engagement around shared issues of concern, and support for legislators in the creation of robust legislation to promote the rule of law, peace and inclusion.

Committee members remained committed to the cause of parliamentary diplomacy grounded in dialogue and trust. They acknowledged the current extraordinary circumstances and shared a concern for the safety and well-being of all civilians and the urgent need to de-escalate tensions. Discussion of the Committee's mandate would be ongoing, and there was a shared commitment to visit the region and work to identify meaningful contributions that parliamentarians could make. A first step in this regard, while the security situation in Palestine was still compromised, would be a retreat at the Synchrotron-Light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME) centre in Jordan in the near future, to continue discussions about the Committee's mandate and future activities.

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

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 214th session  
(Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

The Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) met on 15 October 2024.

## **Report on actions taken on selected humanitarian issues**

The Committee discussed the follow-up to its previous session in March 2024 and reported on the actions taken by its members.

The member from Australia reported on efforts to raise awareness in Parliament about the situation of the 38 former Afghan parliamentarians who were in danger and seeking refuge. In Thailand, legislative proposals were being developed to address the situation of stateless persons in the country, in particular through the Parliament's Committee on Legal Affairs, Justice and Human Rights. The member from Malta reported on the Parliament's recent organization of a conference of Speakers of Parliaments from Mediterranean countries to discuss the situation of migrants and refugees in the region. Legislative actions had been taken in Bahrain to guarantee that stateless people had the right to access basic services in the country. Kenya's Parliament had been working towards the ratification of IHL treaties, including disarmament conventions, and the adoption of laws granting nationality to stateless communities in the country.

The Committee agreed to continue following up on these issues and to report on them in its future sessions, as its work in these areas was ongoing.

## **International Humanitarian Law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts**

The Committee discussed the latest report of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), [\*International Humanitarian Law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts\*](#), which will be presented at the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in October 2024. A representative of the ICRC shared the main findings of the report, with a special focus on the topic of new technologies of warfare.

The Committee noted with concern that the use of digital technologies of warfare, which may have seemed a distant prospect, is now a reality. Regarding cyber operations, information operations and other digital threats, the report highlights that State and non-State actors have been using cyber operations to disable civilian government services or disrupt the provision of essential services such as electricity, water and medical care. Belligerents have also used social media platforms and messaging services to incite violence against civilian populations and military personnel *hors de combat*, and more generally to dehumanize their adversaries. The digitalization of armed conflicts has also drawn civilians (individuals, hacker groups and tech companies) into hostilities, which exposes them to the risk of harm.

The report also draws attention to the challenges related to the growing reliance on weapon systems with varying degrees of autonomy, and on systems that use artificial intelligence to inform decisions on who or what to attack and how. With regard to military operations in outer space, the report also sheds light on the potential human cost of these operations, given that essential civilian services are becoming increasingly dependent on systems in outer space.

The Committee discussed these findings and expressed concern about the dehumanization of armed conflicts through the use of these new technologies, such as when weapon systems are used to select targets without human intervention. The Committee reiterated that fundamental IHL rules – enshrined in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols – apply to and must guide the development and use of these new technologies. However, the Committee also agreed that new laws might be needed in this area, and that parliamentary action to support these efforts was essential. It therefore decided to organize future online briefings and webinars in partnership with the ICRC to inform and engage the global parliamentary community in this area.

## Review of specific situations of humanitarian concern

The Committee received an update on recent developments in situations of humanitarian concern that it had been monitoring over the past few years. During this session, it paid particular attention to Sudan. The Committee invited UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency to provide a briefing on the main data and protection issues regarding the situation in Sudan, including those related to refugee protection.

Sudan currently faces the largest internal displacement crisis in the world. There are 8.1 million internally displaced persons, 2.3 million refugees and asylum-seekers in other countries, 640,224 returnees, and 258,129 secondary displaced refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan. It also faces the most significant child displacement crisis in the world, with over 4.6 million children displaced inside and outside the country. Protection concerns include: discrimination, exploitation and abuse; sexual and gender-based violence and child protection; arbitrary taxation by armed elements; arrest, detention and deportation; movement restriction; return under adverse conditions; harmful coping mechanisms; food insecurity; and inter-communal violence. The international community has called for an end to the conflict, a commitment to peace, the protection of civilians and compliance with IHL. In addition, predictable and sustained access is needed, especially safe and unhindered access of humanitarian supplies and personnel to hard-to-reach areas. Ensuring freedom of movement for forcibly displaced persons is also a priority. Humanitarian aid to Sudan is underfunded, with only 34% of the required budget reached in 2024.

The Committee expressed its solidarity with the situation faced by the people of Sudan and committed to draw attention to this major humanitarian situation, which remains relatively invisible. It highlighted the plight of Sudanese displaced persons who find themselves in situations that increase their vulnerability to exploitation and human trafficking. The Committee also endorsed the call for more funding for humanitarian aid in the context of the situation in Sudan, and noted the need to strengthen cooperation and ensure efficiency and transparency in the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

In view of the current situation in the Middle East, the Committee drew attention to the challenge and importance of ensuring respect for IHL. It agreed to issue the following plea:

*The Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, whose primary mission includes the protection of civilians in armed conflicts and enabling international, humanitarian, and regional organizations to extend a helping hand to all humans on this planet, calls upon the international community, within the framework of the Inter-Parliamentary Union meetings, to put pressure on the parties to the conflict in Israel, Lebanon and Gaza to avert the region from the spectre of a full-scale war from which no one will escape.*

*The escalation of the conflict, the disruption of oil flow from the Mediterranean and the Arabian Gulf to Europe, and the deterioration of the global economy will affect us all. Therefore, we call on everyone to exercise restraint and avoid being dragged into wars.*

*We call on everyone to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law, which we have all agreed as nations to be bound by. Respect for IHL means that all civilians must be protected and should not be objects of an attack. Obligations under IHL include the humane treatment of detainees and release of hostages.*

The Committee recalled its previous calls for armed conflicts to stop, for IHL to be respected and for humanitarian assistance to be provided to affected civilians, including refugees and internally displaced populations.

## Parliamentary commitments towards ending statelessness

The Committee discussed efforts towards ending statelessness. It welcomed the launch of the [Global Alliance to End Statelessness](#) in October 2024, of which the IPU is a member, and stressed the importance of the Alliance in enhancing cooperation – including by integrating and mobilizing the parliamentary community – to tackle statelessness. The Committee also discussed the involvement of civil society organizations in this area. It heard from Ms. Catherine Harrington from the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights (GCENR), and Ms. Deepti Gurung, statelessness advocate from Nepal and 2024 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award recipient for Asia-Pacific, on their efforts to end statelessness.

## **Election of the new President**

The Committee elected Mr. A. Farrugia (Malta), Speaker of Parliament, as its new President for an initial one-year term (with the possibility of one renewal). He replaces Mr. J.K. Waweru (Kenya), who has served two full terms.

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# **Appeal of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law**

*Endorsed by the IPU Governing Council at its 214th session  
(Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

The Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, whose primary mission includes the protection of civilians in armed conflicts and enabling international, humanitarian, and regional organizations to extend a helping hand to all humans on this planet, calls upon the international community, within the framework of Inter-Parliamentary Union meetings, to put pressure on the parties to the conflict in Israel, Lebanon and Gaza to avert the spectre of a full-scale war in the region from which no one would escape.

The escalation of the conflict, the disruption of oil flow from the Mediterranean and the Arabian Gulf to Europe, and the deterioration of the global economy will affect us all. Therefore, we call on everyone to exercise restraint and avoid being dragged into wars.

We call on everyone to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law (IHL), which we have all agreed as nations to be bound by. Respect for IHL means that all civilians must be protected and should not be objects of an attack. Obligations under IHL include the humane treatment of detainees and the release of hostages.

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## **Report of the Advisory Group on Health**

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 214th session  
(Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

The IPU Advisory Group on Health met on 13 October 2024, with four out of five members in attendance, as well as technical partners from the World Health Organization (WHO), the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and UNAIDS.

The Group discussed the follow-up to the 2019 IPU resolution on universal health coverage (UHC). It heard an update on global health governance developments pertaining to UHC from Dr. Bruce Aylward, WHO Assistant Director-General for UHC and Life Course. The Group decided to focus on challenges restricting access to health services, including financial barriers. It asked the IPU Secretariat to prepare a monitoring framework for the implementation of the resolution, taking into account existing resources, and called for capacity-building for parliamentarians.

The Group further discussed the current outbreak of mpox, which was declared a public health emergency of international concern by the WHO Director-General in August 2024. The Group reflected on the shift of attention away from other health priorities, the pressure of health emergencies on health systems and the importance for equity to be at the centre of decisions on disease treatment and vaccine distribution. The Group also reiterated the important role parliamentarians play in raising awareness and engaging communities, which are key to stop mpox.

As part of efforts to strengthen linkages between IPU's work on health and climate change, the Group decided to submit a contribution to the outcome document of the COP29 Parliamentary Meeting. The Group wishes to highlight that climate change is a health-risk multiplier, and to call for policies and investment to address key challenges related to food insecurity, extreme weather-related illnesses and vector-borne diseases.

The Group was briefed on the process of amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules, as well as its transformation into an IPU Committee. It also heard updates from its technical partners and welcomed continued cooperation with WHO and PMNCH.

# Establishment of a Committee on Health

## Rules of the Committee on Health

*Approved by the IPU Governing Council at its 214th session  
(Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

### Role of the Committee

#### Rule 1

1. The Committee shall provide a global parliamentary focal point for health. It will work to promote parliamentary engagement on health at the global, regional and national level, focusing on inequalities and discrimination in access to health.
2. The Committee shall support the implementation of the health component of the IPU Strategy. It shall offer guidance to IPU Member Parliaments on implementing relevant international commitments; help design information and training material for parliamentarians; conduct field visits to learn lessons from national responses that can be shared with the wider parliamentary community; hold hearings and formulate recommendations for parliamentary action; and generally expand the scope of parliamentary interventions on health by identifying more effective strategies.
3. The Committee may advise the IPU Standing Committees and other IPU bodies on health issues that may require their attention.
4. The Committee shall submit a written report on its work to the Governing Council. It may also express a political position on a health issue or situation for endorsement by the Governing Council.

### Composition

#### Rule 2

1. The Committee shall be composed of 15 members, elected by the Governing Council for a term of four years. The members shall be elected on the basis of their interest and expertise in the subject matter and of their availability to attend all Committee sessions. For full participation in all the Committee's activities, including field visits, it is desirable that members have at least limited working proficiency in English.
2. No more than eight of the members shall be of the same sex and as many of the geopolitical groups as possible shall be represented on the Committee.
3. If a member of the Committee dies, resigns or ceases to be a parliamentarian, an election to replace that person shall be held at the next session of the Governing Council. A retiring member shall not be eligible for re-election for two years.
4. If a member of the Committee fails to attend more than two consecutive sessions without a valid reason, he or she shall be replaced through an election at the Governing Council.

### Sessions

#### Rule 3

1. The Committee shall meet in ordinary session at each Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The Secretary General shall fix the place and date of its ordinary sessions.

### Presidency

#### Rule 4

1. The President of the Committee shall be elected by the Committee members for a one-year term, renewable once.
2. The Committee President shall open, adjourn and close the meetings, direct the work of the Committee, ensure respect for the Rules and call upon members to speak. The Committee President's decisions on these matters shall be final and shall be accepted without debate.

3. The Committee President may entrust Committee members with preparing reports for submission to the ordinary Committee session at the following IPU Assembly.
4. In the absence of the Committee President, the Committee shall elect a provisional Chair for its meeting.

## Agenda

### Rule 5

1. The provisional agenda of each session shall be fixed by the Secretary General in agreement with the Committee President.
2. A member of the Committee may request the inclusion of supplementary items in the agenda.
3. The definitive agenda of each session shall be adopted by the Committee at the opening of each session.

## Deliberations – Voting

### Rule 6

1. The members of the Committee shall deliberate in camera.
2. The Committee's decisions shall be taken by consensus. If it fails to reach consensus, the Committee shall decide by simple majority of the members present. The Committee President shall have the casting vote.
3. The Committee shall normally vote by show of hands. However, if the Committee President deems it necessary or if one member of the Committee so requests, a secret ballot shall be held.
4. Representatives of partner organizations with expertise in the field of health may be invited, in consultation with the Committee President, to ordinary sessions of the Committee.
5. During its ordinary sessions, the Committee may decide to hold a hearing with experts or parliamentary delegations on an issue of particular concern.
6. The Committee may carry out field visits, principally to examine the role played by a given national parliament in addressing issues within the Committee's mandate.

## Secretariat

### Rule 7

1. The Secretariat of the IPU shall receive or prepare all documents necessary for the deliberations of the Committee and shall distribute them to its members in English and French.
2. It shall prepare reports of the Committee's regular sessions, in consultation with the President, for submission to the Governing Council.

## Adoption and amendment of the rules

### Rule 8

1. One or more of the members of the Committee and/or the IPU Secretary General may propose amendments to the Rules for discussion by the Committee. The Committee shall discuss such proposed amendments and adopt, with the support of an absolute majority of the members present at the time of the vote, its own views thereon. Should these views favour specific amendments to the Rules, such amendments shall be submitted to the Governing Council for approval.

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

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 214th session  
(Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

On 13 October 2024, the IPU High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG) convened its seventeenth meeting. The Chairperson, Mr. M. Karlsson from Sweden, welcomed all participants, including invited experts Ms. F. Lombardi from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Mr. S. Stroobants from the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP). The Chairperson underscored the pivotal role of the HLAG in the IPU's efforts to discuss and take decisions related to countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism.

Chairperson also expressed his gratitude to the Secretariat for the relevant, well-prepared documents, which greatly enhanced the quality of the Group's discussion. Members of the Group agreed on the ambitious and comprehensive workplan presented by the Secretariat, and the Chairperson urged them to lend their support in securing the necessary funding to further advance the Group's objectives. The workplan includes ongoing activities in three regions and implementation of activities outlined in the declaration, *Global Response to the Call of the Sahel*, ratified during the Second Global Parliamentary Summit on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism. One of the Declaration's key recommendations is to establish an ad-hoc group within the HLAG intended to coordinate and monitor activities in the Sahel. This group will comprise five facilitators, each responsible for one of the priority areas: community, environment, security, development and education. Members were encouraged to consider their areas of interest and to promptly communicate their preferences to the Chairperson.

The discussions centred on the importance of parliamentarians initiating a broad dialogue on what constitutes terrorism, based on consensus and aimed at avoiding unproductive debates that would not lead to positive outcomes. The Chairperson highlighted that the briefing document presented by the Secretariat served merely as a compilation of various discussions held worldwide across different sectors; it did not seek to propose any specific agenda or give greater prominence to certain issues over others. He emphasized that it was a working document that would be enriched through ongoing discussions. Members expressed their gratitude and engaged in an initial conversation regarding the need to avoid framing discussions around terrorist States or exclusively linking terrorism to religion.

Another significant discussion centred on the situation in the Sahel and how the Group's efforts can ensure that its actions remain relevant and effective, especially in light of the recent coups in several countries in the region and the emergence of new alliances. It was highlighted that the epicentre of terrorism continues to reside in this region, with Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger ranking among the top ten countries facing severe security challenges and threats from terrorism, compounded by a lack of resilience that impedes progress. Furthermore, it was underscored that the five areas outlined in the *Call of the Sahel* must be collectively addressed to bolster the stability of these nations. It was essential for governments to provide basic needs to their populations to prevent individuals from turning to terrorist groups due to resource deprivation. Additionally, it was emphasized that the Sahel region is increasingly witnessing new dynamics in the relationships between terrorists and organized crime, making it more necessary than ever to analyze and address these trends. It was agreed that striving for positive peace in these countries is crucial, as development and security must go hand in hand.

In terms of the financial situation, the National People's Congress of China had signed a renewal of its cooperation agreement with the IPU, which will help continue the work of the IPU Programme on Counter-Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism (CT/PVE). Similar agreements are being concluded with Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. However, additional funds are needed to carry out all the proposed activities, develop the products outlined in the work programme and increase human resources, as only one person is currently working to implement the whole programme. It was clarified that even though the political situation in some Sahel countries is uncertain, the IPU cannot cease collaboration with members of parliaments that are Members of the IPU.

Finally, two new topics were agreed upon for discussion at the next HLAG meeting, which will take place during the 150th IPU Assembly. The first discussion will focus on how artificial intelligence can be positively used in the fight against organized crime and terrorism and the second will address the prevention of violent extremism and migration.

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## Report of the Working Group on Science and Technology

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 214th Session  
(Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

Three sittings of the Working Group were held, two online on 19 and 23 September 2024, and one in Geneva on 15 October 2024. At least ten members attended each of these meetings in person or virtually.

During its sittings on 19 and 23 September 2024, the Working Group members reviewed the proposed amendments on the IPU Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology received from the Parliaments of Canada, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation and Switzerland, as well as from academics, scientists and partner organizations. The members engaged in a thorough analysis of the feedback, considering each proposal in detail to assess its alignment with the overarching goals of the Charter. After carefully integrating relevant feedback, the Working Group officially signed off on the finalized Charter on 23 September 2024.

During its sitting on 15 October 2024, the Working Group was briefed by its Chairperson, Mr. D. Naughten (Ireland), on his participation in the Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the 10th World Water Forum held on 20-21 May 2024 in Bali, Indonesia. The outcome document of this meeting, the Nusa Dua Communiqué, incorporated the recommendations of the IPU Science for Peace Parliamentary Meeting held in September 2023 on *Water security and insecurity: Rebuilding peaceful coexistence with science*. The Parliamentary Meeting in Bali had identified several key actions, including ensuring water is a standing item on parliamentary agendas, using the Sustainable Development Goals framework to develop long-term water policies, protecting the human rights to water and sanitation and advocating for adaptive measures and sustainable water management to build resilience against the impact of climate change. The Chairperson also outlined potential next steps to advance the recommendations of the first edition of the Science for Peace Schools on water, including cooperation with the World Water Council and the UN Water Convention.

The Working Group Chairperson announced to members that the report *Mapping engagement between parliament and science* on the results of the survey that was circulated on 1 February 2024 had been finalized and published on the IPU website during the Assembly. The results show that engagement between parliaments and the scientific community occurs through both formal and informal channels. The most common method of engagement is the invitation of expert witnesses to parliamentary committees to consider specific legislation, which is common practice in 60% of parliaments. The most common service is “general research services”, available in 79% of parliaments. The least common service is “specific science-based research services”, available in 18% of parliaments.

Working Group members were encouraged to participate in the Parliamentarians’ Roundtable at the 12th World Urban Forum, organized by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) with the support of the IPU, to be held in Cairo, Egypt, on 7 November 2024. The Roundtable will tackle the role of parliamentarians in facilitating legislation, policies, finance, advocacy and partnerships with direct impact on cities and communities within the context of the urban-rural continuum.

The members also discussed other ongoing projects of the Working Group, including the Science for Peace Schools, and they recommended that its second edition on artificial intelligence (AI) and ethics be held in two separate sessions, for parliamentary staff and parliamentarians, in 2025. The first session for parliamentary staff on *Understanding AI: Ethics and the IPU Charter* would be held in cooperation with the Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME) in Allan, Jordan, in May 2025. The second session for parliamentarians on *Regulating AI: Ethics and the IPU Charter* would be held in cooperation with the International Centre for Interdisciplinary Science and Education (ICISE) in Quy Nhon, Viet Nam, in September 2025.

The Working Group members agreed that the political environment is now favourable for the adoption of the IPU Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology, with parliaments ready to engage with its principles. They emphasized the need for diligent follow-up on the IPU Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology to prevent it from being overlooked, ensure its implementation and promote its use as a model for ethical considerations in AI and future innovations.

In this regard, the Working Group members stressed the importance of planning the next steps for disseminating the Charter widely, advocating for its use at the governmental and parliamentary levels in collaboration with scientists and academia. They also discussed the possibility of drafting an annex to the Charter to provide guidelines for monitoring its application and evaluating its impact. They highlighted the responsibility of the participants of the 149th IPU Assembly to promote the Charter in their respective parliaments and via social media, and suggested launching a campaign, similar to the Forum of Young Parliamentarians' campaign, *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!*, to ensure the Charter's visibility and raise awareness of it through flyers and other informative materials during IPU Assemblies, conferences and events.

Accordingly, the Working Group members suggested organizing events in their respective parliaments to announce the adoption of the Charter, reinforcing a collective commitment to its principles. The discussions underscored the urgency for proactive measures in disseminating the Charter and fostering collaboration among parliaments to ensure a unified understanding and application of its ethical standards.

Finally, the Working Group elected Ms. S. Attia (Egypt) as its Chairperson and Ms. M. Cederfelt (Sweden) as its Vice-Chairperson and agreed on its work plan for 2024-2025.

## Statistics of the Gender Partnership Group

### Status of participation of women delegates at the 149th Assembly of the IPU (on 18 October 2024)

#### Composition of delegations of IPU Members attending the last eight IPU statutory meetings (May 2021 - present)

Meeting	Total delegates	Total/percentage of women delegates		Total delegations present	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)
		Total	Percentage		Total	Percentage			
Geneva (18/10/24)	615	224	36.4	129	7	5.8	2	9	9
Geneva (03/24)	703	252	35.8	142	15	11.4	2	17	10
Luanda (10/23)	600	217	36.2	128	10	8.3	3	13	8
Manama (03/23)	661	228	34.5	136	21	16	3	24	5
Kigali (10/22)	553	196	35.4	120	14	12.6	4	18	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

#### Single-sex, multi-member delegations of IPU Members present in Geneva (status on 18 October 2024)

N°	Country	Geneva Oct24			Geneva Mar24			Luanda Oct23			Manama Mar23			Kigali Oct22			Nusa Dua Mar22			Madrid Nov21			Virtual May 21		
		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	Belarus	0	2	2	absent			1	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	1	0	2	2	1	0	1	2	2	4
2	Brazil*	0	4	4	0	7	7	2	3	5	0	6	6	0	1	1	absent			3	5	8	2	2	4
3	Denmark*	0	6	6	0	5	5	1	6	7	1	6	7	2	0	2	3	2	5	2	3	5	2	1	3
4	Ecuador*	2	0	2	1	0	1	absent			4	1	5	absent			3	2	5	2	2	4	4	4	8
5	Guinea*	0	2	2	0	2	2	1	4	5	1	3	4	4	5	9	1	2	3	absent			0	4	4
6	Ireland	0	3	3	3	2	5	1	2	3	2	3	5	1	4	5	absent			1	3	4	2	4	6
7	Liberia	0	2	2	absent			absent			1	1	2	suspended			suspended			suspended			suspended		
8	Rwanda*	2	0	2	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	3	3	6	1	0	1	2	1	3	2	1	3
9	Yemen*	0	6	6	0	4	4	0	4	4	0	4	4	0	6	6	0	5	5	0	5	5	0	8	8

**Single-member delegations of IPU Members present in Geneva (status on 18 October 2024)**

N°	Country	Geneva Oct24			Geneva Mar24			Luanda Oct23			Manama Mar23			Kigali Oct22			Nusa Dua Mar22			Madrid Nov21			Virtual May 21		
		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	Botswana	0	1	1	1	4	5	1	5	6	1	3	4	1	4	5	1	3	4	1	2	3	1	5	6
2	Dominican Republic*	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	absent			absent			absent			1	1	2	absent		
3	Greece	1	0	1	0	4	4	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	3	4	0	3	3	1	2	3	1	4	5
4	Guinea-Bissau*	0	1	1	0	5	5	2	5	7	absent			absent			0	1	1	2	0	2	absent		
5	Italy	0	1	1	2	2	4	2	2	4	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	3	5	3	3	6
6	Jamaica	0	1	1	not affiliated																				
7	Mozambique	0	1	1	2	1	3	3	1	4	3	1	4	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	3	1	4
8	Slovakia	0	1	1	1	0	1	absent			0	2	2	absent			absent			absent			absent		
9	South Sudan	0	1	1	3	6	9	3	5	8	4	9	13	3	7	10	2	2	4	2	3	5	absent		

\* Delegations subjected to sanctions at the 149th Assembly, pursuant to Articles 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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**50th session of the Gender Partnership Group**

Geneva (Switzerland), 18 October 2024

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

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

The countries below are ordered according to the percentage of women parliamentarians in their delegations at the 149th IPU Assembly.

There is a total of 49 gender-balanced delegations out of 129 delegations (38%) of IPU Member Parliaments attending the 149th IPU Assembly (as of 18 October 2024).

**Delegations with 40 to 49.9% of women parliamentarians (15):**

Australia	40.0%	Uzbekistan	40.0%
Chad	40.0%	Albania	42.9%
Cyprus	40.0%	Iraq	42.9%
Czechia	40.0%	Philippines	42.9%
Libya	40.0%	Türkiye	42.9%
Nepal	40.0%	United Republic of Tanzania	42.9%
Sao Tome and Principe	40.0%	Zimbabwe	44.4%
Sweden	40.0%		

**Delegations with 50% of women parliamentarians (25):**

Andorra	Malta
Angola	Monaco
Armenia	Namibia
Benin	Netherlands
Burundi	New Zealand
Cabo Verde	Norway
China	Palestine
Equatorial Guinea	Poland
Guyana	Republic of Korea
Japan	Spain
Latvia	Turkmenistan
Liechtenstein	Zambia
Lithuania	

**Delegations with 50.1 to 60% women parliamentarians (9):**

Mexico	57.1%	Estonia	60.0%
South Africa	57.1%	Eswatini	60.0%
United Arab Emirates	57.1%	Finland	60.0%
Azerbaijan	60.0%	Kenya	60.0%
Canada	60.0%		

## Promotions in the IPU Secretariat

*Noted by the IPU Executive Committee at its 294th session  
(Geneva, 11 October 2024)*

The Secretary General announced the promotion of the following members of the IPU Secretariat:

- **Ms. Anda Filip**, Director, Division for Member Parliaments and External Relations
- **Ms. Andrée Lorber**, Director, Division of Support Services
- **Ms. Kareen Jabre**, Director, Programmes Division
- **Mr. Mokhtar Ahmed Omar Ibrahim**, Senior Advisor to the Secretary General
- **Mr. Alessandro Motter**, Senior Advisor, Office of the Permanent Observer in New York
- **Ms. Hiroko Yamaguchi**, Research Officer, Programmes Division
- **Mr. Akiyo Afouda**, Programme Officer, Human Rights Programme, WTO and G20
- **Ms. Sharon Varturk**, Senior Executive Assistant, Executive Office
- **Ms. Annaogar Damachi**, Administrative Assistant, Executive Office

## Calendar of future meetings and other activities

*Approved by the IPU Governing Council at its 214th session  
(Geneva, 17 October 2024)*

Regional seminar for parliaments and State Audit Institutes co-organized with the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI)	Saint Lucia 29 – 31 October 2024
10th G20 Speakers' Summit (P20)	BRASILIA (Brazil) 6 – 8 November 2024
Parliamentary meeting at COP29	BAKU (Azerbaijan) 16 – 17 November 2024
Parliamentary event at the SUN Movement Global Gathering	KIGALI (Rwanda) November 2024 (Dates to be confirmed)
Regional Conference for parliaments of the Asia-Pacific region on Global Health Security	BANGKOK (Thailand) 2 – 3 December 2024
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) 4 – 5 December 2024
Regional seminar on promoting the rights of the child for the parliaments of West Africa (ECOWAS)	ABUJA (Nigeria) 12 – 13 December 2024
Parliamentary Track at the Internet Governance Forum 2024	RIYADH (Saudi Arabia) 16 – 17 December 2024
Multistakeholder conference on gender equality in nationality laws	GENEVA (Switzerland) December 2024 (Dates to be confirmed)
Regional seminar for West and Central African transitional parliaments	2024 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Joint event with UNFCCC on climate finance (preparation for COP29)	Virtual 25 September 2024
African regional dialogue on climate action co-organized with UNEP	Virtual 2 October 2024
Webinar on <i>Compliance audits: Building arguments for improving systemic weaknesses in governance</i> (as part of the Webinar series on types of audits organized in cooperation with INTOSAI Development Initiative)	Virtual 7 November 2024
Webinar on <i>How to develop parliamentary library services based on the needs of customers</i> . Jointly organized by the IPU and IFLAPARL	Virtual 12 November 2024
Webinar on <i>Performance audits: Audits as input for sector policy development and dialogue</i> (as part of the Webinar series on types of audits organized in cooperation with INTOSAI Development Initiative)	Virtual 26 November 2024
Webinar series on human security and common security with partners including the International Peace Bureau and the World Academy of Art and Science	Virtual (Series dates to be announced)

Series of workshops on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation, as well as military expenditure, co-organized with partners including Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) and the Parliamentary Forum for Small Arms and Light Weapons	Virtual 2024 (Series dates to be announced)
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 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 Regular webinars throughout 2024
Webinar series on public engagement in the work of parliament, in follow-up to the 2022 Global Parliamentary Report	Virtual 2024 (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series on digital transformation in parliaments, organized by the IPU's Centre for Innovation in Parliament	Virtual 2024 (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series: Global empowerment series for young parliamentarians: Briefings and training courses	Virtual 2024 (Quarterly)
Series of regional and global virtual webinars on gender equality and women's empowerment	Virtual 2024 (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar for parliaments whose countries will submit Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to track progress on the Sustainable Development Goals	Virtual 2024 (Dates to be confirmed)
Series of online briefings for MPs on the United Nations organized by the IPU Permanent Observer Office to the United Nations in cooperation with relevant UN departments and missions (as needed)	Virtual 2024 (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series for parliamentarians on combating hatred based on religion or belief organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in cooperation with the International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief (IPPFoRB)	Virtual 2024 (Series dates to be announced)
Third Summit of Parliamentary Committees of the Future	Chile 14 – 15 January 2025
Regional seminar organized in cooperation with UNODA on the universalization of major treaties to prohibit WMDs	GENEVA (Switzerland) 10 – 11 February 2025
2025 Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations	NEW YORK (USA) February 2025 (Dates to be confirmed)
54th session of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO	BRUSSELS (Belgium) February 2025 (Dates to be confirmed)
Parliamentary Meeting and side events on the occasion of the Commission on the Status of Women	NEW YORK (USA) March 2025 (Dates to be confirmed)
First Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians	Mexico March 2025 (Dates to be confirmed)

150th Assembly and related meetings	TASHKENT (Uzbekistan) 5 – 9 April 2025
Parliamentary event at the 10th UN Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (UN STI Forum)	NEW YORK (USA) 7 or 8 May 2025 (Date to be confirmed)
Parliamentary event at the World Health Assembly	GENEVA (Switzerland) May 2025 (Date to be confirmed)
Second Science for Peace School on <i>Understanding the ethics of artificial intelligence</i>	SESAME, ALLAN (Jordan) May 2025 (Dates to be confirmed)
Second Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue	ROME (Italy) 19 – 21 June 2025
SDG regional seminar for the parliaments of the Eurasia Group	ASHGABAT (Turkmenistan) June (Dates to be confirmed)
Parliamentary Forum at the 2025 UN HLPF (High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development)	NEW YORK (USA) 22 July 2025
15th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament, prior to the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament	BERN (Switzerland) 28 July 2025
Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament	GENEVA (Switzerland) 29 – 31 July 2025
55th session of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO	YAOUNDÉ (Cameroon) 2025 (Dates in the first half of the year to be confirmed)
Parliamentary Conference on the WTO (PCWTO) preceded by the PCWTO Steering Committee	YAOUNDÉ (Cameroon) 2025 (Dates in the first half of the year to be confirmed)
Second Science for Peace Parliamentary Meeting on <i>Regulating Artificial Intelligence: Ethics and the IPU Charter</i>	ICISE, QUY NHON (Viet Nam) September 2025 (Dates to be confirmed)
151st Assembly and related meetings	GENEVA (Switzerland) 19 – 23 October 2025
Regional seminar on combating violence against women in parliament in the Asia-Pacific region on the occasion of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	November 2025 (Venue and dates to be confirmed)
Regional seminar for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from Latin America and the Caribbean, co-organized with the World Trade Organization (WTO)	GEORGETOWN (Guyana) 2025 (Dates to be confirmed)
Seventh interregional seminar on the SDGs	BEIJING (China) 2025 (Dates to be confirmed)
Information seminar on the structure and functioning of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for English-speaking participants	GENEVA (Switzerland) 2025 (Dates to be confirmed)
Parliamentary Meeting at COP30	Brazil 2025 (Dates and venue to be confirmed)

World e-Parliament Conference	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional seminar for parliamentarians from South Pacific Islands on the promotion of Nuclear Security instruments (CPPNM, 2005 amendment and ICSANT)	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional seminar on climate action and sustainable development for parliaments of Latin America and the Caribbean	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Third regional seminar for African parliaments on achieving the SDGs	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional seminar on countering terrorism and violent extremism for the African Group	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional seminar on countering terrorism and violent extremism for the Eurasia Group	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Working together to advance women's political participation and decision-making: Series of in-person and online meetings between parliamentarians and partners in the Generation Equality Forum	Quarterly 2025 Venue to be confirmed
Eleventh Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Fourth regional seminar for the Twelve Plus Group on achieving the SDGs	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional seminar on countering terrorism and violent extremism for the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC)	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional seminar on promoting the rights of the child for the parliaments of the East and South Asia region	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional seminar in the Sahel region, for the implementation of the Call of the Sahel	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional seminar to promote implementation of the legal framework on counter-terrorism for the Twelve Plus Group	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Virtual follow-up session to the Second Science for Peace Schools on <i>Understanding the ethics of artificial intelligence</i>	Virtual June 2025 (Dates to be confirmed)
Webinar to commemorate the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	Virtual 21 August 2025
Virtual follow-up session to the Second Science for Peace Parliamentary Meeting on <i>Regulating Artificial Intelligence: Ethics and the IPU Charter</i>	Virtual November 2025 (Dates to be confirmed)
Information Seminar on the structure and functioning of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for Spanish-speaking participants	Virtual 2025 (Dates to be confirmed)
Webinar series on promoting the Model Legislative Provisions to support the victims of terrorism	Virtual 2025 (Series dates to be announced)
Virtual roundtable on climate action in mountains	Virtual 2025 (Date to be confirmed)
Series of online briefings for MPs on the United Nations organized by the IPU Permanent Observer Office to the United Nations in cooperation with relevant UN departments and missions (as needed)	Virtual 2025 (Series dates to be announced)

Webinar series to promote the use of human security and common security to build peace and the related toolkit with partners including the International Peace Bureau and the World Academy of Art and Science	Virtual 2025 (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation, co-organized with partners including Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) and the Parliamentary Forum for Small Arms and Light Weapons	Virtual 2025 (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series: Global empowerment series for young parliamentarians: Briefings and training courses	Virtual 2025 (Quarterly)
Webinar series on gender equality and women's empowerment	Virtual 2025 (Series dates to be announced)

## Agenda of the 150th Assembly

*(Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 5 – 9 April 2025)*

1. Election of the President of the 150th Assembly
2. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
3. General Debate
4. Special accountability segment on the implementation of IPU resolutions and other decisions
5. *The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine*  
(Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)
6. *Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development*  
(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 152nd Assembly and appointment of the co-Rapporteurs
9. Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules