

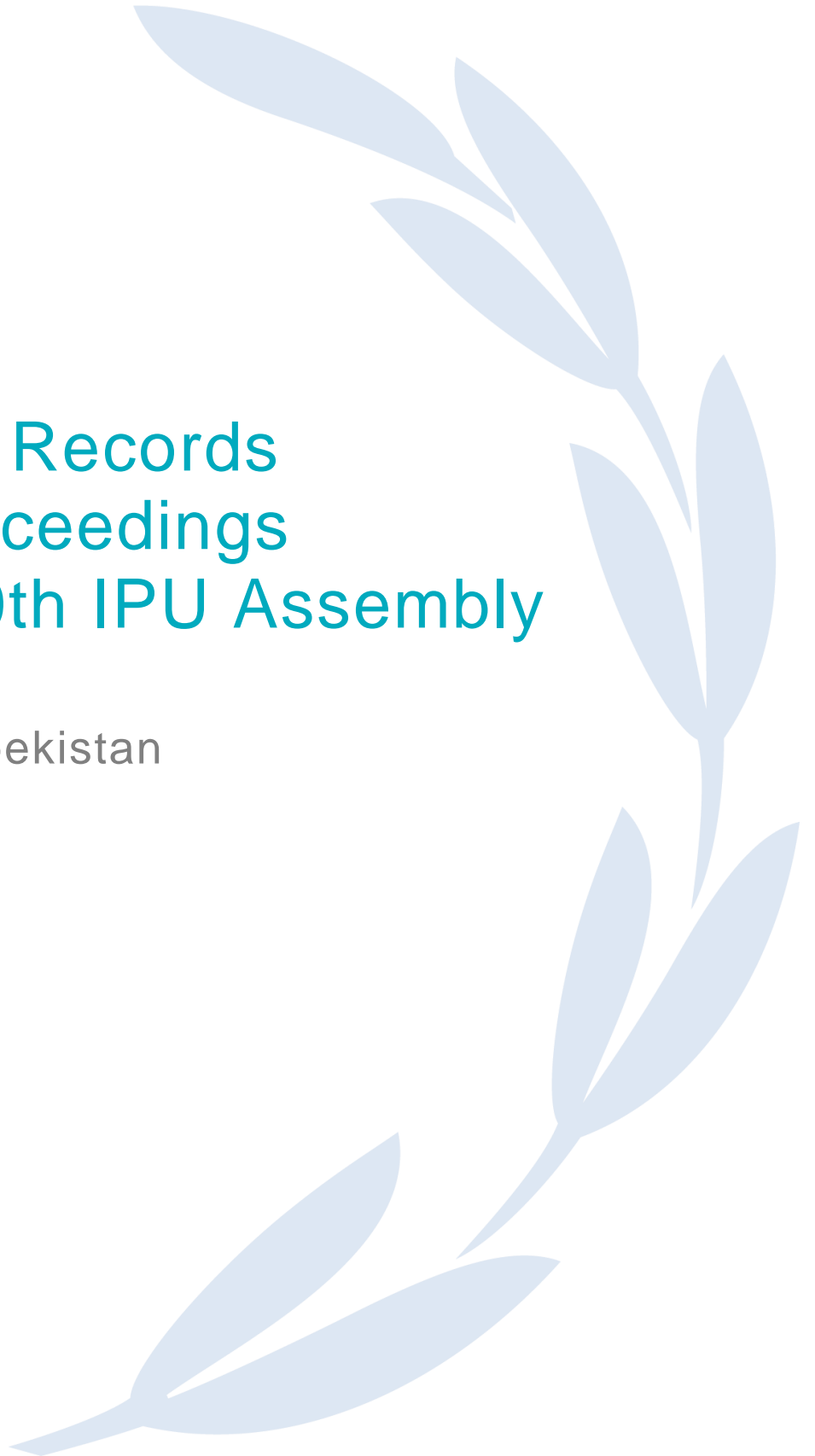


Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# Summary Records of the Proceedings of the 150th IPU Assembly

Tashkent, Uzbekistan  
5-9 April 2025

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## Introduction

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

Afghanistan\*, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia (The), Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar\*, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Parliaments of Barbados and Dominica also attended the 150th 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 Central American Parliament (PARLACEN), the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the European Parliament, the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO), 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, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);

(ii) parliamentary assemblies and associations: African Parliamentary Union (APU), Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), Association of Senates, Shoura and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA), Collective Security Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly (CSTO PA), Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), International Parliamentary Network for Education (IPNEd), Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO), Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States (TURKPA), Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia, 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);

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\* 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 to Represent Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) for Myanmar. The corresponding delegations attend Assemblies in a non-voting observer capacity.

(iv) international political party federations: Socialist International (SI);

(v) 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, including the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children, also attended the Assembly and gave addresses at high-level segments.

Of the 1,297 delegates who attended the Assembly, 697 were members of parliament (682 from Member Parliaments and 15 from Associate Member delegations), including 47 Presiding Officers, and 43 Deputy Presiding Officers. Member Parliaments' delegations included 254 women MPs (37.2%) and 98 young MPs (14.4%).

# Inaugural ceremony of the 150th Assembly

**SATURDAY, 5 APRIL 2025**

*The inaugural ceremony of the 150th IPU Assembly took place at the Tashkent City Congress Centre, Tashkent, Uzbekistan at 18:30 on Saturday, 5 April 2025.*

*The national anthem of Uzbekistan and the IPU anthem were played.*

**Ms. Tanzila Narbaeva** (Chairperson of the Senate of Uzbekistan), said that she was thrilled to welcome delegates to Tashkent, the capital city, for the inaugural ceremony of the 150th IPU Assembly. The Assembly was a historic occasion not only because it was the 150th but because it would serve to strengthen relations between people and the State through social development, which was an important prerequisite for sustainable development. The IPU had a significant influence in contributing to the development of common strategies for parliaments to deal with various challenges through mutual recognition of best practices and experience. In a tense geopolitical context, the IPU's role in maintaining peace and security and resolving conflicts through parliamentary diplomacy was particularly key.

The IPU actively prioritized gender equality in its activities and had shared many effective mechanisms for increasing women's participation. It also advocated for the active involvement of young people in lawmaking and supported the new generation of politicians. In Uzbekistan, reforms were ongoing in all spheres of public life, in particular with respect to the role and powers of parliament, which had been expanded significantly. The Parliament of Uzbekistan played an active role in many regional and international organizations and contributed consistently to their work on the most urgent issues. She expressed her hope that delegates would have the opportunity to explore Uzbekistan and discover its history, rich spiritual heritage and modern way of life.

**Mr. Nuriddin Ismoilov** (Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of Uzbekistan) welcomed delegates to Tashkent and expressed his deepest gratitude to the leadership of the IPU and its Member Parliaments for supporting Uzbekistan's initiative to host the 150th Assembly, a prestigious international conference. He noted that the President of Uzbekistan had strongly supported the initiative and paid special attention to strengthening the role of parliament in the country, including through consistently supporting its participation in inter-parliamentary cooperation. IPU Assemblies were effective platforms to bring together parliamentarians from diverse backgrounds and traditions with a view to solving the problems faced by the global community.

As part of the Uzbekistan 2030 framework, the authorities considered it their main task to ensure the peace and well-being of the people, and create a humane, sovereign, democratic, legal, social and secular State in which the freedom, honour and dignity of human beings were the ultimate values. He expressed his hope that the Assembly would strengthen the coordinating role of parliaments in ensuring social development and justice around the world, and called on participants to engage in effective cooperation, open dialogue and constructive negotiations to develop new initiatives to that end.

**Dr. Tulia Ackson** (President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union) thanked the Host Parliament and all the people of Uzbekistan for their warm welcome and noted that the 150th Assembly was an important milestone for the IPU, as well as being the first time an Assembly was being held in Central Asia. The IPU was also celebrating four decades of tireless advocacy and leadership by its Forum of Women Parliamentarians and she called on those present to take further action to achieve equal representation in politics.

Referencing the theme of the General Debate, she called for urgent and concrete parliamentary action on social development and justice and provided several stark examples of rising poverty, deepening job insecurity, persistent social exclusion and relentless youth unemployment. She urged parliamentarians to picture the human lives affected by such issues and expressed her hope for a substantial parliamentary contribution to the Second World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Qatar later in 2025.

Recalling that social development and peace are deeply intertwined, she called for enhanced parliamentary diplomacy, which could build bridges and open lines of dialogue while States built walls, exchanged bullets and spread mistrust. Parliamentarians held in their hands the power to address

climate change and legislate for a sustainable future. In conclusion, she urged parliamentarians to take urgent, courageous and emphatic action for social development, justice, peace and a sustainable planet.

**Mr. Martin Chungong** (Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union) added his thanks to the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan for its gracious hosting of the Assembly, which would be the 150th occasion at which the IPU had convened the global parliamentary community to debate the issues of the day and foster common understanding. The world continued to face multiple crises and the established multilateral order could be upended at any moment. He therefore wished to emphasize the vital importance of parliamentary diplomacy as a complement to traditional diplomacy. The IPU had many established and emerging bodies and initiatives providing a framework for dialogue and solidarity between parliaments. He looked forward to the Assembly potentially finally passing a resolution addressing the war in Gaza, as well as a resolution on the long-lasting impact of conflicts on sustainable development.

2025 was a special year for the IPU, as it would hold its Second Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue in Rome, following on from the first hugely successful Conference in Marrakesh in 2023, as well as its Sixth World Conference of Speakers in Geneva. The latter Conference would be preceded by the Fifteenth World Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament, the previous edition of which had been held in Tashkent in the very same building in 2022. Gender equality was the IPU's priority theme in 2025, and in March, the Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians had taken place in Mexico – a country which had recently elected its first female President – with the aim of mobilizing parliamentarians around the world to improve gender equality in their own countries. To that end, the IPU would be launching a new campaign, *Achieving gender equality, action by action*, in the coming days.

*A video entitled From Paris to Tashkent: Celebrating 150 IPU Assemblies! was played.*

*Ms. Tanzila Narbaeva declared the 150th IPU Assembly open.*

## Sitting of Sunday, 6 april 2025

### (Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 11:25, with Dr. T. Ackson (United Republic of Tanzania), President of the IPU, in the Chair.*

#### Item 1 of the agenda

### **ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE 150TH ASSEMBLY**

**The President** announced that, at its first sitting that morning, the Governing Council had elected Ms. T. Narbaeva, Chairperson of the Senate of Uzbekistan, as President of the 150th Assembly.

*Ms. T. Narbaeva (Uzbekistan), President of the 150th Assembly, took the Chair.*

### **OPENING REMARKS**

**The President**, welcoming participants, said in her opening remarks that the theme of the General Debate at the 150th Assembly, Parliamentary action for social development and justice, covered many topical issues, including poverty reduction, decent work, social integration and participation in decision-making. With poverty, injustice and inequality on the rise, radically improved measures and more effective mechanisms were needed to address those issues. In carrying out wide-scale reforms to that end, Uzbekistan – designated as a welfare State under its new Constitution – had identified social protection as a key priority, introducing a system with fresh approaches aimed at providing targeted social assistance. The related legislative framework had been strengthened in line with international standards and the numerous international conventions ratified by Uzbekistan, where the implementation of a social protection strategy with set goals had already achieved a threefold reduction in poverty. A champion of social justice and decent work, Uzbekistan had been among the first to participate in such initiatives as the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions and the Global Coalition for Social Justice led by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Social well-being was the main barometer of the public mood and essential for the peace and tranquillity that helped to mobilize sustainable development. The upcoming General Debate on all aspects of social progress, including the parliamentary role in building a just society, was therefore very timely and conducive to proposals and recommendations for the further development of inter-parliamentary cooperation for universal benefit. Urging all IPU Member Parliaments to take advantage of the unique opportunities for discussion offered by the Assembly, she thanked participants for their attendance at the event in sunny Uzbekistan.

**Dr. T. Ackson** (United Republic of Tanzania), President of the IPU, said that the choice of such an important topic for the General Debate was indeed opportune and central to the issue of human, or people-centred, development, which promoted well-being and was recognized as the ultimate goal of all development efforts. As articulated in the landmark Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development adopted at the First World Summit for Social Development in 1995, human development was down to fighting all poverty, ensuring decent livelihoods, and strengthening social bonds. Now identified in affluent countries especially as an overlooked cause of death, social isolation increased vulnerability and made lives harder and poorer for those struggling without community or other support. With the protective role of governments diminished through policies too often dictated by market forces, the social fabric was being eroded. Post-war welfare States had been weakened through fiscal austerity and privatization; the notion of contributing to society and receiving help when needed was losing ground; and the new technological era driven by digitalization and now artificial intelligence (AI) was supporting a society-wide shift towards heightened individualism. A sharp rise in income and wealth inequalities had also enabled a select few to own most of the world's productive assets. Work was growing more precarious and many, in particular women, earned such low wages that they were forced to take several jobs to make ends meet.

In the run-up to the Second World Summit for Social Development in November 2025, the upcoming debate could help towards recovery of the Copenhagen vision, depending on three factors. First, it would require a commitment to invest more in people, strengthen the social care sector, and provide the tools needed for people to thrive and feel fulfilled. Secondly, the economy must be made

to work for all through a fairer distribution of economic gains and more creative involvement of all stakeholders in economic decision-making. Thirdly, all government and other institutions underpinning the social contract must be strengthened to ensure social cohesion. As one such institution, parliaments could start by ensuring that they represented all people and included them in decision-making. She looked forward to the debate and to the ensuing Tashkent Declaration.

**Mr. D. Carden** (United Kingdom), President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians, providing in line with customary practice a youth perspective on the topic of the General Debate, said that, in the new global landscape, the belief in economic and political integration and multilateralism was under constant challenge, with powerful nations steadily rejecting globalization and its concomitants. To address that reality with clear-eyed resolve, it must first be acknowledged that the failure of liberal internationalism was partly due to it servicing the interests of capital rather than ordinary people. Also to be contemplated were the reasons for the past successes of institutions like the IPU and how to replicate those successes in future. Such institutions worked best when relentlessly focused on the living conditions of those they served. The Tenth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, held in September 2024, had exemplified that approach by establishing a road map for meaningful dialogue and action to address real concerns around its theme of preserving education and employment. In recognizing that work strengthened community and provided purpose beyond material subsistence, participants had demonstrated how international bodies could engage with issues in ways that resonated with people's lives.

During his two-year tenure now set to end, the IPU had lowered the upper age limit from 45 to 40 years for young parliamentarians, who should be fully encouraged to participate in the work of future IPU Assemblies. The IPU had also opened up to youth organizations from around the world, enabling young people to recount their experiences at its events. He was therefore leaving the IPU stronger and the voice of young parliamentarians within it louder.

**Ms. C. López Castro** (Mexico), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, providing also in line with customary practice a gender perspective on the topic of the General Debate, said that, without gender equality, social development was an illusion and justice an unfinished promise. The attainment of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 on gender equality was a prerequisite for the achievement of all SDGs: there could be no poverty eradication with half of the world's population economically marginalized, no decent work with women's labour undervalued and underpaid, and no true social inclusion with gender barriers unbroken. A new social contract centred on political and socioeconomic parity was a practical necessity. Priorities identified by women parliamentarians included gender-responsive budgeting for addressing women's poverty and, as a fundamental step towards economic justice, measures to reduce women's unpaid care work. Equal work for equal pay must also be realized to ensure women's economic security and autonomy. Communities prospered when women succeeded, gross domestic product (GDP) rose when women had equal opportunities, and governance became more inclusive and effective when women led in politics.

With advancing gender equality as the 2025 IPU priority theme, it was important to build on the momentum created by the first IPU Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians, held in Mexico in March 2025. Thanks to IPU support, the conference was poised to become an annual event, with Serbia as the proposed venue for 2026. Currently marking its 40th anniversary, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians recognized the progress accomplished and the urgent work ahead. In conclusion, she congratulated the IPU on having, for the first time in its 150-year history, a President and a Vice-President who were both women.

**Mr. G.F. Hougbo** (Director-General, ILO) special guest, speaking in a pre-recorded video message, said that the 150th Assembly was an important milestone for the IPU and the history of parliamentarianism. Its host country, moreover, exemplified the socioeconomic development that a committed nation could speedily achieve, including thanks to the leadership of the Chairperson of its Senate. Not only Geneva neighbours, the IPU and the ILO were partners in promoting international labour standards, working together on such vital issues as child labour, migration and human trafficking. With the Second World Summit for Social Development fast approaching, the chosen theme of the Assembly's General Debate spoke for itself in a world where billions had no access to social protection, millions of workers lived in extreme poverty, one in five young persons was not in education or employment, and conflict continued to wreak havoc on lives and livelihoods.

The ILO motto of no universal and lasting peace without social justice now held truer than ever. Advancing social justice meant investing in social protection and living wages. Later in 2025, he would launch a new living wage initiative under the Global Coalition for Social Justice and would also invite participants in the Second Summit for Social Development to call for living wages as a means of

reducing poverty and inequality. Advancing social justice also meant prioritizing a just and fair transition to a low carbon economy and strengthening social dialogue to promote trust and inform decisions nationally and globally. Only by working together would it be possible to achieve the joint objective of creating the conditions for a decent and dignified life for all.

**Ms. T. Molcean** (Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)), special guest, said that the plethora of profound and compounding global challenges was raising questions about and reshaping the very foundations of society, yet clarity and opportunity could emerge in times of great change and seeming despair. In his Our Common Agenda report, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General had called for renewal of the social contract between governments, businesses, communities and people, which should be rooted in human rights and social justice and respond to the said challenges. A meaningful social contract should ensure universal access to all essential services, especially for the most vulnerable, and recognize decent work as a cornerstone of social justice, ensuring fair wages, labour protection and support for small and medium-sized enterprises. Inclusive governance involving all social groups in decision-making was also vital, as was keeping all economic activity within the planet's natural boundaries in an eco-social contract.

All those priorities were reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Second World Summit on Social Development would, however, crucially facilitate a renewed commitment to a people-centred vision of development with new social contracts that left no one behind. The upcoming Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development would also spotlight ways of financing the services and protections that people demanded. In preparation for those important meetings, consideration should be given to possible new commitments and to ways of leveraging innovation for social inclusion and ensuring just and equitable green transitions to connectivity and resilient infrastructure.

The diverse and geographically widespread UNECE membership had experienced both progress and setbacks in social development. While many member States had achieved high human development, inequalities persisted between urban and rural populations, across gender and generational lines, and among marginalized communities. A growing digital divide, housing insecurity and precarious employment were clear reminders that prosperity had not been equitably shared. With lack of resilience furthermore heightening the exposure to all manner of further shocks, environment must be prioritized over fast progress so as to build true resilience, which required whole-of-government and whole-of-society efforts. By that token, Uzbekistan was to be applauded for guaranteeing public access to environmental information and ensuring participatory decision-making in environmental policies on the back of its recent accession to the Aarhus Convention.

Uniquely positioned to advance a progressive agenda for peace, parliamentarians were also indispensable in crafting policies that prioritized people's needs over vested economic and financial interests; regulating markets to serve the common good; and redefining economic success and social progress beyond GDP to incorporate well-being and sustainable metrics. With the present Assembly a testament to the power of parliamentary action in shaping a fairer world, the choices it made would define the future of social development for the coming generations. The moment must therefore be seized to reinforce the commitment to justice, inclusion and dignity for all.

**The Secretary General**, formally congratulating Ms. Narbaeva on her election as President of the 150th Assembly and commending her hands-on approach during the preparatory stage, said that he and his team would do their utmost to assist her as needed to ensure a successful event. For the Assembly, in conformity with Rule 33.2 of its Rules, a quorum of 62 had been established on the basis of the number of delegations effectively participating at the present first plenary meeting, which was 123.

#### Item 3 of the agenda

### **General Debate on the theme *Parliamentary action for social development and justice*** (A/150/3-Inf.1)

#### **PRESIDING OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENT**

**Mr. Thanh Man Tran** (Viet Nam), commencing the General Debate, said that sustainable development must go hand in hand with social progress and justice, with parliaments responsible for gearing all policies towards reducing income inequalities and for ensuring that all persons, without exception, enjoyed the fruits of development. His Parliament was building a just system that fostered

citizens' participation in policymaking and implementation towards a new era of robust and prosperous development. It was also completing the legal framework, addressing institutional challenges, unlocking resources, embracing scientific and technical challenges, and promoting innovation, digital transformation, the green economy and energy transition to drive rapid and robust sustainable growth while ensuring social justice. It was furthermore committed to continuing its collaboration with other parliaments worldwide to realize noble goals for a peaceful, just and sustainably developed world for all humankind.

Complacency was not an option in a fast-changing world presenting ever more complex challenges. For a prompt and effective response, parliaments must enhance international cooperation, share experiences and support one another in development policymaking. To that end, they should embrace a development-enabling mindset; formulate people-centred policies; and strengthen inter-parliamentary collaboration and coordination, especially for the maintenance of peace and the resolution of disputes in accordance with international law. Through the IPU, a stronger and more effective network could be built to enhance mutual support. True sustainable development depended on placing people at the heart of all policies and working together resolutely towards building a fair, prosperous and sustainable world for all.

**Mr. O. Birla** (India) said that the theme of the historic 150th IPU Assembly was an extension of the idea heavily engrained in Indian culture, tradition and philosophy that the world was one family. Under the Indian Constitution, all citizens were treated equally and had equal opportunities, ensuring that marginalized groups were brought into the mainstream. New laws had been enacted to promote social justice, security and inclusion for all sections of society, as had labour codes providing for the welfare and social security of those working in the unorganized sector. The primacy of justice had also been established by replacing the former penal code with a new justice code. Socioeconomic policies and programmes were reviewed by parliamentary committees, which made suggestions for their better execution and recommendations concerning the approval of ministerial requests for grants.

As the fastest-growing major economy, India was advancing towards becoming the world's third largest while also progressing rapidly towards its goal of achieving developed country status by 2047. It played a leading role in, among others, innovation, AI, start-ups, space, information and financial technology, and pharmaceuticals. It furthermore ran the world's largest health insurance scheme, providing free healthcare for the economically disadvantaged who made up 40% of the population. He was confident that, through their discussions at the present Assembly, parliamentarians would find new solutions for ensuring a fair and just society.

**Mr. A. Bictogo** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that parliaments must contribute to social development and justice by enacting laws aimed at reducing youth unemployment and combating discrimination and exclusion. They must also commit to promoting respect for human dignity and access for all to education, including skills development and apprenticeships, to ensure equal opportunities so as to aid the transition to a formal economy and promote productive employment. In that vein, his country was undertaking bold cultural reforms to reduce inequalities, foster well-being and guarantee socioeconomic opportunities for all Ivorians. Legislation, oversight mechanisms and international commitments should converge to help drive development, which would be achieved through two prerequisites for building a harmonious society: respect for all and acceptance of differences.

Development also hinged on peace and security, yet conflicts and their knock-on effects persisted around the world, making life more precarious, especially for the vulnerable, and thwarting efforts to establish social justice – a key conflict prevention tool. The commitment to the fight against inequality and poverty must nonetheless remain. In addition to seeking peace and security, parliamentarians should work collectively for the well-being of their populations through strengthening multilateralism and international solidarity, with the wealthiest countries contributing toward raising living standards in lower-income or crisis-ridden countries. In terms of inter-parliamentary cooperation, experiences and best practices shared could also contribute towards social development and justice. In sum, legislation must be based on social justice driven by parliamentarians to guarantee a fair and equitable world for current and future generations.

**Ms. S. Gafarova** (Azerbaijan) said that social development could be promoted by comprehensively implementing the SDGs without favouring one economic pillar over another; bolstering the welfare State and its protective role through the adoption and amendment of relevant legislation alongside more robust policymaking; and strengthening collective global efforts to achieve such development. In Azerbaijan, laws relating to social development were adopted in line with the related framework defined in its Constitution and evolved through amendments in response to

changing demands. Through its social policy, the country had significantly reduced unemployment and poverty, while its social reform packages had increased the minimum wage, social benefits and pension payments. Its national development strategies were aligned with the SDGs, with a dynamic inclusive society based on social justice identified as one of five priorities.

For 30 years, another priority had been the social inclusion of the many thousands of refugees and persons internally displaced by the Armenian occupation of Azerbaijani territory, which had been widely destroyed. Despite the severe socioeconomic burden, Azerbaijan had met the needs of those refugees and persons after liberating the territory in 2020. Since that time, it had worked hard on rebuilding, clearing mines, restoring economic activity and establishing green projects. The return of thousands of former internally displaced persons to their homes showed the value of an integrated people-centred approach to social development. Lastly, Azerbaijan had demonstrated its commitment to collective efforts in support of social development through its delivery of substantial assistance to over 140 countries in the preceding 5 years.

**Mr. H.A. Al-Ghanim** (Qatar) said that, with implementation lagging far behind, the SDGs were unlikely to be achieved by the 2030 deadline. Poverty, hunger and unemployment persisted and the outlook for peace, security and stability was bleak in light of escalating violence and armed conflict that exacerbated economic crises, food insecurity and displacement. It would take genuine solidarity and better strategic planning to produce the satisfactory international response hitherto lacking. Parliamentarians must nonetheless continue driving social development and justice, which were closely intertwined with the SDGs and, among other things, promoted the values of tolerance, belonging, inclusion and cooperation. Qatar's development plan prioritized all such elements in building a society based on the constitutional pillars of justice, equality, high moral standards and cultural openness. Equally committed to those principles in its pioneering international endeavours, Qatar would host the Second World Summit on Social Development in November 2025.

No discussion around the current theme could overlook the humanitarian tragedy of the Palestinians suffering at the hands of the barbaric Israeli occupation forces. In resuming its hostilities in violation of the January 2025 ceasefire agreement, Israel had killed and injured many thousands, including women and children, in violation of international law. Also involving forced displacement and wholesale destruction, Israeli actions in Gaza were crimes of genocide and ethnic cleansing, yet the international community had done little to stop them. All parliamentarians must assume their historic responsibility to stand on the side of justice and humanity by condemning the Israeli aggression and demanding an end to the massacre.

**Mr. W. Matha** (Thailand) said that, faced with fast-evolving challenges, parliaments were obligated to level the playing field for the marginalized and vulnerable, and create a secure, prosperous, just and inclusive society. To that end, his Parliament's dedication to promoting sustainable development and social justice included ensuring equal rights and opportunities for all. In reaffirming the country's readiness to serve as a leading wellness and medical hub in its region, it would continue working for equitable access to quality health services for all, having already upgraded the existing universal health coverage scheme. It had recently hosted an IPU regional conference on global health security, with successful outcomes, while through legislative initiatives it had contributed towards building a robust foundation for inclusive quality education for all and reduced the loan burden on higher education students.

Parliament was also bolstering climate-related action, including to tackle air pollution and safeguard the right to clean air, and was about to consider a new climate change bill establishing a carbon-pricing mechanism based on the polluter pays principle. It had welcomed the IPU's *Parliaments for the Planet* campaign, undertaking green initiatives under its green agenda to reduce its carbon footprint and embrace a culture of sustainability in all parliamentary operations, such as by expanding green spaces, adopting paperless practices and implementing green procurement through a digital approach. Thailand would resolutely continue its close collaboration with all development partners to enhance human security and accelerate the achievement of the SDGs to build a better world and a promising future for the next generations.

**Mr. D.R. Ghimire** (Nepal) said that his country's journey had taken it from armed conflict to peace, from a unitary to a federal democratic republican system, and from exclusion to inclusivity. Social justice, equality and inclusion were constitutionally guaranteed, with the electoral system likewise ensuring equality and diversity. The Nepalese President and Vice-President, for instance, had to represent different genders and communities. Constitutional commissions were furthermore working actively to institutionalize inclusion and promote the development of a just society. Concerning the

country's new five-year development plan, it was based on the principles of good governance, social justice and prosperity, prioritizing equal access to healthcare, education, employment and housing for all citizens. It sought to reduce poverty, advance gender equality and minimize climate change impacts in line with the SDGs.

Parliamentarians could do much to promote social development and justice through creating appropriate policies; enacting and monitoring the implementation of laws to protect human rights, ensure the equitable distribution of resources and strengthen social security measures; and allocating adequate budgets for vulnerable groups in such spheres as education, healthcare, employment and social security. Parliamentarians could also promote meaningful participation in decision-making by encouraging parliamentary openness to women, youth, indigenous people and marginalized communities; foster international cooperation through parliamentary diplomacy; and help to address challenges that hindered social progress. Climate change was an especially pressing issue for Nepal, which was advocating for climate justice by way of green energy, adaptation and international cooperation and would be hosting a high-level international dialogue in May 2025 to address climate concerns.

**Mr. J.C. Mabuza** (Eswatini) said that his country's strategic focus on sustainable development was critically structured around economic growth, social equity, environmental sustainability, and peace, security and stability. Resource availability had been improved through legislation to strengthen tax collection, the revenue authority, public investment and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises; create an enabling private sector environment; harness employment creation opportunities; and bolster the mining sector. Primary education was free, as was secondary education for orphaned and vulnerable children, who were among the groups eligible for grants, and programmes were in place for women's empowerment, youth and rural development. Women's parliamentary representation had furthermore increased to almost one third in line with the set quota. A parliamentary committee had also been established to fast-track initiatives to address the climate change affecting agriculture, tourism and the environment.

As a peaceful country intolerant of corruption and human rights violations, Eswatini had created human rights and anti-corruption commissions. Its Parliament had also enacted legislation to realize the African Union's Agenda 2063, including in relation to human trafficking and smuggling, sexual offences and domestic violence, and child protection and welfare. Further important legislation in place covered public procurement, public finance management, public service, and corruption, while peace, security and stability were supported by laws on public order, correctional services, and the police service. As well as Agenda 2063, Eswatini was committed to the implementation of the SDGs and related international instruments to eradicate poverty and promote shared prosperity through a unified collective response at all levels.

**Mr. N. Ismoilov** (Uzbekistan) said that his country was working hard to discharge its key task of ensuring rapid economic development, poverty reduction, employment and essential public service delivery. Its Constitution affirmed the commitment to the ideals of equality and social justice, among others, guaranteeing in that context equal rights, including in relation to education, healthcare, favourable work conditions, and social security. The country was carrying out wide-ranging reforms in accordance with the Uzbekistan 2030 strategy and had moreover opened centres for implementing a project involving an innovative social protection system for the inclusion of vulnerable people. One million people to date had also been supported through its comprehensive "From poverty to prosperity" programme, which had more than halved the poverty rate over four years to 11%. School enrolment had furthermore increased substantially, thanks to a sixfold rise in the related funding allocation, and many thousands had been housed, including in newly built residential blocks.

Parliaments played an important role in creating equal opportunities, reducing poverty and increasing dignity. For its part, the Uzbek Parliament endeavoured to pass laws to promote social equality and justice, such as by providing support for large families as well as for vulnerable groups. It was also diligently working to put in place measures to secure decent living standards for all. Uzbekistan stood ready to cooperate in the work of the 150th Assembly and beyond to contribute towards the achievement of social development and justice.

*The sitting rose at 13:25.*

## Sitting of Sunday, 6 April 2025

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 15:05, with Ms. A. Sarangi (India), in the Chair.*

Item 3 of the agenda  
(continued)

**General Debate on the theme *Parliamentary action  
for social development and justice***  
(A/150/3-Inf.1)

### PRESIDING OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENT

**Mr. Y. Koshanov** (Kazakhstan) said that amidst global challenges, including climate change, natural disasters, the rapid ascent of artificial intelligence (AI) and an ongoing economic crisis exacerbated by sanctions, the need for justice was greater than ever. Under such circumstances, the new social contract proposed by UN Secretary-General António Guterres was particularly relevant. It should be based on the core principles of justice and cooperation. Parliaments, as the institutions representing the people, would play a leading role in its implementation. His Government was carrying out systematic political and economic reforms aimed at expanding public engagement in politics, making healthcare and education more inclusive and ensuring the fair distribution of national wealth. Notably, it had established the National Fund for Children. Under that initiative, 50% of the annual investment income of the National Fund of the Republic of Kazakhstan would be distributed to children born after 2006, with the aim of strengthening the financial stability of future generations. To build a strong, inclusive economy, it was essential to provide fair conditions for workers. In that regard, Kazakhstan was actively participating in the Global Coalition for Social Justice led by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and had designated 2025 as the Year of Vocational Professions.

At the international level, Kazakhstan was actively engaging in efforts to implement sustainable development. Its Parliament had adopted the UN Pact for the Future in 2024 and had established a parliamentary commission to monitor the country's implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Moreover, in March 2025, the Kazak President's proposal to host a United Nations (UN) Regional Centre for the Sustainable Development Goals for Central Asia and Afghanistan in Almaty, Kazakhstan had been unanimously approved by the UN General Assembly, making it one of the country's key international strategic projects. Kazakhstan stood ready to collaborate with international partners and parliamentarians from all countries in the name of social development and justice.

**Mr. N. Kurtuluş** (Türkiye) said that in order to ensure development, countries should not just focus on increasing opportunities and access to welfare, but on placing human dignity at the centre of their agendas. Parliamentarians had a fundamental responsibility to advocate for the rights of all individuals and to ensure that the legal and political systems of their countries served all members of society equally. Inequality was deepening throughout the world, with wealth concentrated in the hands of a powerful few while millions were deprived of their most basic rights. Access to information was controlled by tech giants, whose algorithms shaped people's perception of the world, threatening democracy itself. Parliamentarians must intervene in that process in order to halt the weakening of democracy. To promote fair development, States must invest in education, enhance social policies and create a fair economic system, mobilizing all available instruments in that effort.

Many of the challenges currently faced by the world transcended national borders and therefore required global solutions. Parliamentarians must adopt a truly global approach, working together across borders to enhance peace, dialogue and cooperation between countries, and uphold the principles of parliamentary democracy. The collective global failure to prevent the killing of more than 50,000 civilians in Gaza, in one of the greatest genocides the world had ever seen, demonstrated that the challenges of today's world could not be solved using tried and tested methods. He called on all delegates to come together to build a new global order with a fairer and more equitable economic system.

**Ms. N. Kochanova** (Belarus) said that, in the current global context of wars, hostility, arms races and increased military spending, the demand for social justice was greater than ever. Social justice, social responsibility and people's fundamental human rights were increasingly being undermined by certain countries in their pursuit of global dominance. Moreover, income inequality, which was often based on gender, was leading to growing social imbalances between and within countries. In such a time of crisis, parliamentarians must defend socioeconomic human rights, advocate for justice and solidarity, and promote peace and stability at the global level. Parliaments should pass legislation aimed at protecting citizens' rights, ensuring social equality, providing decent living standards, supporting vulnerable groups and promoting sustainable societal development.

Belarus had always put the interests of the people at the heart of its State policy and sought to adopt laws that were fair and inclusive. It had achieved a great deal since its independence, becoming a truly sovereign State in which access to healthcare, clean drinking water, quality food and education was enjoyed by all citizens.

Social development and justice, as well as the achievement of the SDGs, required global cooperation. Parliamentarians must actively engage with one another, building a network of solidarity to share best practices. To that end, she proposed that an informal association – the Group of Friends for Peaceful and Constructive Development – be created within the IPU, as a new avenue for inter-parliamentary diplomacy. It was also important for States to collectively redirect military spending towards key social areas such as healthcare, education, the protection of mothers and children, and support for vulnerable groups. She urged parliaments to unite around those goals to promote peace, security and development in the long term.

**Mr. H. Gebaly** (Egypt) said that the security, stability and cohesion of societies depended on the establishment of solid foundations for social development and justice; their absence constituted a serious threat to world peace. The deteriorating state of global justice required urgent attention. Its eroding credibility was exemplified by the world's failure to halt the horrific crimes of genocide and ethnic cleansing that were being perpetrated in Palestine by the Israeli occupation in an attempt to displace Palestinians from their land, in violation of their legitimate, inalienable rights.

Egypt's ambitious Vision 2030 sought to place social justice at the heart of the country's development agenda and to build a just and cohesive society based on equal economic, social and political rights. Social justice had been embodied in several key pieces of legislation, namely the Social Solidarity Law, which sought to unify the State's cash support programmes into a single programme and to safeguard the rights of the most vulnerable groups; the draft Labour Law, which guaranteed effective legal protection for workers and prohibited arbitrary dismissal; and the Foreign Asylum Law, which outlined the rights of refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt, in compliance with the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

In light of the grave and escalating challenges currently facing the world, urgent national and international parliamentary action was needed to reduce economic gaps and inequalities, eradicate poverty, achieve sustainable development and strengthen social safety nets.

**Mr. S. Nguema Owono** (Equatorial Guinea) said that, as the representatives of the people, parliamentarians had a responsibility to leverage their legislative, budgetary and oversight functions to make social development and social justice a reality from which all citizens benefitted. To that end, they must prioritize the eradication of poverty, the provision of access to decent work and the promotion of social inclusion.

The Parliament of Equatorial Guinea was implementing policies to promote social development and social justice. Priority areas included support for persons with disabilities, education of children from low socioeconomic backgrounds, and comprehensive support for women and girls' access to education. Notably, in 2021, the Parliament had approved a new labour law that introduced social rights for workers, including the right to fair working conditions and the right to be registered in the social security system. Finally, he wished to draw attention to some efforts led by the First Lady of Equatorial Guinea, which had resulted in the construction of modern school facilities and healthcare centres, and the launch of programmes to promote women's empowerment and child protection.

**Mr. D.L. Keorapetse** (Botswana) said that, as one of the youngest delegates in attendance, he embodied the idea that democracy renewed itself when given a chance to do so. Botswana held an impeccable record as the only African country to have maintained a multi-party democracy since gaining its independence. In November 2024, his country had undergone a historic democratic transition: after almost six decades under the Botswana Democratic Party, the people had demanded change and power had been smoothly and peacefully transferred to the opposition, the Umbrella for

Democratic Change. That process evidenced the consolidation and maturity of Botswana's democracy, in sharp contrast to the unconstitutional changes of government elsewhere on the continent. Botswana's Government was committed to nurturing democracy through robust democratic reforms to ensure that it was a government for the many and not the few.

Following the 2024 elections, the number of women MPs had fallen to 9%. That disappointing statistic served as a reminder of the urgent need to implement electoral reforms towards the IPU's important goal of achieving gender equality among MPs. On a more positive note, approximately 36% of MPs were young parliamentarians. Botswana's Parliament was committed to providing transformative legislation to uplift marginalized groups; putting in place monitoring systems to curb corruption; implementing robust capacity-building for MPs; promoting parliamentary diplomacy to forge global alliances; and placing human rights at the centre of the country's foreign policy.

In the words of Nelson Mandela, what counted in life was not the mere fact that we had lived but the difference we had made to the lives of others. In that spirit, he called on parliamentarians to proactively enact laws that promoted the economic empowerment of citizens; generated employment, entrepreneurship and skills development; facilitated access to finance, technology and markets; and created equal opportunities for women and girls in all areas.

**Ms. D. Gulmanova** (Turkmenistan) said that the UN General Assembly's historic resolution to recognize the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan, adopted on 21 March 2025, together with its endorsement of Turkmenistan's proposal to make 2025 the Year of Peace and Trust, testified to the broad global support enjoyed by her country in its efforts to expand cooperation between States.

Turkmenistan attached great importance to social development and justice. Over 75% of its State budget was allocated to the social sector. Salaries and social welfare payments had been increased. In the area of child protection, the Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov Charitable Foundation provided medical assistance to children in need of guardianship, in cooperation with international organizations. To mark the fourth anniversary of the Foundation, in March 2025, Turkmenistan had hosted an international conference on the theme of the development of activities for the protection of children.

Turkmenistan's status as a permanently neutral country directly informed its foreign policy. At the recent conference on interregional economic cooperation and sustainable development, hosted by Turkmenistan within the framework of the International Year of Peace and Trust, the President had asserted his firm belief that peace, trust, equality and mutual benefit should form the basis of economic cooperation. Turkmenistan stood ready to cooperate with other States by implementing its policy of mutual neutrality and its open-door economic strategy. She concluded by inviting parliamentarians to participate in the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, which would be held in Turkmenistan in August 2025.

**Mr. A. Al Musallam** (Bahrain) said that social justice was one of the main pillars of economic development, alongside environmental protection and climate action. States must come together to discuss those topics to develop a global vision centred around social justice ahead of the Second World Summit for Social Development later that year.

Citizens of Bahrain enjoyed a wide range of social and legal services, as well as access to healthcare, basic education and social protections. Cash handouts were available to families, widowed and divorced women, the elderly, people with disabilities, unemployed persons and orphans. Bahrain's social protection system focused on the most vulnerable members of society. In that connection, a number of initiatives had been launched to provide protection and opportunities to people with disabilities. Moreover, in its fight against poverty, Bahrain had developed tools to support low-income persons and families. Those included the Award for the Encouragement of Productive Families, which sought to support families with limited livelihoods and turn them into productive units; the Family Microfinance House, which provided micro-loans to families with limited income; and a fund for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, under which recipients could receive loans of up to 100,000 Bahraini dinars. Bahrain was a pioneer in healthcare, providing free, universal health coverage to all residents in the country, in line with the third SDG.

Underscoring his country's unwavering support for the Palestinian people, he called for the recognition of Palestine as a sovereign State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in line with the two-State solution and the Arab Peace Initiative. That was the only way to ensure lasting peace in the region. Social justice and development could only be achieved through the promotion of peaceful coexistence, dialogue and diplomacy.

**Ms. A.T. Didiza** (South Africa) said that 30 years on from the landmark World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, China, much progress had been made to boost women's representation in parliament as well as their access to education and legal protection. In that context, the IPU's decision to host an annual conference of women parliamentarians was particularly welcome. Nevertheless, more work remained to be done. Wars and conflicts disproportionately affected women and children, and gender-based violence had increased unabated. Parliamentarians should use their parliamentary power to bring about peace, which was critical to social development.

The world continued to be defined by immense inequality, with 1% of the world's population holding a disproportionate share of global wealth. That situation was further exacerbated in certain countries in which a small affluent minority held more wealth than 90% of the population. Moreover, soaring interest rates meant that debt levels continued to rise in developing countries, pushing many towards crisis and forcing them to choose between paying off debts and investing in vital areas such as clean energy, education, health and infrastructure. That situation had been further worsened by trade wars, which had intensified global economic instability and disproportionately affected the most vulnerable regions.

Despite facing challenges, South Africa had come a long way in fostering unity and ensuring equal opportunities for all citizens. As part of that effort, it had implemented several key pieces of legislation – namely, the Employment Equity Amendment Act, the Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment Act and the Expropriation Act – with the aim of bringing justice to historically disadvantaged groups. Various institutions had been established to promote accountability, responsiveness and openness, including the South African Human Rights Commission, the Office of the Public Protector and the Commission for Gender Equality. The upcoming Second World Summit for Social Development would be an opportunity for States to embark on a new path, prioritizing enhanced social protection systems, promotion of digital inclusion, investment in sustainable infrastructure, protection of biodiversity and commitment to achieving gender parity in all sectors.

**Mr. A. Farrugia** (Malta) said that, over the course of his 30 years in parliament, he had learned the importance of placing people at the heart of politics. Social justice, which hinged on the creation and enforcement of effective laws, must remain high on the agendas of parliaments. It must never be considered in the abstract, but guided by clear, universal principles.

Malta had a robust social security system which, among other things, contributed to strengthening social justice in the country. Public spending on social development was always money well spent. Parliaments must therefore ensure that budgets were available to support those most in need. A country's success should not be determined by its gross domestic product (GDP) alone; factors such as respect for human rights and gender equality should also be taken into account. A strong economy was not an end in itself but an opportunity for wealth to be fairly distributed among the population.

Combatting gender-based discrimination was another important aspect of social development. In that regard, in order to address the underrepresentation of women, a gender-corrective mechanism had been added to the Maltese Constitution in 2021. It had resulted in an additional 12 female MPs being appointed during the last election, bringing the total number of female MPs to 22, approximately one third of all MPs. Moreover, in 2022, the crime of femicide had been added to the country's criminal code.

He concluded by recalling that parliamentarians had a duty to use their functions to the best of their ability to improve the well-being of citizens.

**Mr. S.Y.R. Gilani** (Pakistan) said that the IPU had long stood as a beacon of parliamentary diplomacy, cooperation and global governance. Parliamentarians were responsible for building a world in which justice, equality and human dignity were not mere ideals, but a tangible reality for all. Pakistan was committed to inclusive governance, social welfare and people-centred development. In the face of rising inequality, economic disparity, terrorism and global instability, it was leveraging legislative reforms, social programmes and international cooperation to create a more just and equitable society.

In Pakistan, social safety nets such as the Benazir Income Support Programme provided economic relief to millions of vulnerable citizens. Universal healthcare initiatives were expanding access to medical care for all segments of society. Labour reforms continued to boost the protection of workers' rights. Notably, Pakistan had launched the National Coalition for Social Justice to promote fair economic policies, stronger labour rights and inclusive social protection, prioritizing marginalized groups such as women, persons with disabilities and informal workers. Moreover, women and youth empowerment remained central to the country's agenda.

Pakistan fully supported the UN Secretary-General's call for a new social contract centred on equity, universal protections and expanded decision-making for underrepresented groups. In the face of migration, climate change and digital transformation, which were shaping societies in unprecedented ways, it was essential to strengthen South-South cooperation, share best practices and create more inclusive global economic policies. The barbaric genocides in Palestine and Kashmir showed that the world was at a crossroads: world leaders could continue to uphold the status quo or choose to shape a future in which justice was not a privilege but a fundamental right for all. Parliaments must take the lead in that effort, working together to build a future rooted in dignity, equity and shared prosperity.

**Mr. A. Teshager Gessesse** (Ethiopia) said that most of the SDGs, including those related to key areas such as education, energy, clean water, healthcare, zero hunger and gender equality, were far from being achieved. Amidst rising levels of inequality, poverty and youth unemployment, it was vital that development was people-centred and sought to address structural inequalities. Parliaments played a key role in that effort.

Ethiopia had made significant progress in achieving its ambitious 10-Year Development Plan, which was fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and the African Union's Agenda 2063. Poverty in the country had declined from 23.5% in 2015/16 to 19% in 2019/20. Notable progress had also been made in achieving universal access to healthcare, education and clean energy. Forty billion seedlings had been planted under the country's flagship Green Legacy Initiative, which sought to mitigate the adverse impact of climate change and increase food security. The Ethiopian Parliament could have a decisive impact on the success of such sustainable development efforts by progressively increasing the budgets allocated to the relevant programmes and by passing national laws and ratifying agreements that promoted employment and public and private investment in social development.

In short, achieving sustainable development required a whole-of-government approach, in which parliaments played a leading role. He called on all Member States, the IPU and development partners to come together to address underdevelopment in all parts of the world.

*Ms. D. Gulmanova (Turkmenistan) took the Chair.*

**Mr. K. Al Maawali** (Oman) said that social development and justice were the cornerstone of policies in his country. The recently adopted Social Protection Law was a fully integrated plan that sought to ensure that all citizens enjoyed a dignified life. Social welfare nets were in place to support the most vulnerable. Of paramount importance, women's rights were also factored into the country's development plans and programmes. Oman Vision 2040 had been launched with the aim of achieving balanced economic development, creating a society based on partnership, empowering citizens to become the driving force of development, enhancing protection of vulnerable groups such as children and persons with disabilities, and contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.

The genocide that Israel was committing in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territory could not be absent from the discussion on social development and cooperation. In Palestine, infrastructure had been obliterated, economic life had been completely paralysed, and disease was rife. Two thirds of the victims of the conflict were women and children. The occupying force's total disregard for human rights and international law had rendered it impossible for Palestine to honour its obligations to citizens in the area of social development. He urged the international community to pledge their support to the Palestinian cause to restore peace and stability in the country. Finally, he underscored the importance of enhancing international cooperation so that all people could enjoy prosperity and well-being.

**Ms. N.B.K. Mutti** (Zambia) said that legislators played a crucial role in fostering social development, promoting justice, holding governments to account and championing policies in the areas of social welfare, poverty reduction, education, healthcare, employment, gender equality and social inclusion.

Poverty remained a critical global challenge. Despite notable progress, the rate of poverty reduction had slowed significantly since 2020. It was saddening to note that nearly 700 million people lived on less than US\$ 2.15 per day, with three quarters of those experiencing extreme poverty residing in sub-Saharan Africa. In Zambia, approximately 54% of the population lived below the poverty line. Zambia had affirmed its unwavering commitment to the principles enshrined in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, notably through initiatives such as its Social Cash Transfer programme, which provided support to vulnerable groups. Furthermore, the Zambian Government had expanded social safety nets and investments in agriculture modernization.

To promote social inclusion, in 2024, her Government had decentralized the Constituency Development Fund, a tool to facilitate the delivery of public development, goods and services to local communities. The significant increase in the Fund's budget – which had risen from 30.6 million Zambian kwacha per constituency in 2024 to 36.1 million Zambian kwacha per constituency in 2025 – had led to unprecedented development in community projects for school facilities; health clinics; water supply systems; youth, women and community empowerment; and skills development bursaries. Further efforts to promote social inclusion in the country included the introduction of free schooling until grade 12, as well as the establishment of the Farmer Input Support Programme, which sought to improve access to agricultural inputs and financial resources for small-scale farmers. Her country had also implemented several laws to address discrimination and promote equality in the workplace.

Parliaments played a critical role in advancing social welfare, ensuring economic opportunities and protecting human rights. It was imperative for parliamentarians to remain proactive, enacting progressive laws to address emerging challenges, promoting inclusive policies and holding governments to account.

**Mr. A. Ohana** (Israel) said that today, the main conflict was not between faiths or peoples, but between moderates and radicals – those driven by hope and those fuelled by hate. Israel was a traumatized nation that had risen from the ashes of the Holocaust after 2000 years of exile, pogroms and persecution. The sole wish of the Israeli people was to live peacefully in their ancestral homeland. Israel had extended its hands in peace to all its neighbours, only to be attacked on multiple fronts. Although outnumbered, Israel had prevailed. His country had forged peace with its neighbours and, with the signing of the Abraham Accords, had expanded its circle of peace to an additional four Arab Muslim countries.

However, progress had been brought to a halt by the brutal attack on 7 October 2023, the darkest day for Jewish people since the Holocaust. Since then, Israel had been fighting a seven-front war of survival, which could only end with its elimination of Hamas, the safe return of all Israeli hostages and the restoration of security. Hamas was a threat to the entire world; it did not just have its eyes set on Jerusalem, but on many of the world's capitals, and it would not stop until it had killed all the Jews in Israel. Yet, the very institutions that claimed to carry the banner of justice – the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice – had betrayed their mandates by choosing to target those who fought terrorism. Countries that had recognized the State of Palestine in the aftermath of 7 October were essentially condoning terrorism. In order to restore peace in the region, people of all faiths – Muslims, Christians and Jews alike – must unite against the evil Ayatollah regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The world had two choices: to pursue a future of peaceful coexistence or one of terror, death and devastation.

**Mr. S. Papuashvili** (Georgia) said that despite the challenging global context, Georgia had managed to maintain peace and stability in the country, enabling it to focus on economic and social development. As a result, it had enjoyed steady economic growth in recent years. It saw economic growth as a way to reduce poverty, promote social well-being and strengthen national security and regional peace. Georgia was among the top 20 countries in Europe in the Heritage Foundation 2025 Index of Economic Freedom, testifying to its robust justice system, respect for the rule of law and effective State institutions.

His country was committed to ensuring that social development enhanced the well-being of all citizens. Family support was at the centre of Georgia's social development agenda: dedicated social security programmes had been developed to support families experiencing hardship, and increased financial support was available for maternal and childcare services. Laws had been introduced to tackle all forms of discrimination and to strengthen oversight mechanisms for the protection of workers' rights. Georgia had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and enhanced the social support available to citizens with disabilities. It had also dedicated significant efforts to the integration of internally displaced persons from Russian-occupied territories, implementing various support programmes, including for the provision of housing.

As well as legislating, parliaments were responsible for ensuring that laws were effectively implemented. Georgia therefore prioritized transparency, strengthening anti-corruption measures and building a strong system of parliamentary accountability. Establishing a new social contract based on global cooperation was essential to addressing the challenges of social development and social justice. Such a contract must make domestic and global peace a priority, favouring diplomatic conflict resolution over militaristic approaches. It must be based on democratic governance, accountability and transparency; promote people-centred economic growth; and encompass environmental sustainability to move towards a green economy. Georgia stood ready to collaborate with the international community to support efforts in that direction.

**Mr. M. Nadir** (Guyana) said that his country had a robust legal and policy framework for social development and justice. The fundamental rights and freedoms enjoyed by citizens were enshrined in the Constitution, notably article 159, which guaranteed protection against discrimination based on race, sex, gender and social origin, as well as in key pieces of legislation such as the Public Assistance Act, the Old Age Pension Act, the National Insurance and Social Security Act, the Education Act, the Labour Act, the Equal Pay Act and the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Guyana had continued to strengthen its legislative frameworks, with many new acts adopted in recent years. Those included the 2024 Family Violence Act, which expanded protections against various forms of abuse; the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill 2024, which aimed to establish a strong framework against sexual harassment; the Adoption of Children (Amendment) Act 2021, which aligned Guyana with the Hague Convention on Parental Responsibility and Protection of Children; the Combatting of Trafficking in Persons Act 2023, which introduced comprehensive measures to prevent and combat human trafficking and enhanced extraterritorial jurisdiction; the amended Environmental Protection Act; and the Public Health Ordinance, which provided citizens with free access to health care services.

**Mr. S. Dorji** (Bhutan) said that the theme *Parliamentary action for social development and justice* was particularly timely in an era marked by growing social inequalities, economic disparities and environmental challenges. Guided by its philosophy of Gross National Happiness, which underpinned all legislative action, Bhutan believed that development should be holistic, balancing economic growth with social well-being, environmental sustainability and cultural preservation, and that progress should be measured by the happiness and well-being of citizens, not just economic indicators.

Bhutan had made significant progress in social development: citizens enjoyed free, universal health coverage and free education up to the tertiary level, and poverty had been reduced from 24% to 12.4% in two decades. The country's swift and compassionate response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which had comprised free vaccination, economic relief and protection for vulnerable groups, demonstrated its deep commitment to equality, solidarity and shared responsibility. As a carbon-negative country and the leader of the G-ZERO initiative, Bhutan remained steadfast in its pursuit of environmental justice. Bhutan welcomed the IPU 2025 theme of advancing gender equality, which was both timely and urgent. Despite significant progress, challenges remained in ensuring full gender parity in political, economic and social spheres. To bridge that gap, Bhutan was strengthening its gender policies, enhancing support for women entrepreneurs and expanding programmes to boost female leadership at all levels. Recognizing that young people were key actors in shaping more just and inclusive societies, Bhutan was investing in initiatives to foster youth entrepreneurship, civic engagement and leadership.

Bhutan was pioneering innovative approaches to sustainable and mindful development, one of which was the Gelephu Mindfulness City. It was intended to be a hub of well-being, environmental harmony and economic opportunity and to serve as a model for sustainable urban development, combining cutting-edge technology with traditional values.

Bhutan remained committed to multilateralism and parliamentary cooperation. He expressed his firm hope that parliamentarians would make the most of the current IPU Assembly to learn from one another and innovate together in order to build a world anchored in justice and dignity.

**Mr. J. Wickramaratne** (Sri Lanka) said that his country was at a pivotal moment in its history. The newly elected Parliament of 2024 marked a significant departure from the political oligarchies that had dominated Sri Lanka for decades. Open economic policies had led to economic crisis and significant imbalances in national income distribution, which had been exacerbated by the unregulated trade and market policies implemented by previous governments. Economic recovery must be pursued alongside inclusive growth, equity and protection of human rights.

In its 2025 national budget, the Sri Lankan Parliament had prioritized social protection, healthcare, education, gender inclusivity, had improved government mechanisms, and had increased financial support for low-income families, elderly citizens and persons with disabilities. The health budget had been significantly increased to 604,000 million Sri Lankan rupees with the aim of upgrading medical facilities, ensuring the supply of essential medicine, promoting the digitization of the healthcare system and improving the provision of mental health services. In the area of education, Parliament was focusing on upgrading school infrastructure and investing in vocational training programmes for the most vulnerable communities. Resources had also been allocated to supporting orphaned children and children in care to ensure their access to housing, education and vocational

training. Parliament had launched initiatives to prevent violence against women, empower female entrepreneurs and support working mothers. It had prioritized the enactment of the Proceeds of Crime Bill to curb corruption. In the area of environmental sustainability, the Clean Sri Lanka initiative promoted proper waste management, urban sanitation and conservation projects.

Parliamentarians had a responsibility to transform parliamentary processes into tangible progress for citizens, paving the way for social justice and sustainable development through well-structured policies, inclusive budgeting and transparent governance.

**Mr. F. Jitoko** (Fiji) said that his country remained committed to advancing social inclusion and leveraging technology to bridge gaps in society. Fiji's journey to parliamentary democracy had not been without difficulties, yet it had continued to make significant progress in rebuilding its democratic institutions, restoring political stability and actively promoting citizens' engagement in the democratic process. The Fijian Parliament had embedded a gender-based analysis into its legislative processes and it was mainstreaming the SDGs into parliamentary committee activities as a means of oversight. Two significant bills – the Child Justice Bill and the Child Care and Protection Bill – had been enacted in 2024 as part of the country's initiative to reform legal frameworks in the area of child protection and family welfare.

Investment in information technology (IT) infrastructure and digital tools was vital to promoting social inclusion by bridging divides, creating opportunities for marginalized communities and ensuring the growth of parliamentary democracy. Fiji had made substantial investment in the IT infrastructure of its Parliament to make it easier for remote communities to access its parliamentary processes. The new hybrid system permitted live-streaming and two-way virtual communication between parliamentarians, stakeholders and citizens. Moreover, parliamentary proceedings were broadcast on the free Parliament TV channel with multi-language translation and captioning to enable citizens to follow proceedings in the country's vernacular languages. He noted with satisfaction that, in the IPU *World e-Parliament Report 2024*, Fiji had scored 7 out of 10 in the digital maturity index. His country remained committed to leveraging technology to ensure that all Fijians might actively engage in the parliamentary process.

As the new host of the Regional Hub for the Pacific, Fiji would help Pacific parliaments to be more efficient and effective in their work and to be more open and transparent to citizens. The Fijian Parliament remained committed to advancing digital transformation, fostering public engagement, promoting transparency and strengthening good governance in the Pacific region.

**Ms. V. Matvienko** (Russian Federation) said that the need for equality and mutual respect was greater than ever. The current unipolar world order, and the attempts by some countries to impose their values on others, were incompatible with social justice and development. Most of the issues on the international agenda arose from a persisting neo-colonial legacy that perpetuated inequality between nations. Some countries were prioritizing their well-being and prosperity at the expense of the rest of the world, thereby jeopardizing food and energy security, undermining other countries' access to financial resources and representation in international bodies, and ultimately laying the groundwork for regional conflicts.

Western countries had their own geopolitical agenda in Ukraine. They had spent hundreds of billions of dollars on weapons for the Kyiv regime to inflict a strategic defeat on the Russian Federation, while refusing all proposals to peacefully resolve the conflict. It seemed that serving the interests of the defence industry was their priority. Sanctions and disrupted supply chains negatively affected the global economy, endangering food security. With such behaviour, Europe risked provoking a third world war.

The repression against the Russian Federation, which faced an unprecedented number of restrictions, had ultimately failed: the Russian economy had withstood the pressure, rebuilt itself and found new markets. Now, the Russian Federation generated higher growth rates than the very countries sanctioning it. Those countries faced higher inflation and higher energy prices. Despite unprecedented and inhumane sanctions, the Russian Federation remained a reliable trading partner. It was eager to ensure that its agricultural products and fertilizers could once again be traded on the global market.

A multipolar world order, based on principles of inclusivity and equality, was urgently required. Parliamentarians must stand together to advocate for open dialogue and call for the lifting of all restrictive measures and illegitimate unilateral sanctions. Only by working together could States make tangible progress in the area of social justice and development and they must therefore unite for the benefit of the international community.

*Ms. P. Glover Rolle (Bahamas) took the Chair.*

**Mr. R. González Patricio** (Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO)) said that social justice had been somewhat absent from discussions on social development and justice. Even the UN Pact for the Future had failed to mention it. Achieving social justice meant tackling the root causes of inequality and poverty, promoting equal opportunities and ensuring access to basic rights for all. Growing economic inequality prevented equal access to resources and opportunities, endangering social justice. Moreover, climate change, unemployment, poverty, discrimination, violence and the weakening of multilateral cooperation disproportionately affected the most vulnerable, making it difficult to fight inequality and promote social justice at the global level. Parliamentarians must take urgent, collective action in favour of social justice and social development, democracy, multilateralism and peace.

Force and unilateral coercive measures were increasingly being used, in violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. The Latin American and Caribbean region had long been a victim of external aggressions. Recently, the Government of the United States had threatened to take over the Panama Canal. Moreover, the violation of the rights of Latin American and Caribbean migrants in the United States was becoming more frequent. The six decades of economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba, as well as the multiple unilateral measures imposed on other countries in the region, testified to the prevailing injustice in international economic relations. Each of those measures constituted an unjustified violation of the people's right to development.

Social development and social justice required a favourable environment, yet international peace and security were being increasingly undermined. The genocide of Palestinians continued with impunity and the number of civilian victims of conflict was increasing. While the Latin American and the Caribbean region strove to be a zone of peace, many countries seemed indifferent to the threat of nuclear war, with defence budgets rising across Europe. Climate change disproportionately affected developing countries, significantly reducing their ability to advance sustainable development. In order to accelerate the implementation of the international climate change agenda, he invited all parliaments to participate in the constitution of the Parliamentary Alliance for Climate Action and Just Transition, which would be held in Panama on 4 and 5 June 2025.

PARLATINO joined its voice to the call for an egalitarian, multipolar world, based on an inclusive and mutually beneficial global economic system that met the demands of all countries, especially developing ones.

**Mr. N. Turgunbek Uulu** (Kyrgyzstan) said that, as a democratic State, Kyrgyzstan consistently upheld the principles of social justice in its domestic and foreign policy. In 2007, at the initiative of Kyrgyzstan, the UN General Assembly had declared 20 February as the World Day of Social Justice. Moreover, as a current member of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), his country actively promoted human rights issues on the world stage.

The Parliament of Kyrgyzstan played a key role in drafting and adopting laws aimed at protecting citizens' rights, reducing social inequality and ensuring inclusive development. In recent years, significant progress had been made in strengthening social justice: legislation in the fields of health and education had been bolstered, ensuring equal access for all members of society, including those residing in remote mountainous regions, and special attention was being paid to gender-equality issues. To ensure social development, parliaments must adopt effective legislation in the areas of education, healthcare, employment and social protection and monitor their implementation. That was the most effective way to improve citizens' living conditions and invest in the long-term future of the country.

In the current challenging global context of growing economic instability and social inequality, the role of parliaments had never been more important. Legislative bodies must be a force for change and a platform for open dialogue and decision-making to promote social cohesion and justice. By working together, parliaments could develop effective solutions for the achievement of the SDGs and build a more just world. Social justice and development required steadfast commitment, wisdom and political will.

**Mr. F. Idizoda** (Tajikistan) said that parliamentarians had a duty to find just and fair solutions to the multiple social, economic, climatic and geopolitical challenges facing the world. Social justice and development were not just pillars of national stability but imperatives of strong international stability and cooperation. They formed the basis of Tajikistan's State policy, as demonstrated by the numerous reforms that had been implemented to eradicate poverty and enhance access to education, healthcare, clean water and other important resources. His Parliament was developing programmes to

protect the rights of vulnerable groups such as women, children, retired people and those residing in remote mountainous regions. It was supporting national strategies for sustainable development, promoting initiatives to create employment opportunities for young people, and engaging in efforts to reduce unemployment.

**Mr. P. De Roover** (Belgium) said that while the Copenhagen Declaration and the SDGs had set ambitious targets for social development, it was important to recognize the limits of governmental action and acknowledge that many past policies for social development had inadvertently created dependency, discouraged citizen initiative and weakened the very social fabric that they had been designed to strengthen. Despite increases in public expenditure, many Western nations, including his own, were experiencing growing challenges such as rising debt, overburdened public services, crime in major cities and an economic environment that discouraged entrepreneurship and self-reliance. He questioned whether dependency on the State was sustainable or desirable.

The liberalization of trade and market rules, while not without problems, had generated enormous wealth and lifted millions of people out of poverty. Centrally planned economies, on the other hand, had a tendency to fail. Similarly, in the realm of social inclusion, States should be wary of approaches that sought to divide rather than unite; policies should be directed towards ensuring equal opportunity, not equal outcome. Social safety nets were vital to supporting those in need, promoting public investment and ensuring a level playing field, but States must be mindful to strike the right balance to ensure that government intervention did not become a hindrance.

## FIRST SPEAKERS FROM DELEGATIONS

**Mr. B.O. Kalu** (Nigeria) said that in his country, social development was a fundamental pillar that guided all public policy. Recognizing the intrinsic link between social development and sustainable development, Nigeria placed people firmly at the centre of its development agenda. Sustainable development must be inclusive, seeking to bridge the gaps between privileged and underprivileged members of society and ensuring that progress was measured not only in economic terms, but in the quality of life of citizens.

The path to sustainable social development was not without hurdles. Africa's huge debt burden, which put public finances under considerable strain and limited the resources available for social development, was not an excuse for inaction. Instead, it demanded innovative fiscal policies, debt restructuring and greater support from the global community. The stark historical and contemporary disparities between the Global North and the Global South, as well as the immense challenges that Africa had had to overcome, must be taken into account in attempts to measure progress in social development. While the continent had advanced significantly in recent years, a considerable amount of work remained to be done. The countries of the Global North, which had historically benefited from the economic status quo, bore a responsibility to contribute to rectifying the imbalances that persisted. The pursuit of global justice obliged them to strengthen their commitment to international cooperation, fair trade practices and targeted investment in social infrastructure.

Nigeria had taken decisive steps to promote sustainable social development and justice. One of the key pillars of its decentralization strategy had been the establishment of regional development commissions, which were tasked with channelling resources to where they were most needed and tailoring policies to the unique challenges and opportunities of each region. The country had passed key pieces of legislation, such as the Student Loan Act 2024, which made higher education accessible to underprivileged students; the National Health Insurance Act 2022, which expanded health coverage; and the Not Too Young to Run Act, which facilitated the participation of youth in politics. National commissions had been established in a number of areas to support the most vulnerable members of society. The Government was studying five new bills to promote women's inclusion and representation in parliament, and it had enhanced funding for the Ministry of Women Affairs. Moreover, in 2024, the minimum wage had been increased by 12.9%, laying the foundation for a more dynamic and productive economy. Progressive tax reforms had been implemented with the aim of ensuring that those who benefited most from the nation's economic activities contributed their fair share. Those reforms would help to fund the country's expanding portfolio of social services and infrastructure projects.

He called on all delegates to reaffirm their shared commitment to a new social contract – one that placed people at the centre of every decision and prioritized robust oversight and accountability.

**Ms. L.R. Magnúsdóttir** (Iceland) said that governments must pursue social development and social justice in order to build a future in which all children and young people had a chance to flourish. States could not achieve the SDGs without first addressing armed conflict, poverty and social inequality. Instead of centring their efforts on the economy or the environment, States must ensure that all children had equal access to opportunities, healthcare, education and social welfare. SDG 4 – on quality education, SDG 5 – on gender equality, and SDG 10 – on reducing inequalities, were particularly important in that regard. To ensure that no child was left behind, the Icelandic Government was strengthening the country's welfare system, promoting gender equality and advancing the rights of children with disabilities and children from marginalized groups. By investing in the health and education of children, Iceland was not only safeguarding their well-being but also securing the future of society as a whole.

It was important to ensure that children could engage in political and social affairs and that their voices were heard. Children were the most vulnerable to the impact of climate change; governments had a responsibility to provide them with an environment that was both safe and sustainable. States must make a collective effort to strengthen the rights of children globally and to ensure that they were active participants in efforts to build a just and sustainable future for all.

**Mr. R. Gamarra** (Paraguay) said that his Government had recently passed a law guaranteeing universal access to free school meals for all children in Paraguay. That law, known as Zero Hunger, was grounded in the firm belief that hunger was the most pressing social justice issue facing the world. There could be no social justice in a country in which children arrived at school hungry. Social justice often began with the most basic: a warm meal, decent food and a childhood free from hunger. Parliamentarians had a duty to translate electoral promises into tangible realities and that was what Paraguay had done with its Zero Hunger programme.

**Ms. J. Pejović** (Montenegro) said that parliamentarians must come together to build a world in which future generations would not only survive but thrive. The world was currently experiencing politically turbulent times, marked by uncertainty, conflict and a growing disconnect between peoples and nations. In such times, dialogue was a necessity. Forums like the IPU gave States a rare and vital opportunity to listen to one another, build mutual understanding and recognize their shared humanity. As representatives of the people, she urged delegates to act with courage and vision to create a legacy that future generations would be proud of.

**Ms. S. Paunović** (Serbia) said that social development was not just a matter of economic progress, it was also about advancing social and cultural values and reducing poverty, inequality and discrimination. While her country was committed to enhancing human rights, social justice and environmental protection, many of the challenges currently facing the world, such as poverty, climate change and conflict, required a joint response. Parliamentary cooperation was central to the fight against poverty, which was the most pressing issue on the world's agenda. Within that effort, parliamentarians must enact economic, social, political and educational reforms and work towards securing a living wage for all citizens. Parliamentary action was also crucial in strengthening social inclusion. It was particularly important to improve the representation of women, youth and other marginalized groups in political and other spheres. States must build a new social contract, redirecting the focus of the world's existing political, economic and social systems towards long-term sustainability, equality and global cooperation. Global issues such as poverty, climate change and conflict demanded a joint response. Only through global cooperation, respect for human rights, preservation of territorial integrity and protection of the environment could States build a just and sustainable world for future generations.

The IPU provided parliamentarians with a platform for dialogue and the exchange of experiences and good practices, helping them to build a more inclusive and just society. Serbia was looking forward to supporting that effort by hosting the Second Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians in March 2026.

**Ms. K. Daugaard** (Denmark) said that Denmark had a model social welfare system: healthcare was free at the point of service for all citizens; education was free from primary school to university; and social housing programmes were in place to ensure that all citizens had access to safe, affordable housing. Social protection was central to Denmark's poverty eradication strategy, which was aimed at the most vulnerable populations. In Denmark, older citizens benefitted from a universal pension scheme; people with disabilities received financial support and tools to help them integrate into the workforce; and support for children was available in the form of State-funded childcare and child allowances.

Denmark had a system of progressive taxation in which individuals with higher incomes contributed more, ensuring that wealth could be redistributed to support the social welfare system, funding critical services while reducing the gap between the rich and the poor. As for employment, all workers enjoyed fair wages and working conditions and labour laws were designed to protect workers' rights. Denmark was a strong proponent of the social and solidarity economy. The Government supported the community-driven projects proposed by cooperatives, social enterprises and mutual aid societies.

Denmark had made significant progress in advancing social inclusion. It had implemented anti-discrimination laws that promoted equal opportunities for all, regardless of race, gender or disability, and it promoted broad-based access to digitalization and technology development, undertaking to equip all citizens with the tools and knowledge they needed to succeed in an increasingly digital world. While Denmark's welfare system had progressed considerably, a lot of work remained to be done. Within the country, debates surrounding the growing bureaucratization of the education sector were ongoing. Moreover, Denmark had also been subject to growing criticism regarding its reforms of the disability sector. The Danish welfare model was a work in progress; it remained a beacon of hope but also a reminder that the work was never truly done.

**Mr. S. Praseuth** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that in an increasingly complex global landscape, in which countries faced economic crises, climate change, severe natural disasters, escalating armed conflict, trade wars and the imposition of unilateral coercive measures, parliamentary action was needed more than ever to foster peace and cooperation for socioeconomic development and the achievement of the SDGs.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic had integrated all of the SDGs into its 9th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan, with which it aimed to transition from the least developed country category by 2026. Since opening up its economy in 1986, his country had sought to bring its national legislation into line with international laws and standards. More recently, in March 2025, the Lao National Assembly had amended the country's constitution, amended the Law on Local Governance and the Law on Civil Servants, and restructured the Government, reducing the number of ministries from 17 to 13.

He urged parliamentarians to strengthen cooperation for people-centred development, promote public participation in all sectors, and uphold the common interests of society with unity and harmony.

**Ms. M.d.C. Alva Prieto** (Peru) said that one of the central tasks of policymakers was to create the right conditions for a more just and equitable society. Parliaments faced growing public discontent and criticisms which, although valid in some cases, called into question the legitimacy of public institutions. Despite those challenges, the Peruvian Parliament was working towards creating a more efficient, inclusive and results-oriented State. Her Government had a number of special commissions dedicated to specific societal needs – for example, reducing inequality, promoting entrepreneurship, achieving zero hunger and ensuring the social inclusion of persons with disabilities – as well as 38 draft laws aimed at reducing poverty and promoting decent work.

The advance of organized crime in Latin America was endangering citizens' rights, weakening public institutions and undermining people's access to public services, thereby worsening their quality of life. Latin American countries, supported by the international community, must take decisive action to curb that cross-border phenomenon and provide citizens with a safe and stable environment, without which the goals of social development and social inclusion would be impossible to achieve.

Eradicating poverty was not simply a matter of subsidies, but of strong institutions, comprehensive policies and well-executed budgets. Peru's Strategic Plan for National Development 2050 incorporated the SDGs and was centred around four key areas: capacity building, sustainable land management, competitiveness and decent employment, and a just and democratic society. Peru's SDG monitoring and follow-up system enabled it to track the country's progress in achieving the Goals across 127 indicators, enabling it to combat persisting issues such as the high numbers of informal workers and the low numbers of workers with access to a formal pension. Her country added its voice to the UN's call to establish a new global social contract that would prioritize people's well-being and guarantee universal access to healthcare, education, employment and citizen participation.

**Mr. A. Koponen** (Finland) said that social development was about making sure that all citizens had access to proper education, healthcare, jobs and safety nets. Parliaments had a responsibility to ensure that the legal system protected people from discrimination and injustice; to amend outdated laws; to uphold the right to freedom of speech; and to keep authorities in check.

Education, nature and trust were the cornerstones of social development in Finland. Every child was entitled to free, high-quality education that was geared towards raising well-balanced citizens, not test-taking machines. Finland's beautiful forests, crystal-clear lakes and rivers and clean air helped improve citizens' quality of life. Moreover, trust underpinned Finnish society: people trusted one another and the country's Parliament and leaders, and corruption was minimal. That was why Finland had been the world's happiest country for eight years straight. Parliamentarians must apply a straightforward approach to social development and justice, listening to citizens and working for the good of all.

*Mr. P. De Roover (Belgium) took the Chair.*

**Ms. P. Glover Rolle** (Bahamas) said that her presence at the IPU, as a woman parliamentarian from a small island developing State, testified to the great progress that had been made thus far in the area of social development and justice. Nevertheless, more work remained to be done to ensure equality and justice for all.

The Government of the Bahamas was committed to upholding social development and justice in the country, as demonstrated by the actions it had undertaken in a number of areas. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, her Government had maintained high levels of social support, particularly for the elderly and persons with disabilities, and had adjusted national insurance rates. Moreover, considerable progress had been made in employment, with an increase in the minimum wage, the adoption of over 50 industrial agreements aimed at improving wages and benefits and the lowest unemployment rate since 2008. In healthcare, the Government had launched initiatives to increase access to affordable, quality healthcare and reduce health disparities. The Bahamas was modernizing its school curriculum, providing more opportunities for learning trades, digital and technical skills, and was expanding professional training through lifelong learning initiatives. The Bahamas had adopted a holistic approach to community policing and was running social change programmes in high-crime areas. It was offering grants and loans to farmers to lower the food import bill, create profitable opportunities for farmers and ensure more fresh, local produce for Bahamians.

To mitigate the existential threat posed by climate change, the Bahamas was investing in renewable energy, conducting ground-breaking research into the carbon potential of its seagrass meadows and leveraging climate resilience financing to ensure a just transition to a green economy. Despite the country's very high score in the Human Development Index, inequalities persisted. It sought to address them by investing in education, creating jobs and empowering business owners. She urged delegates to take full advantage of the IPU as a platform to drive change within their countries and across the globe.

**Mr. S. Patra** (India), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that cross-border terrorism was a scourge that inflicted immense suffering across the globe. India had long borne the brunt of terrorist activities. It was imperative to assert the fundamental truth that Kashmir was and always would remain an integral part of India. The people of Jammu and Kashmir had repeatedly rejected the destructive violence and extremism that had plagued the region for decades, as demonstrated by the record voter turnout in recent local assembly elections. It was time for Pakistan to recognize that the people of Jammu and Kashmir had turned a new page – one defined by hope, progress, peace and prosperity.

*The sitting rose at 18:30.*

## Sitting of Monday, 7 April 2025

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 09:00 with Ms. T. Narbaeva (Uzbekistan), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.*

### Address by His Excellency Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of Uzbekistan

**Mr. S. Miromonovich Mirziyoyev** (President of Uzbekistan) welcomed delegates to Uzbekistan for the 150th IPU Assembly, which was the first Assembly held in Central Asia. The choice of Uzbekistan as host was a sign of the international community's trust and respect for the country and a recognition of its achievements in the area of democracy, parliamentarism and representative authority.

As a former parliamentarian, he understood the significance of the parliamentary mission, describing parliaments as bridges of friendship and key actors in addressing public concerns and formulating effective, people-centred policies. Parliamentarians had a vital role to play in addressing global challenges, such as armed conflicts, environmental and technological disasters, economic crises, trade wars, and terrorism and extremism, thereby helping to safeguard peace, social development and justice in the world. He commended the IPU for its significant global contribution as the most prominent multilateral platform for parliamentary diplomacy.

The theme of the Assembly, *Parliamentary action for social development and justice*, was symbolically important, particularly in light of persistent global inequality. While the global gross domestic product (GDP) had grown significantly in recent decades, the income levels of the world's poorest had barely improved. If the trend continued, hundreds of millions of people would remain in poverty and many children would be deprived of education. The situation not only damaged economies and societies but also weakened institutions and limited opportunities. He called on parliaments to intensify cooperation, exchange best practices, and mobilize their collective intellectual resources to tackle the root causes of inequality and promote inclusive growth.

Uzbekistan was taking bold steps towards democratic reform, first and foremost, by building a strong and responsible parliament. A major milestone had been the adoption of the new Constitution in 2023, which had expanded the powers of both the national parliament and local councils. The process had led to the adoption of over 20 new laws aimed at strengthening the legislative branch, to efforts to enhance parliamentary oversight, and to the transfer of key powers from the presidency to the parliament, particularly in areas related to the judiciary, anti-corruption and the regulation of anti-monopoly bodies. Highlighting achievements in gender representation, he noted that women currently comprised 38% of Uzbekistan's Parliament – one of the highest rates in Asia. Additionally, youth parliaments had been established in 2021, further promoting inclusion.

The Uzbek Parliament had developed strong international engagement, parliamentary and otherwise, having established close relations with nearly 100 foreign partners, and had participated in 80 joint friendship groups and commissions. It had contributed to United Nations General Assembly resolution 77/159 on enhancing the role of parliaments in accelerating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and had hosted the Global Forum of Interparliamentary Cooperation in the implementation of the SDGs. Representatives of Uzbekistan also actively took part in the work of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of Central Asian States, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States and other platforms.

Addressing the global agenda, he outlined several areas of focus that should be prioritized. First, peaceful diplomacy was needed to resolve conflicts around the world. Uzbekistan supported ongoing negotiations to end the war in Ukraine, a two-State solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict in line with international law, and constructive dialogue with Afghanistan, emphasizing that the country should not be isolated but treated as part of the Central Asian region. He recognized the United Nations (UN) as the only legitimate authority on global affairs and supported efforts for its reform.

Second, he recognized climate change as a defining challenge of the era with its most severe impacts felt in developing countries. Parliaments must support national climate policies, a transition to renewable energy and the development of green technologies. It was more important than ever to meet the commitments of the Paris Agreement and achieve carbon neutrality. Climate change must hold a permanent place on the Assembly's agenda.

Third, women's empowerment was a prerequisite for social development, and achieving equal participation of women across all sectors could raise global GDP by 26%. He therefore welcomed the rise in women's parliamentary representation globally from 11.3% in 1995 to 27.2% in 2025. In recent years, Uzbekistan had hosted several international forums on women's rights, including the Asian Women's Forum and the Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament. The international community were urged to support the adoption of the UN General Assembly resolution on expanding the socioeconomic, political, legal and cultural-humanitarian activities of Asian women proposed by Uzbekistan.

Fourth, youth empowerment was a crucial factor for future development. He called for deeper engagement of young people in national parliaments and IPU activities and proposed establishing a global platform of youth parliaments at the IPU.

Fifth, he stressed the importance of social protection and equitable service delivery in accordance with international standards. Uzbekistan had declared itself a social State and made comprehensive protection of the population a priority. Its From Poverty to Prosperity programme had lifted seven million people out of poverty and reduced poverty rates from 35% to 8.9%. He invited delegates to attend an upcoming international conference on poverty reduction in Uzbekistan in September 2025.

Lastly, he pointed to the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) and the urgent need for cooperation to regulate its use. To support that effort, a model law on AI should be developed to help guide national legislation.

In closing, he affirmed that the above proposals aligned with the IPU's strategic goals and expressed hope that they would be reflected in the Tashkent Declaration adopted at the end of the 150th Assembly. The progress of societies could not rely solely on laws or resolutions but required unity, a strong legislative spirit, and an exchange of knowledge and experiences. The decisions taken at the 150th IPU Assembly would mark a new chapter in global parliamentary cooperation.

**Dr. T. Ackson** (United Republic of Tanzania), President of the IPU, expressed deep gratitude to the President for his presence at the 150th IPU Assembly and the warm welcome participants had received from Uzbekistan. The theme of the Assembly was especially timely given increasing polarization and fractured multilateralism. In that context, ensuring the security of populations through social justice and equality was more vital than ever.

She praised Uzbekistan's ambitious social development goals, including halving low-income populations by 2026 and achieving upper-middle-income status by 2030. The new Constitution, adopted in 2023, was also commendable. By placing sustainable development at the core, with provisions to promote human well-being, environmental protection and economic growth, the Constitution would help ensure stability, security and decent living conditions for all. She congratulated Uzbekistan's leadership and affirmed a commitment to continued parliamentary cooperation.

### Item 3 of the agenda

#### **General Debate on the theme *Parliamentary action for social development and justice***

(A/150/3-Inf.1)

#### **FIRST SPEAKERS FROM DELEGATIONS (continued)**

**Mr. N. Ștefănuță** (European Parliament) said that the world was at a pivotal moment facing multiple interconnected challenges and emphasized that the decisions made now would deeply impact future generations. It was a dangerous time whereby war risked becoming normalized if not actively addressed.

From a European perspective, social justice and inclusion were foundational to democracy, and there were laws and other initiatives in place, such as the European Pillar of Social Rights providing for employment, fair access to the labour market, decent working conditions, such as fair wages, and social protections, including climate adaptation measures. There was a European directive on minimum wages as well as a directive on platform work with over 500 digital labour platforms operating in the European Union (EU) as of 2021. Special attention had also been paid to young people, who were particularly vulnerable to labour market shifts, through youth guarantees and significant funding for youth employment. He raised concerns about the negative impact of protectionist trade policies and rising tariffs on social justice, calling for fair and multilateral trade systems.

The European Parliament remained committed to gender equality, recognizing that true representation required women's participation in politics and equal opportunities in the workplace, though unfortunately women in the EU still earned 12% less than men. It was equally important to address poverty and exclusion, particularly through affordable housing initiatives, as was the case within the EU, and to make climate action central to social and economic policy. Warning of the real and immediate effects of climate change, especially in vulnerable regions such as the Pacific and Africa, he urged the international community to act decisively for future generations.

**Mr. P.F. Casini** (Italy) underscored the essential role of parliaments in protecting the rights of the most vulnerable and in upholding impartial justice. In democratic systems, while governments changed over time, parliaments remained the enduring institutions that embodied the soul and fulcrum of politics.

Social justice must be a core value, particularly in an era of globalization marked by global inequalities, as evidenced by the alarming statistic that 1.5% of the world's population controlled nearly half of the world's wealth – a clear indicator that global efforts towards equity remained insufficient. Justice must be administered impartially and independently from the executive branch of government. While legal and cultural diversity should be respected, justice systems around the world must remain autonomous so as to meaningfully defend the rights of the most vulnerable. At the same time, it was essential to reassert international law. That could be achieved by upholding the global rules and principles established after the Second World War, rejecting the growing normalization of the use of force in international relations and working towards a more inclusive multilateralism capable of preventing conflict. Although the shortcomings of current multilateral systems warranted criticism, those criticisms should aim at reform, not dismantlement. The UN should remain the central forum for that dialogue.

The international community could not accept war, the persecution of minorities or the manipulation of public opinion through propaganda and fake news, including in relation to ongoing conflicts. In that context, he reiterated his support for Ukraine's right to self-determination and its defence against Russia's invasion. He also supported the two-State solution as the only viable path to peace in Israel and Palestine. Israeli settlements, the Hamas attacks on 7 October 2023 and the large-scale loss of civilian life in Gaza must be firmly condemned. He urged that political positions be guided by truth, not convenience.

**Ms. C. Lourenço Sacramento** (Sao Tome and Principe) said that, in the face of growing geopolitical conflicts, regional tensions and political instability, which had severe economic and social impacts, there was an urgent need for collective action grounded in respect for international law and the pursuit of peaceful solutions. Reaffirming her country's commitment to social justice, sustainable development and international cooperation, she highlighted the importance of parliamentary action as a driver of change. Parliaments must shape public policies that fostered social cohesion and equal access to employment with decent wages regardless of gender, race or religion. Despite progress on poverty eradication over the past decades, hundreds of millions of people continued to live in dire conditions, thus highlighting the international community's neglect of the issue, with some actors in fact perpetuating exploitation and conflict under the guise of social justice. True social justice could not be attained without placing the interests of the people first.

Global economic reforms that promoted well-being and social justice were needed, particularly those that moved away from protectionist trade policies, such as tariffs, which exacerbated inequalities and hindered economic growth and job creation in developing countries. A new development model should be established centred on human well-being and environmental protection, promoting sustainable use of resources, recycling and a transition to renewable energy to reduce global dependence on fossil fuels.

#### **PRESIDING OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENT (continued)**

**Mr. A.J. Kingi** (Kenya) said that social development and justice were essential foundations for building strong, resilient and prosperous nations, noting that parliaments had a responsibility to enact laws and policies that drove equitable development. The Parliament of Kenya had prioritized legislation promoting access to quality education, healthcare and social protection, while focusing on poverty eradication and inclusive policymaking. It had also supported small and medium enterprises, agribusiness and digital innovation to improve employment opportunities, particularly for young people.

To advance climate action, the Parliament had enacted laws promoting sustainable development, clean energy and environmental conservation, with special support for communities affected by climate-related disasters. Initiatives such as the Financing Locally-Led Climate Action programme had been pivotal in driving Kenya's bottom-up approach.

Acknowledging the importance of upholding the rule of law and ensuring justice that was accessible, fair and responsive, his Parliament was working to build a strong legal framework based on human rights, anti-corruption and transparency. Measures had been taken to curb abuse of power, protect fundamental freedoms, safeguard judicial independence and ensure that legal systems were accessible to all citizens regardless of economic status. Since human rights were a pillar of justice, laws had been enacted to combat discrimination, protect minorities and promote gender equality. Strong anti-corruption measures were also in place, including a new strategic guiding framework and enhanced oversight mechanisms.

Parliaments must remain strong advocates for social development and justice by enacting laws that protected vulnerable groups; strengthening land and labour rights and anti-discrimination laws; ensuring fair resource allocation to marginalized communities; investing in healthcare, education and social safety nets; and improving pension and unemployment benefits for low-income citizens.

**Mr. A.R. Abdulla** (Maldives) said that, as representatives of the people, parliamentarians had a duty to improve lives and ensure justice – not merely as a vision, but through policies that delivered real progress. The Parliament of the Maldives had long prioritized social development, having passed several key laws, such as the Children’s Rights Protection Act, the Gender Equality Act, the Domestic Violence Act and the National Social Health Insurance Act. Those laws represented real steps towards an equal and just society, with parliamentary committees closely monitoring their implementation and ensuring accountability.

Fighting poverty and reducing disparities should be central to parliamentary efforts. His Government had consistently prioritized access to essential services, such as healthcare, education and housing, and was working to strengthen its Zakat system to help generate income for those in need. A strong economy was equally important and could only be built by creating more opportunities for small businesses, young people and women entrepreneurs. In that context, the Maldives had launched several initiatives, including a small and medium enterprises hub, along with grants, loans and educational programmes to foster entrepreneurship.

While technology offered great opportunities for growth and connectivity, it also brought challenges, notably the digital divide. To address that, the Maldives was investing in digitization, financial inclusion, the information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure, and e-governance. The hope was to build a modern, inclusive society while improving economic and social well-being.

Noting that climate change remained a major threat, especially for small island nations such as his own, he considered climate justice to be social justice. Global cooperation was needed to protect vulnerable countries and promote sustainability.

Amid global conflicts and economic challenges, the Maldives called for mutual support and dialogue over division, stressing that social development and justice must guide policymaking. The ongoing conflict in Gaza was deeply concerning and required swift international action to end the violence and uphold justice.

**Mr. B. Boughali** (Algeria) said that, since gaining independence, Algeria had built a development model rooted in social solidarity and was implementing inclusive policies to support the most vulnerable, such as the poor, the elderly and people with disabilities. To reduce social disparities, the country had introduced social welfare reforms, which included increasing wages, reducing taxation for low-income earners and improving access to healthcare, housing and education. Significant initiatives had been adopted to empower young people and women, including training programmes, improved access to jobs and financing for entrepreneurship. Between 2020 and 2023, Algeria had financed over 4,000 start-ups, created more than 10,000 jobs, and invested in innovation and a knowledge-based economy, including through incubators and awards. An economic strategy for women had also been established alongside centres to support women and girls affected by violence.

He underscored the need for global cooperation in building a fairer, people-centred development order. It was particularly important to support developing countries with technological transition and climate adaptation. To achieve the SDGs, the international community must share their experiences and set up innovative mechanisms for that purpose.

Parliamentarians must do more to support the Palestinian people, whose continued suffering remained a shameful injustice, while also upholding the rights of the people of the Western Sahara. Armed conflicts, which disproportionately affected women, children and young people, demanded collective political solutions grounded in human rights.

**Mr. M. Ndiaye** (Senegal) said that, in the face of a growing social divide, parliamentarians had a collective responsibility to build fairer, more equitable societies that left no one behind. Development efforts must place human beings, not profit, at the centre, addressing vulnerability, exclusion, power imbalances, institutional shortcomings and violence. Those principles were at the heart of Senegal's national transformation agenda, *Senegal 2050*, which aimed to build a sovereign, fair and prosperous nation while sustainably increasing per capita income over the next 25 years.

Despite some progress, overall global outcomes on social justice remained insufficient, particularly in the developing countries. Senegal had ranked 92nd out of 169 countries in terms of social inequality in 2023 but was actively working to reverse that trend, hoping to become one of the world's most egalitarian countries. Measures taken in that direction included significantly increasing the income of entrepreneurs and rural workers. He reminded delegates that social justice began in daily life – in homes, neighbourhoods and communities – before it was reflected in political choices.

A number of ambitious reforms were underway in Senegal to empower women and young people, close the gender pay gap, increase women's representation in public life, combat violence against women, fight corruption, protect whistle-blowers and strengthen equality, with several laws already in force or under legislative review. The National Assembly itself reflected the country's commitment to inclusion and diversity, having achieved gender parity and participation of persons with disabilities. In the spirit of transparency and accountability, an audit had also been commissioned to assess public debt and budgetary deficits.

Sustainable social justice could not emerge from an international order in which the most powerful nations imposed unilateral rules. Lasting stability came from inclusive development that allowed all people to contribute and benefit from the economic development of their country. Parliaments must exercise their oversight functions to ensure that public policies respected human rights and dignity.

He condemned the tragic humanitarian crisis in Gaza, which had resulted in the loss of thousands of innocent lives and the destruction of civilian infrastructure, emphasizing that silence in the face of such suffering amounted to complicity. Parliamentarians had a moral duty to denounce any form of violence or injustice inflicted on innocent victims. Senegal, which was actively engaged on the issue, urged the IPU to take a firm and clear stance by demanding an immediate ceasefire, unimpeded access to humanitarian aid and a genuine peace process in the region.

**Mr. S.M. Ould Errachid** (Morocco) commended the IPU for the theme of the General Debate which aligned with its mission to foster democracy and peace through dialogue and cooperation. He also welcomed the UN's decision to hold a Second World Summit on Social Development in Qatar in November 2025, noting the appointment of Morocco's Permanent Representative to the UN as coordinator of the political declaration – an acknowledgement of Morocco's commitment to social justice and development.

Following the adoption of its 2011 Constitution, Morocco had undertaken structural reforms to improve its social protection system, including laws to fight exclusion and improve public service delivery. It also convened the International Parliamentary Forum on Social Justice on an annual basis to encourage dialogue on those issues. Overall, there was an urgent need for a new social contract that prioritized people by ensuring decent jobs, fair wages and universal social protection.

He rejected the accusations made regarding the Moroccan Sahara, which were unfounded, politically motivated and inconsistent with international law. The UN Security Council was the only legitimate forum for addressing the matter, and discussions at the IPU and other similar forums must remain free from politicization, focusing instead on dialogue and mutual understanding. He reaffirmed his confidence in the IPU in advancing just, human-centred development.

**Mr. J.F.N. Mudenda** (Zimbabwe) said that, as outlined in Zimbabwe's Constitution and national development strategy, elected representatives shouldered the sacrosanct obligation to ensure development reached all segments of society. Drawing attention to the 1995 World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen, which recognized social development as an inalienable human right and a prerequisite for sustainable progress, he called on parliamentarians to utilize their core functions of law-making, oversight and representation to advocate for inclusive, equitable development in which all citizens enjoyed equal access to rights, opportunities and resources. That was the essence of social justice.

To address inequality in Zimbabwe, the Government had established two dedicated banks to encourage entrepreneurship in young people and women. However, despite technological advancements, the global wealth gap continued to widen, with the richest 1% currently controlling 45.6% of global wealth while nearly 700 million people remained in extreme poverty – a disparity that undermined efforts towards social development and justice.

Turning to Africa, he praised the African Union's *Agenda 2063* as a bold vision for an integrated, prosperous and peaceful continent led by its own citizens. Unfortunately, however, Africa's GDP growth (3.4% between 2018 and 2023) had not contributed to poverty reduction, with about 490 million Africans still living below the poverty line and youth unemployment at 19.8%, nearly twice the global average. African parliaments, together with all the IPU Member Parliaments, must commit to resolving – within the next 25 years – the contradiction of a resource-rich Africa that remained economically poor through accelerated technological industrialization and full implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Looking ahead to the Second World Summit for Social Development, he called for a renewed global commitment to justiciable socioeconomic development that narrowed the North–South divide and responded to challenges such as conflict and climate change. Parliamentary action for social development and justice was unattainable where global peace or security were lacking, where multilateralism was weak and where global tariff wars persisted.

**Ms. K. Slassi** (Morocco), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, emphasized that the issue of Morocco's territorial integrity should be addressed solely within the framework of the UN and that its proposal for the autonomy of the people of Western Sahara was the only credible and internationally supported solution. Underscoring that the southern provinces of Morocco enjoyed stability, prosperity and democratic representation, she invited all delegations to visit the region to witness first-hand the reality on the ground and thus distinguish facts from unfounded allegations.

### Special segment on gender equality

**Mr. M. Chungong** (Secretary General of the IPU) said that the special segment marked 40 years of the women's movement in the IPU led by the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and provided an opportunity for Member Parliaments to reaffirm their commitment to gender equality, both within the IPU and globally.

Noting that reliable data was essential for informed decision-making, the IPU played a key role in monitoring women's representation in parliament around the world. In that context, he drew attention to the 2025 edition of the *Women in parliament: 1995-2025* report, which mapped out global progress and trends observed since the adoption of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The report revealed that the percentage of women in parliaments worldwide had increased from 11.3% in 1995 to 27.2% in 2025. The number of parliaments with less than 10% women had dropped significantly from 105 in 1995 to just 20 today. Notably, six countries – Rwanda, Cuba, Nicaragua, Mexico, Andorra and the United Arab Emirates – had now reached parity compared to none in 1995.

Importantly, gender parity was no longer an ambition for the few but a recognized global norm that must be pursued in alignment with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), particularly its 2024 General recommendation No. 40, which called for equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making. The first IPU Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians, held in Mexico in March 2025, had been an important step in that direction having produced a concrete plan of action to guide parliaments towards parity. He urged Member Parliaments to adopt and implement the plan, noting that policies crafted in gender-equal settings were more sustainable and enjoyed greater legitimacy.

Despite those achievements, he voiced concern over the recent slowdown in progress. Proven strategies, such as gender quotas, needed to be expanded, and more must be done to ensure women from diverse backgrounds could access political spaces. He condemned gender-based violence targeting women in politics, calling for strong legal frameworks, effective mechanisms and zero-tolerance policies to eliminate the problem.

The IPU's partnership with UN Women continued to grow, leading to the latest edition of the *Women in Politics* map, which offered a global snapshot of women's political participation and leadership. The latest data, however, showed limited progress: women currently held top State positions in only 25 countries; men outnumbered women three to one in executive and legislative roles; and only 9 countries had cabinets made up of at least 50% women.

Gender equality was not solely a women's issue but a fundamental component of democracy, human rights and sustainable development. Collective action was needed from both women and men, particularly from men in leadership, who must strive to do better on gender equality.

**Dr. T. Ackson** (United Republic of Tanzania), President of the IPU, said that the year 2025 marked several key international milestones: the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 25th anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, and the 10th anniversary of the SDGs with only five years left to achieve the 2030 targets. The IPU was contributing a crucial parliamentary perspective to those milestones and mobilizing parliamentary action to accelerate progress. Most recently, it had participated in the Beijing+30 review at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and held the first Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians in Mexico, which had produced a game-changing plan of action for achieving gender parity in parliament.

The year 2025 also marked the 40th anniversary of the IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians. Founded in 1985 by 22 pioneering women parliamentarians, the Forum had been the first of its kind globally, instrumental in transforming the IPU into a model of gender equality, and a powerful advocate for women and girls' rights and empowerment. The Forum's achievements included: tripling the global proportion of women in parliament since 1995; leading efforts to combat violence against women and girls, with 104 countries now having comprehensive domestic violence legislation; exposing sexism, harassment and violence against women in politics through landmark studies and an IPU resolution; and promoting zero-tolerance policies in parliaments. The Forum had also driven internal transformation within the IPU to enhance its gender sensitivity and responsiveness and had consistently emphasized women's crucial role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The IPU motion on bringing gender equality to the UN General Assembly was a positive step forward, as was the upcoming Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament which would discuss women's leadership in fostering inclusive and lasting peace.

She paid tribute to the legacy of the Forum by acknowledging the strength, determination and unity of the women who had built and continued to sustain it.

*A video entitled "40 years of action, 40 women of action", showcasing 40 women parliamentarians who had contributed to gender equality within the IPU, was played.*

**Ms. C. López Castro** (Mexico), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, commended the IPU's leadership in advancing women's political participation. The IPU had been instrumental in revealing the realities of women's underrepresentation, demonstrating the impact of involving women in politics and offering practical guidance to address inequalities. Even before the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the IPU had already adopted a plan of action for equality. It had since embedded gender equality in its statutes, committee structures and strategies.

She highlighted some of the IPU's key milestones, including the 1997 Universal Declaration on Democracy, which affirmed that democracy could not exist without equality between women and men; the development of the concept of gender-sensitive parliaments; and the introduction of gender quotas. The work had led to a growing presence of women in IPU leadership, with both the current President and Vice-President being women. The launch of the new global plan of action for gender parity in parliament should also be celebrated.

Despite those achievements, women's representation in politics was stagnating and facing pushback in some countries, calling for urgent action, not just rhetoric. In that context, she introduced the new *Achieving gender equality, action by action* campaign, which promoted 10 key actions in three thematic areas: (1) promoting parity in parliament and politics; (2) encouraging gender-sensitive institutions; and (3) combating gender-based violence and discrimination. Delegates were encouraged to support the campaign in their respective countries. Recognizing that gender equality was not just a women's issue but a matter of democracy, human rights and sustainable development, she called for joint action, especially from men in leadership.

Lastly, she announced that the next IPU Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians would be held in Serbia, noting that the conference would become an annual IPU tradition.

**The President** congratulated the Forum of Women Parliamentarians on its 40th anniversary, emphasizing the importance of strengthening the role of women across political, social, economic and legal spheres both regionally and globally. Delegates were encouraged to support the *Achieving gender equality, action by action* campaign, which aligned with Uzbekistan's national gender equality strategy. Women were active in many different areas of Uzbek society, including politics, the economy and culture, with strong political will and support from the President and Parliament. Parliaments must take urgent collective action to advance gender equality and remove barriers for women.

**Mr. J. Matiya** (Deputy Secretary-General, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)), introducing the study on sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in the Asia-Pacific region carried out jointly by the IPU, CPA and ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), said violence against women in politics, both online and offline, was a longstanding barrier to women's leadership. When women were excluded, weakened or intimidated in political spaces, it undermined inclusive decision-making, democratic institutions and democracy itself.

Ending such violence required breaking the silence and isolation that victims often experienced. Yet, exposing violence was a difficult process requiring support from and trust in institutions, including parliamentarians. It was the responsibility of political institutions, parliaments and political parties to hold perpetrators accountable.

Most parliamentary codes of conduct in the Asia-Pacific region did not define psychological harassment, bullying, sexual harassment or gender-based violence and lacked specific provisions on prohibitions or penalties. Encouragingly, the study showed that the Parliaments of Fiji, India, the Maldives, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand had begun taking steps to address those issues. He welcomed the progress made, including the introduction of complaint and investigation mechanisms, disciplinary measures for perpetrators and reparations for victims. However, those measures primarily applied to parliamentary staff and should therefore be extended to members of parliament, as was the case in Australia and New Zealand. Strict zero-tolerance policies on violence against women in parliaments must apply to all individuals in the parliamentary environment.

In the age of digital technology, parliaments had a responsibility to support parliamentarians targeted online by providing advice, online safety strategies and social media monitoring tools. The CPA was currently working with partners to develop resources that addressed those challenges.

Parliaments in the region were encouraged to use the study to stimulate debate and inspire action. Addressing the challenge of violence against women in politics required urgent collective attention from governments, political parties, technology companies, civil society and academia.

**Mr. M. Chungong** (Secretary General of the IPU) said that the study on sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in the Asia-Pacific region aimed to shed light on the issue at hand, which was a major barrier to women's political empowerment and the achievement of gender parity. The intention was not to single out the Asia-Pacific region but rather to reflect on regional specificities and complement global data. The stakes were particularly high for the region, however, given that it ranked second to last globally in terms of women's representation in parliament.

The IPU's previous three studies on the topic had revealed alarming trends globally as well as in Europe and in Africa, and the Asia-Pacific study was unfortunately no different. Among the 150 women participants from 33 countries, 76% had reported experiencing psychological violence while 25% had faced sexual harassment during their term. Online gender-based violence was especially prevalent, with 60% of participants reporting being targeted through hate speech, disinformation, image-based abuse or doxing online – the highest rate across all four studies. The study had also exposed alarming rates of sexual and psychological harassment of women parliamentary staff, mainly perpetrated by male staff and, to a lesser extent, by male parliamentarians. Reporting of such violence remained rare, and much more needed to be done to protect and support victims.

Acknowledging the recent changes introduced by social media companies, which opened up worrying prospects for the uncontrolled spread of false information and online abuse, he called on parliaments to take urgent action. It was particularly important to pass robust legislation on violence against women in politics, especially online, and work with technology platforms to ensure accountability through transparent content moderation, establishment of reporting mechanisms, victim support and immediate action to stop abuse.

**Dr. T. Ackson** (United Republic of Tanzania), the President of the IPU, urged delegates to pay close attention to the findings of the study, noting that harassment – often dismissed as a minor or unintentional act – undermined human dignity and fostered hostile, intimidating environments. It took many forms, including psychological and sexual violence, and could involve retaliation, threats or coercion.

The study had identified social media platforms such as Meta, YouTube and X as common crime scenes, with three out of five women parliamentarians reporting sexist attacks online. A total of 39% of those women had experienced psychological harassment and 25% had suffered sexual harassment during their mandates. According to the study, gender-based violence often targeted women who occupied public spaces, denounced violence, stood up for women's rights, defied gender

norms or were simply active on social networks. Young women, those from minority backgrounds, unmarried women and opposition members were especially vulnerable, highlighting the need for an intersectional approach to prevention and elimination.

Online campaigns attacking women's physical appearance were rife alongside rape threats on social media platforms. Traditional media too played a harmful role, with 28% of participants reporting slanderous or sexually suggestive coverage of them by newspapers and television. Other more insidious forms of violence also existed, such as ignoring women or making them invisible, which subtly but powerfully deterred female political participation.

In conclusion, she stressed that women had a rightful place in politics and urged parliaments to drive out violence, not women, from politics.

**The President** called on parliaments to join the 2019 Violence and Harassment Convention adopted by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

**Ms. S. Rozaimeriyanty Dato Haji Abdul Rahman** (AIPA), speaking in a pre-recorded video message, said that AIPA was pleased to have contributed to the study and expressed deep gratitude to the women parliamentarians from the Asia-Pacific region who had courageously shared their experiences. Empowering women from diverse backgrounds in political leadership remained a priority for AIPA.

Violence against women in politics continued to be a significant obstacle to their full and meaningful participation, ultimately undermining inclusive governance. Addressing the problem required political institutions to take proactive action towards building a secure, supportive space for women to engage without fear or constraint. Creating such an environment was not just a matter of fairness but a shared responsibility across all political institutions. It was hoped that the study's findings would lead to structural reforms.

The urgency of the issue was clear: 63% of women parliamentarians who had experienced violence had reported serious harm. Harassment and violence were destructive, disrupting careers, damaging self-confidence and mental health, and even threatening physical safety. Many feared not only for their own safety but for that of loved ones. Participants had also spoken of the fear of reprisal, with parliamentary staff fearing job loss and parliamentarians fearing political retaliation. Although independent reporting mechanisms remained rare, the study had highlighted some promising developments, including the introduction of internal regulations, training, support services and hotlines. Parliaments must step up their efforts to ensure every woman in parliament felt safe, supported and empowered to participate free from gender-based violence.

**The President** thanked the delegates for their participation in the special segment, encouraging them all to join the IPU campaign and redouble efforts to make gender equality a reality. She declared the special segment closed.

*The sitting rose at 13:00.*

## Sitting of Monday, 7 April 2025

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 14:30 with Ms. N.B.K. Mutti (Zambia) in the Chair.*

### Item 3 of the agenda

(continued)

### **General Debate on the theme *Parliamentary action for social development and justice***

(A/150/3-Inf.1)

#### **FIRST SPEAKERS FROM DELEGATIONS (continued)**

**Mr. M.R. Rahmani Qalanderkhan** (Afghanistan) said that his country was currently governed by a regime imposed without the consent of the people, lacking political legitimacy and elected institutions, and marked by widespread fundamental human rights violations. Afghan women, who made up half the population, were particularly affected having been deprived of education, employment, healthcare and participation in social and political life. Those restrictions not only contravened basic human rights principles but also the values upheld by many IPU Member Parliaments.

He called on the international community – especially countries maintaining diplomatic, trade and humanitarian ties with Afghanistan – to help achieve three vital objectives: (1) the recognition and restoration of women's rights in Afghanistan, particularly access to education, work and political participation, which were essential for sustainable development; (2) renewed international cooperation for peace and development, building on the significant contributions made over the past two decades by the international community, particularly the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the United States of America, which had enabled progress in sectors such as education, healthcare, media freedom and women's rights; and (3) increased pressure on the Taliban to respect the fundamental rights of all Afghans, especially women, and to promote national unity and justice.

In conclusion, he urged the IPU Member Parliaments not to forget Afghanistan, warning that the resurgence of terrorism remained a serious threat. International support remained crucial for democracy, reconstruction and protection of human rights in Afghanistan.

**Mr. M.A. Alyammahi** (Arab Parliament) said that social justice and sustainable development were fundamental to building stable societies, stressing the urgent need for renewed momentum towards those principles. It was vital to reduce the global development gap between developed and least developed countries.

Turning to the situation in Palestine, he questioned how social justice and development could be pursued globally while the Palestinian people continued to suffer under the longest and most brutal occupation in modern history. Palestinians remained subjected to aggression, massacres, extermination and forced displacements as Israeli occupation forces presented them with an extreme and violent choice, to either die of starvation or leave their native homeland, both of which amounted to crimes against humanity surpassing even those of terrorist organizations. The international community must break its silence and issue a strong, united statement condemning the atrocities and affirming the right of Palestinians to remain on their land. The legitimate rights of the Palestinians were not only a political obligation under international law but also a moral and human duty. He reiterated that just and lasting peace in the Middle East could only be achieved through the establishment of an independent Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital. Any alternative approach would only perpetuate instability and conflict.

**Mr. J. Kalala Wa Kalala** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that the theme of the General Debate embodied the challenges and deep-seated aspirations of the Congolese people. His country had consistently sought to guarantee social development and justice through free basic education, universal health coverage and development programmes.

Despite efforts to promote regional cooperation, the Democratic Republic of the Congo had endured decades of aggression from neighbouring countries, particularly Rwanda, which he accused of backing armed groups such as M23, looting national resources and using sexual violence as a weapon of war, amongst other atrocities. The aggression had claimed over 10 million lives and displaced more than 6 million people with numbers continuing to increase daily.

He questioned how social development and justice could be achieved when such crimes were met with global indifference. The IPU was urged to support United Nations Security Council resolution 2773 (2025), which firmly condemned Rwanda's actions, as well as the sanctions imposed on Rwanda by the European Union (EU) and other countries. Parliamentarians must stand in solidarity with the Democratic Republic of the Congo in its pursuit of social development and justice rooted in the rule of law – an outcome that could only be realized through peace, security and meaningful international solidarity that translated words into action.

**Mr. Maeng Kyong il** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) highlighted the increasing importance of parliamentary action in the face of rising global conflict and violations of national sovereignty, adding that social development and justice were shared goals. Noting that the inclusion of citizen's demands in legislation and governance should be the highest priority of the State, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had made ongoing efforts to build a people-centred society based on the principles of independence and responsiveness to public needs. Key initiatives included new regional development and rural construction policies aimed at bridging the urban-rural divide. Those initiatives would mark a revolutionary new era of national prosperity.

He condemned the imperialist dominance of the United States of America and some international organizations, holding them responsible for global instability and the erosion of international legal principles designed to safeguard territorial sovereignty. Development and justice could not be achieved without a strong national defence. The military deterrent of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was a legitimate exercise of self-defence in response to external threats from hostile States such as the United States of America. He reaffirmed his country's commitment to safeguarding its security while also strengthening friendly relations with supportive parliaments around the world.

**Ms. R. Miliute** (Lithuania) said that high inequality in income and opportunity harmed societies and impeded national progress. While Lithuania ranked 37th on the UN Human Development Index, it continued to face persistent challenges. Over the past decade, approximately 20% of the population had remained at risk of poverty, with a sixfold income gap between the wealthiest and the poorest. Social assistance recipients remained largely unchanged, and over one-third of the unemployed were long-term unemployed. Social mobility was also limited, with vulnerable groups needing to make significantly more effort to access education and employment opportunities.

The recently elected Government, committed to treating the State as a common good, was advancing sustainable development through targeted reforms across various sectors. Priorities included strengthening the national economy by reinforcing public finances, encouraging both local and foreign investment, supporting job creation and reducing bureaucracy. The Government also planned to implement progressive taxation on the highest incomes while protecting low-income earners and maintaining a competitive tax environment. Ensuring high-quality, accessible healthcare and education remained a top priority, along with empowering local governments and promoting regional development that reduced economic disparities.

Social development, however, could not be fully realized without peace and security. She strongly condemned Russia's illegal and unjustified aggression against Ukraine and pointed to the destabilizing conflicts in the Middle East and elsewhere. Those conflicts not only violated international law and human rights but also diverted vital resources away from social development and public welfare into military spending. Parliamentarians had a duty to show zero tolerance towards such aggression by upholding international law, working to end hostilities and ensuring compensation for damage caused. Only when such foundational principles were defended could countries ethically advance inclusive development and social justice.

**Mr. A. Fathullah** (Iraq) said that social empowerment was not a luxury but a prerequisite for sustainable development, economic growth and environmental protection. Parliamentarians must go beyond their law-making and oversight roles to build a new social contract rooted in equality, human rights and protection of the most vulnerable. Key priorities must include universal social protection, including healthcare, education and housing; job creation, especially through small and medium-sized enterprises; tax justice; and women's empowerment, particularly in decision-making roles.

Iraq had overcome immense challenges in recent years, including terrorism and widespread destruction by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), but was now entering a new era of rapid development and change guided by a genuinely democratic regime with a determination to act. Iraq's progress in combatting discrimination was especially noteworthy with a growing number of women taking up leadership positions across academia, the military and parliament. Despite continued

challenges such as climate change and food insecurity, Iraq was determined to rebuild and develop independently. He noted the importance of public engagement, emphasizing that citizens' voices must always be taken into account.

He condemned the ongoing violence, forced displacement and human rights violations in Gaza, stating that international humanitarian principles were just empty promises unless the Palestinian cause was addressed. The international community must fulfil its moral responsibility and act decisively in support of justice in the region.

**Mr. A. Almodóbar Barceló** (Spain) said that parliamentary democracy was not just about holding elections but about listening to the needs of the people and translating them into effective laws and policies. Key priorities for parliamentary action included the protection of labour rights, the provision of essential public services and the promotion of gender equality.

In recent years, laws that expanded social protections and rights, such as decent wages, had demonstrated the potential of legislation to reduce inequality. However, laws alone were not enough; they must also be properly implemented with sufficient resource allocations and clear lines of responsibility. He stressed that achieving social justice was not solely the responsibility of parliaments but demanded a collective effort. Citizens must play an active role in public debate, policy implementation and the promotion of transparency and accountability.

Social justice commitments, including access to education, decent work, healthcare and equal opportunities, must be recognized, not as privileges or aspirations, but as fundamental rights that parliaments were obligated to guarantee. He called on parliamentarians to rise above partisanship and ideological divides when it came to matters of social justice, adding that progress in social rights had historically been achieved through consensus, dialogue and a shared commitment to the common good. In that context, he condemned protectionist policies, such as unjust tariffs, which undermined the productivity and competitiveness of certain sectors of society.

Parliaments, as the driving force for justice and inclusive progress, must be committed to equality, poverty eradication and protection of human rights. A truly representative parliament was one that left no one behind.

**Ms. F. O'Loughlin** (Ireland) said that discussions on social development and justice must begin with a recognition of human suffering. In a world marked by conflict and deep cultural, historical and political differences, each nation must find its own path to represent its people, uphold human rights and live peacefully with neighbours. However, collective global cooperation was essential to meet shared challenges and navigate societal change.

As a country that valued social rights and equality, Ireland underscored the importance of leadership grounded in respect, dignity and justice. Difference was intrinsic to humanity, and the only way forward was to respect it. A new, inclusive social contract was needed based on human rights and universal access to basic services such as education, healthcare and housing, ensuring social protection for all, support for decent work, investment in small enterprises and action against climate change. There was also a need to address the ethical implications of artificial intelligence (AI).

**Mr. X. Iacovelli** (France) drew attention to recent global crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, which had reversed a decade of social progress in areas such as poverty reduction. In the EU, over 20% of the population was currently at risk of social exclusion, and France, despite strong international standings, faced persistent challenges. As of 2019, 15% of the French population lived below the poverty line, with young people being among the most affected. In 2020, 11.4% of young people aged 15 to 24 had been neither in employment nor in education or training, and many of those who did pursue studies faced economic insecurity. In response, the French Government had launched the *One Youth, One Solution* initiative as part of its post-pandemic recovery plan. The programme had yielded promising results, bringing youth unemployment to its lowest level in 40 years, although further efforts were needed. Single-parent families, which accounted for one in four households in France – 82% of which were headed by women – were also vulnerable. He had recently submitted a paper to the French Prime Minister proposing new measures to support and recognize single-parent families. While support was mostly provided in the form of financial benefits, efforts were also being made to support employment and self-empowerment.

He encouraged the whole of society to show solidarity in the fight for social justice, for instance through volunteering and donations, and businesses were urged to uphold their corporate social responsibility. Combatting social vulnerability required policies that guaranteed access to decent housing and healthy diets, bridged the digital divide, addressed energy insecurity and improved access to employment. It was vital to fight inequalities both nationally and internationally.

**Ms. D. O'Neill** (Australia), noting that the core responsibility of governments and parliaments was to ensure long-term prosperity and well-being for their citizens, said that Australia prioritized equitable treatment and opportunity regardless of background. The social contract in her country was based on shared responsibility between governments and citizens – as illustrated through the universal healthcare system, Medicare, whereby the Government provided essential services and citizens contributed through taxes. A key mechanism for promoting fairness and addressing inequality was taxation. Australia had a progressive taxation system where the tax rate increased as a person's income rose.

The parliamentary committees also played an important role in addressing inequality in Australia. In 2023, a major parliamentary inquiry had taken place into the multinational corporation PricewaterhouseCoopers which had misused confidential government tax information to create its own tax avoidance scheme. The scandal had exposed wider issues of multinational tax evasion that undermined governments' ability to fund essential services and violated the principle of fair competition to the detriment of small businesses. She had brought those concerns to the IPU at its 149th Assembly, where a panel discussion had been held within the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security. Participants had agreed on the need to hold multinationals accountable and build a fair global tax system that would not only restore public trust but also provide funding to tackle global challenges such as climate change, poverty and inequality.

Decent working conditions were equally essential for economic fairness and social development. A recent parliamentary inquiry into the work and care sector in Australia had found that many Australians, especially women, faced challenges balancing employment with caregiving responsibilities. The inquiry recommended key reforms, such as 26 weeks of paid parental leave and the right to disconnect from work outside of contracted hours. Those recommendations had since been legislated, serving as a testament to the power of parliamentary committees in creating meaningful change.

Lastly, gender equality was the cornerstone of any just social contract. Equal pay, flexible work arrangements, adequate parental leave and fair wages in female-dominated sectors such as aged care and early childhood education were essential to building a fair and equal society. Although Australia had made progress, more work remained to be done to achieve full gender equality.

**Ms. A.A. Adams** (Malawi) said that social development and justice were not abstract ideals but human needs that allowed citizens to live dignified, fulfilling lives. Parliaments played a vital role in delivering social development and justice for all by developing policies that guaranteed universal access to essential services such as healthcare, housing, education and fair wages, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable populations. Equally important was the need to enact laws promoting gender equality, protecting human rights and safeguarding the needs of vulnerable groups while also strengthening judicial independence, expanding affordable legal services and ensuring that justice was neither delayed nor denied. Social development and justice must not be a privilege for a select few but a fundamental right for everyone, regardless of background, gender, economic status or location.

She outlined the efforts made by the Parliament of Malawi to promote social development and justice. One such effort had been the enactment of laws supporting social protection, most notably the Social Cash Transfer Programme. The programme, backed by parliamentary budget allocations and policy frameworks, provided direct cash assistance to the elderly, persons with disabilities and people living in extreme poverty. Her Parliament had played an active role in advancing policies aimed at improving access to high-quality education, with significant progress made in promoting free primary education, and had supported laws and policies to expand access to health services, focusing on maternal health, HIV and AIDS prevention and inclusion. Meaningful steps had also been taken towards human rights and gender equality, including the adoption of the Gender Equality Act, which had established a legal framework to combat domestic violence, early marriage and sexual harassment. There had also been judicial reforms aimed at creating a fairer and more accessible system, including the establishment of legal aid services for those unable to afford legal representation. Despite those advances, many of the above initiatives had been constrained by the country's ongoing financial crisis. As such, she stressed the urgent need for international debt relief and restructuring to help Malawi continue its development efforts.

Parliamentarians must demonstrate bold vision, steadfast commitment and shared purpose in promoting social development and justice for all, guided by the principles of fairness and equality.

**Mr. F. Hamilton** (United Kingdom), noting that parliamentary action for social development and justice was both a political responsibility and a moral imperative, highlighted the commitment of his Government, led by the Labour Party, to promoting fairness, justice and equality as pillars of a healthy and stable society. Parliamentary action served as the primary vehicle through which social development and justice were protected – an imperative made even more crucial by the rise of authoritarianism, growing disregard for international norms and the erosion of civil rights across the world. While current world events revealed the fragility of democracy, institutions must remain steadfast in ensuring justice for all.

One of the most vital contributions that parliamentarians could make to social development and justice was the creation and implementation of laws that promoted equality and protected human rights. The clearest example of that was the establishment of the United Kingdom's National Health Service in 1948 which provided universal healthcare to all citizens regardless of income or status. Another key example was the Equality Act which addressed discrimination across employment, education and public services and provided protections for people of all races, religions and backgrounds. Those achievements had been the result of sustained parliamentary debate and advocacy.

However, such progressive gains were not guaranteed. In many parts of the world, a growing number of authoritarian leaders were prioritizing self-interest and brute force over diplomacy and cooperation, and undermining democratic systems and accountability by attacking the judiciary, media and civil society. Parliaments, as guardians of democracy, must stand firm against such trends, upholding the rule of law and keeping leaders accountable. The rise of authoritarianism had both domestic and global implications, as exemplified by the illegal Russian invasion of Ukraine which was a grave violation of both national sovereignty and international law. He commended the UK Parliament's unified stance in supporting Ukraine and called on the global parliamentary community to respond unequivocally to preserve peace and justice. When the rule of law was undermined, the very trust that citizens placed in their leaders was eroded and social progress took a backward step.

**Mr. M. Hadid** (Palestine), drawing attention to the recent discovery of a mass grave in Rafah, underscored the ongoing suffering of the Palestinian people at the hands of Israel. Israel was committing war crimes, including forced displacement, settlement expansion, looting of resources and systemic deprivation of basic human rights, such as healthcare and education, as part of a long-standing annexation plan that amounted to genocide. He highlighted, in particular, the dire situation of Palestinian prisoners, the use of hunger as a weapon of war and restrictions on humanitarian aid, which were being used by design to force Palestinians towards involuntary migration.

The future of Palestine remained uncertain amid ongoing health and economic crises, particularly affecting vulnerable groups such as women and children, and further compounded by the erosion of the international system. He criticized the international community for its silence, arguing that double standards and a failure to hold perpetrators accountable had enabled continued aggression. He called for an end to the occupation, for the protection of Palestinian human rights, including the right to return, and for the establishment of an independent Palestinian State based on the pre-1967 borders as prerequisites for peace, social development and justice in the Middle East.

**Mr. H. Arshakyan** (Armenia) emphasized the importance of collective action to address global challenges and build a future based on justice, equality and peace. True development went beyond economic growth to include social protection, equal opportunities and dignity for all. Armenia had prioritized social inclusion and improved access to essential services such as healthcare, education and housing, particularly for vulnerable groups, through increased social protection spending.

Underscoring Armenia's commitment to peace despite the long and difficult process that it involved, he announced the completion of a draft peace agreement with Azerbaijan which stood ready to be signed. Azerbaijan was urged to join Armenia in signing the agreement, thus taking a historic step forward towards lasting peace and prosperity for both nations.

**Mr. P. Wurm** (Austria) acknowledged the immense global challenges facing the world today: wars and conflicts threatening international peace and security; slow economic growth, inflation and escalating trade tensions; and a weakening of multilateralism. Against that difficult backdrop, he emphasized the importance of parliamentary action for social development and justice. Parliamentarians played a central role in ensuring equal access to resources, opportunities and rights and in promoting multilateralism for peace, democracy and prosperity.

Peace, democracy and prosperity were key foundations for stable societies and essential for social progress and sustainable development. Although global cooperation was important, social development and justice primarily started within each sovereign nation, with national parliaments best equipped to address their people's unique social and economic realities. In that context, the principles of subsidiarity, cultural identity and self-determination must guide efforts towards social development. Parliaments should be empowered to act in their people's best interest rather than be pressured by transnational or one-size-fits-all policies.

Social justice was not possible without internal security, functioning borders and respect for the rule of law. Rising immigration pressures in Europe, including from illegal immigration, threatened social cohesion and the financial sustainability of welfare systems. Noting that a just society began with strong families, he called for policies that supported family formation, assisted parents and children, and promoted the transmission of values and responsibilities across generations. Austria had long practised a model of balanced social partnership respecting both workers and employers. However, he questioned increasingly centralized global governance mechanisms that disconnected decision-making from the democratic will of national parliaments and their constituencies

International development and assistance must be targeted, transparent, effective and free from ideology while also respecting the dignity and autonomy of partner countries to chart their own development paths. True solidarity did not come without limits. Despite the challenges ahead, fairness and justice must be established both within and between countries with parliaments leading the way by centring the well-being, security and aspirations of their people.

**Mr. F. Undurraga** (Chile) called on parliamentarians to build a fairer and more prosperous world in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), stressing that eradicating poverty and inequality was essential to achieving inclusive social development and justice. The vision of a fairer and more prosperous world, however, was becoming increasingly more difficult to achieve amid global crises that were intensifying insecurity and impeding sustainable development, inclusion and peace.

The global economic outlook was deeply concerning, with the combined impact of global crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, undermining growth and stability. Protectionist trends were further straining global trade, with significant negative consequences for both markets and ordinary people. He warned that low growth projections, outlined in a recent World Bank report, were insufficient to meet the needs of emerging and developing economies. As such, international financial institutions were advocating for structural reforms to stimulate growth, enhance social protection and support the most vulnerable populations.

He reaffirmed the importance of the SDGs as a comprehensive framework encompassing economic, social, political and environmental commitments aimed at promoting people-centred well-being and intergenerational justice. While some incremental progress had been made, it remained too slow to meet the 2030 deadline with only one fifth of the SDGs on track. To address the matter, urgent, concrete and ambitious measures were needed, including the implementation of initiatives such as the Pact for the Future. Those efforts must be backed by clear policy commitments and both internal and external financial mobilization.

Development in Latin America required long-term political and social agreements that promoted fairer taxation and more efficient public spending. Such measures would allow the State to mobilize and distribute resources in a more equitable way, thereby reducing social disparities.

He stressed that true inclusion went beyond addressing poverty and must also encompass the needs of persons with disabilities, a group whose numbers were rising due to global crises, such as war. Greater effort was required to ensure their integration into the workforce and education systems.

**Mr. Gyaltzen Losang** (China) emphasized the international community's shared aspirations for peace, development and fairness even amid accelerating global changes, mounting geopolitical tensions and growing instability. Parliaments played an important role in fostering equal international relations based on mutual trust, promoting mutually beneficial development and cooperation, encouraging open dialogue, and contributing to equitable and just global governance.

He presented three core proposals. First, there was a need to build a global consensus for development. Humanity shared a common future and therefore required shared development. The consensus should be based on a people-centred approach that upheld multilateralism and strengthened coordination to promote inclusive, universally beneficial and resilient development. The *Global Development Initiative* proposed by China was closely aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda).

Second, he highlighted the importance of promoting the rule of law and ensuring fairness and justice. China advocated for peaceful and secure global governance and opposed hegemonic practices that built one nation's security at the expense of others. Parliaments must represent the will of the people and protect their interests in all aspects of lawmaking, governance and development.

Third, he called for win-win cooperation and greater mutual learning among countries, noting that no country could thrive alone in an era of complex global challenges. China proposed a global governance model based on extensive consultation, joint contributions and shared benefit, and encouraged dialogue among civilizations through its *Global Civilization Initiative*. Parliamentarians should engage more actively in dialogue to effectively fulfil their legislative, oversight and governance functions, ensuring timely approval and revision of laws that supported national development and shared human progress.

According to a recent government report, China's gross domestic product (GDP) had grown by 5% in 2024, contributing roughly 30% to global economic growth. With a strong long-term economic outlook, China would continue to be a stabilizing force for global development sharing the benefits of its modernization with the world. Through cooperation and exchange of experiences, parliaments could contribute meaningfully to fair and equitable global governance based on the vision of a shared future for humanity.

**Ms. B. Khurelbaatar** (Mongolia) emphasized the importance of parliamentary action in advancing social development and justice through inclusive representation and citizen participation. In 2023, Mongolia had passed constitutional reforms, which had expanded the legislature from 76 to 126 members and reintroduced proportional voting. The aim of the reforms was to improve representation, especially for women, strengthen legislative outreach and balance local and national policy considerations. As a result of the reforms, gender quotas in political parties had increased from 20% to 30%, with a projected rise to 40% by 2028. As a result, women currently held 25% of parliamentary seats, compared to 1992 when there were only three female parliamentarians.

Mongolia was committed to establishing a comprehensive and well-regulated legal environment and was therefore streamlining and revising over 3,000 regulations. The goal was to transition from an institution-centred model of governance to a people-centred one, increasing social relations governed by law rather than administrative directives.

The Parliament had recently approved the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan of the State Great Hural, which reinforced commitment to core values, such as human rights, pluralism and good governance, as well as the Government Action Plan 2024-2028 built around four key policy pillars: regional development, human development, economic growth and good governance. The policy pillar on good governance included sub-policies promoting human rights, anti-corruption, e-governance, State productivity, national resilience and peace, with its implementation supported by digital governance tools to reduce subjectivity and enhance efficiency. By ensuring close coordination between the legislative and executive branches, Mongolia aimed to resolve corruption, bureaucracy and human rights violations.

Mongolia was also committed to women's leadership and inclusive economic growth, having agreed to host several upcoming international events: the World Women Entrepreneurs Forum, a forum for women parliamentarians from Asia, a sustainability dialogue organized in conjunction with the Bingaman Foundation and Stanford University, and the 17th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

**Mr. Seki Yoshihiro** (Japan) said that human-centred sustainable development, which was the focus of the Copenhagen Declaration adopted at the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, remained highly relevant today. Japan had made human security a central pillar of its foreign policy, with the aim of building a society in which every individual could live in dignity, free from fear and want.

Investing in people, particularly in their education, was the foundation of social development. Japan had supported both basic and higher level education in developing countries, with targeted support for vulnerable groups, especially girls excluded from schooling, children with disabilities and children affected by conflict. Providing quality education involved embracing innovation and advanced technologies, such as AI. As part of the *Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development* initiative, introduced at the G20 Osaka Summit in 2019, Japan had provided innovation-related education to approximately 9.47 million children and young people between 2019 and 2021. He stressed the importance of continuing such efforts to ensure universal access to cutting-edge science and technology while addressing the digital divide.

People-centred development required international cooperation based on mutual trust, especially in education, which would not be possible without respect for each other's cultures and histories. Parliaments could promote mutual understanding by participating in the IPU and other interparliamentary forums, communicating insights back to their governments and advocating for strengthened international cooperation.

**Ms. S. Nyirahabimana** (Rwanda) said that 7 April marked the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, established by UN General Assembly resolution 74/273 (2020). In the aftermath of the genocide, Rwanda had been on the brink of becoming a failed State. However, through transformative leadership, strong institutions and the active engagement of citizens, Rwanda had made a remarkable recovery. Thirty years later, it was a resilient, unified and dignified nation, contributing constructively to the international community.

She outlined Rwanda's national approach to social development and justice, highlighting policies on poverty reduction and income growth, improved living standards, good governance and the rule of law, and the promotion of women's empowerment – all grounded in home-grown solutions tailored to local needs. As a result of those policies, Rwanda had shown impressive economic and social resilience. It was a global leader in gender equality in politics, with women representing 63.75% of the Chamber of Deputies and 53.8% of the Senate, and had increased life expectancy to 69.6 years as of 2022. Through oversight activities, the Rwandan Parliament ensured effective implementation of government policies and programmes related to social development and justice and called on other parliaments to do the same.

Addressing the accusations made by the delegate from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, she firmly rejected them as false and recalled that the Congolese Government was collaborating with the UN-sanctioned armed group responsible for the 1994 genocide, namely the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR). Any involvement with the FDLR undermined regional peace efforts and posed an existential threat to Rwanda. The conflict referred to by the delegate from the Democratic Republic of the Congo was largely an internal matter which should be resolved through regional mechanisms established by the East African Community and the Southern African Development Community with the endorsement of the African Union. She reiterated Rwanda's tireless commitment to peace and stability in the region and beyond.

**The Chair** said that 7 April marked the anniversary of one of the gravest atrocities in recent history, namely, the 1994 genocide in Rwanda which had claimed the lives of 800,000 people, primarily Tutsi but also moderate Hutus. The international community had condemned the genocide, going on to achieve significant progress in the area, with genocide now prohibited under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and criminalized in the domestic legislation of many countries. However, she cautioned that genocide had not ended in 1994, as mass atrocities had occurred since and continued today. It was more relevant than ever to create national and international strategies, mechanisms and structures to prevent genocide. Recognizing that prevention was a collective obligation, the global parliamentary community, including the IPU, must remain committed to promoting peace and fighting on behalf of victims.

*A minute of silence in memory of the victims of genocide was observed.*

**Mr. S. Smith** (New Zealand) said that parliamentary action for social development and justice must begin with the basics: ensuring equal rights and access to government services based on need, and providing abundant, affordable energy.

Ensuring that every individual, regardless of background, had equal rights and opportunities was both a moral duty and a practical necessity for social cohesion. Discrimination undermined the fabric of society, and laws and policies must reflect a commitment to fairness. A needs-based approach to resource allocation promoted both equity and programme effectiveness.

Access to reliable and affordable energy was essential for improving living standards and driving economic growth. While investment in energy infrastructure, including renewable energy, was necessary, it should not come at any cost. He cautioned that renewable energy subsidies had in many cases driven up costs and contributed to deindustrialization. Prioritizing low-cost energy sources, tailored to specific contexts, could help reduce energy poverty.

Other fundamentals included inclusive, high-quality education; accessible and comprehensive healthcare; and economic policies that supported job creation, fair wages and small businesses.

**Ms. M. Hugonnet-Grisoul** (Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF)) said that the APF placed parliamentary action for social development and justice at the heart of its work, focusing on supporting legislative reforms, developing practical tools and encouraging dialogue among stakeholders. One of its key initiatives was the recent adoption of a legal framework on gender-sensitive budgeting comprising two main components: an analysis of existing legislation in French-speaking countries and an operational guide with technical fact sheets. The fact sheets helped parliaments, regardless of their level of progress, incorporate gender-sensitive budgeting into sectors such as education and health.

The APF also placed significant focus on universal access to education, particularly for girls, as a powerful means of empowering entire societies. Educated girls become autonomous women capable of transforming their environments and breaking cycles of poverty. Conversely, denying girls access to education often correlated with early marriage, which constituted a serious violation of children's rights and hindered emancipation.

A legal framework on strengthening financial rights was also being developed. The framework, which built on a series of awareness-raising seminars, aimed to ensure legal security, protect livelihoods, and reduce legal disputes related to land ownership and use.

The APF had worked to promote environmental sustainability through various regional workshops held over the past year in Africa, notably in Equatorial Guinea, Mauritania, the Seychelles and Togo, with plans to expand those efforts to Southeast Asia. The workshop in Togo had resulted in the adoption of an ambitious national climate plan within just one month. Discussions were also underway to develop a legal framework for the sustainable management of mining resources aimed at preventing the exploitation of natural wealth and ensuring the benefits of mining reached local populations. In so doing, the APF hoped to strengthen local use of natural resources, stimulate inclusive social development and generate higher revenues for reinvestment into education, healthcare and other community infrastructure.

True social justice could not be achieved without peace and security, which were essential foundations for human dignity, equal opportunity and sustainable development. In the absence of stability, fundamental rights became fragile, inequality deepened, and institutions struggled to guarantee fair access to services and civic participation. The promotion of peace and security must therefore remain central to all parliamentary action.

**Mr. A. Neofytou** (Cyprus) said that the recent imposition of tariffs by the United States of America marked a significant shift in global trade dynamics. While recognizing every nation's right to protect its economic interests, he warned of the unintended consequences such measures could have, particularly on smaller, export-dependent economies and on overall global stability. Open markets and fair competition could drive prosperity, but that prosperity must be inclusive and sustainable.

Cyprus understood that economic policy was not merely about numbers but about people – families struggling with inflation and young people seeking opportunity amid growing uncertainty. In that context, he emphasized the vital role of parliaments in transforming shared values into tangible policies.

Parliaments must focus on three areas of action. First, he stressed the need for legislation that prepared economies to be resilient to global shocks without overburdening future generations with unsustainable debt. Second, it was important to invest in innovation and education, thereby equipping people to adapt and thrive even in a more protectionist environment. Third, international parliamentary dialogue must be used to advocate for trade frameworks that were not just strategic but also fair and mutually beneficial. Protectionist policies must not come at the expense of global stability and shared prosperity.

Beyond economics, social development also required peace, security and justice. The ongoing Turkish occupation of Cyprus was a persistent injustice that continued to prevent thousands of Cypriots from returning home and undermined the country's full economic and social potential. A truly just world must be based on respect for international law and national sovereignty. Sustainable development could not flourish where fundamental rights and territorial integrity were ignored.

**Ms. E. Winkelmeier-Becker** (Germany) said that parliamentarians, as democratically elected representatives, held the highest level of democratic legitimacy, placing on them a vital responsibility to represent the diverse interests of the people and develop solutions for the common good. In view of current global crises, there was a need for strong, confident parliaments that effectively hold governments accountable.

Social development and justice, both nationally and internationally, were among the most pressing global challenges. Drawing on Germany's constitutional principles, she stressed that human dignity and equal rights must apply to all people regardless of background. Despite disparities in wealth and income, it was the role of politics to promote social security, support a strong middle class and prevent widening inequality. A modern welfare State must include the following: (1) universal access to free education, supported by financial grants, to enable professional and social advancement; (2) a progressive tax system in which higher incomes were taxed at higher rates and family burdens were taken into account; (3) robust social insurance systems that protected against poverty due to age, illness or unemployment; and (4) pension schemes that were seen not as charity handouts but as rewards earned through many years of personal contributions and work.

She called for a social contract based on mutual responsibility, where individuals contributed to society and could, in turn, rely on support when needed. Such a foundation was essential for social justice, development and prosperity but also for peace. When wealth and opportunity were kept in the hands of a few, it resulted in conflict, restriction and suffering. Social justice was not a coincidence or a luxury but a deliberate political choice – one that parliamentarians must choose through legislation, budgeting and priority-setting.

**Mr. P.K. Nsanja** (Uganda) reaffirmed Uganda's commitment to advancing social development and justice. A key initiative in that regard was the establishment of the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development Goals which worked to align national policies and legislation with the SDGs. The Forum also advocated for adequate resources and promoted integrated approaches to implementing the Goals.

Parliament had passed several important social protection laws, including the Children Act and the Domestic Violence Act, aimed at safeguarding vulnerable populations. Additionally, the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Social Protection played a critical role in empowering marginalized communities by facilitating stakeholder engagement and legislative advocacy for social and economic transformation.

In the education sector, Parliament had enacted key legislation such as the Education Act, covering pre-primary to post-primary education, and the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act. Policies such as the Universal Primary Education Policy and the Technical Vocational Education and Training Policy had further expanded access to education. Parliament also ensured sufficient budget allocations to support education programmes.

In healthcare, Parliament had made strides in passing the Public Health Act, which focused on disease control and sanitation. Recognizing the limited coverage of private insurance, Parliament had also passed the National Health Insurance Bill to provide equitable, accessible and affordable healthcare for all Ugandans.

Labour and employment rights had also been addressed through various laws, including the Employment Act, the Equal Opportunities Commission Act, the Workers Compensation Act and the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Those laws promoted fair wages, decent working conditions and employee rights.

To strengthen the justice system, Parliament had implemented reforms to improve court efficiency and transparency. Notably, the Human Rights (Enforcement) Act enhanced the enforcement of human rights and provided redress mechanisms in cases of violation.

**Mr. J.E. Estrada** (Philippines) said that, despite global commitments such as the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration and the 2030 Agenda, inequality, economic disparities and marginalization persisted. Parliaments had the power to bridge economic and social gaps, expand social protection and enact policies that promoted equitable and sustainable growth. Through collective responsibility, economic gains could be translated into meaningful improvements in people's lives.

While the Philippine Development Report 2024 highlighted steady national progress, including robust GDP growth, a decline in unemployment and a reduction in poverty levels, significant challenges remained, particularly in achieving gender equality, advancing climate action and ensuring access to clean energy. He outlined several key pieces of legislation that underscored his country's commitment to social development and justice. To address poverty eradication and improve access to essential services, the National Health Insurance Act expanded healthcare coverage, and the Expanded Senior Citizens Act provided greater support to the elderly. To ensure decent and productive work, the Public Employment Service Office Act linked job seekers with employment opportunities, and the Philippine Green Jobs Act incentivized job creation that contributed to a sustainable economy. To promote social inclusion, the Magna Carta of Women upheld gender equality, and the Act Amending the Magna Carta for Persons with Disability enhanced access to employment, education and social services for people with disabilities. Ongoing legislative efforts

included the Poverty Reduction through Social Entrepreneurship Act and the Magna Carta for Workers, Enterprises and Organizations in the Informal Economy, both aiming to uplift marginalized groups. Several climate laws were also under examination, including the Blue Economy Act and the Sustainable Cities and Communities Act.

At the international level, the Philippines hosted the Board of the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage and had submitted a bid for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for 2027-2028, which the international community were encouraged to support. Looking ahead to the Second World Summit for Social Development, parliamentarians must work towards a new social contract that ensured universal access to essential services, protected workers' rights and guaranteed equal opportunities for all.

**Ms. I. Živković** (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)) said that amid rapid technological change, parliaments had a key role in ensuring that economic and digital progress benefitted people. That required rethinking global economic systems, expanding fiscal space for social investment, ensuring debt sustainability and promoting equitable access to financing. To advance those objectives, the UNDP supported countries in making social development and justice central to national priorities. It had, for instance, assisted 86 countries in aligning development strategies with financing plans through integrated national financing frameworks (INFFs) – tools designed to strengthen planning processes and overcome obstacles to SDG financing.

Progress must be measured not just in GDP growth but in improved lives, reduced inequalities and protected ecosystems, as reflected by the UN Human Development Index which evaluated life expectancy, education and standard of living. There was an urgent need to address structural inequalities. The UN Secretary-General's *Our Common Agenda* called for a renewed social contract, anchored in human rights and shaped by solidarity, which ensured universal social protection, fair wages, decent work and inclusive decision-making, especially for women, young people and minority groups. In that regard, the UNDP had supported the establishment of the Central Asian Women Leaders' Caucus, and in doing so had witnessed progress in women's political participation, youth engagement and the adoption of transformative laws, including laws criminalizing domestic violence.

In anticipation of the Second World Summit for Social Development, she called for renewed collective ambition to build inclusive, resilient and equal societies – in practice, not just rhetoric. Parliaments were vital to that effort, helping to bridge divides and build consensus around shared values such as dignity, solidarity and opportunity for all.

**Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka** (Poland) said that sustainable development must meet present needs without compromising the future. However, progress was being hindered by environmental damage, social inequality and geopolitical instability, including the war in Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic. Those crises had strained global resources, inflated energy and food prices and triggered debt challenges, especially in developing countries, slowing efforts towards the SDGs. Although aid from the Development Assistance Committee had increased, much of it had been redirected to address the immediate impacts of the pandemic and of wars, reducing support for long-term SDG implementation.

Poland had made strong progress in poverty reduction and education, outperforming EU averages, but still faced challenges in hunger, clean water access and ocean protection. Regional strategies, local governance, business partnerships and community engagement had all contributed to progress. Polish regions had begun incorporating the SDGs into updated strategic plans, taking into account regional specificities; the plans were being systematically monitored.

She noted the importance of strong collaboration between the government, local authorities, businesses and other stakeholders to sustain growth. In Poland, businesses were demonstrating social responsibility by funding community projects, such as local infrastructure and cultural or educational initiatives. Those contributions were especially vital in poorer areas.

The Parliament played a crucial role in advancing the SDGs through legislation. Poland had recently enacted new laws on immigrant work and integration, reflecting a shift from temporary labour migration to long-term settlement and family support. The arrival of Ukrainian refugees, which brought both challenges and opportunities, had further influenced the migration policy.

There was a vital need for international cooperation amid global threats to democracy, including the rise of populist and authoritarian tendencies even in traditionally democratic countries. Such trends weakened efforts towards sustainable development, and a renewed commitment to the 2030 Agenda was needed.

**Mr. P. Bakovic** (Slovenia) said that, despite strong efforts to build a society grounded in trust and solidarity, challenges remained that demanded deeper reflection and more decisive action. Slovenia was proud of its commitment to reducing the risk of poverty but acknowledged that full social justice had not yet been achieved. Social exclusion, whether through poverty or limited access to basic services, continued to be experienced by certain segments of the population, including the elderly, the homeless, the long-term unemployed, people with disabilities and members of ethnic communities.

A key challenge in social development was ensuring equal opportunities for all, regardless of one's origin, gender, age or social status. Active policies that guaranteed equitable access to essential public goods such as education, employment and healthcare were needed. In recent years, Slovenia had introduced several measures to address those issues. Notably, it had increased the amount of in-cash social assistance benefits and had expanded eligibility criteria for receiving income support. All pensioners with full pensionable service were also guaranteed a minimum old-age pension. In addition to providing subsidies and reduced payments, Slovenia had placed considerable emphasis on its social activation programme, supporting those who faced long-term unemployment and social exclusion. Two political priorities were highlighted: the establishment of a comprehensive long-term care system to make essential services more affordable and accessible, especially for elderly individuals in vulnerable social situations, many of whom were women; and the development of a sustainable system for financing and constructing affordable rental housing.

Social development and justice were a shared responsibility. Only through collective efforts and a clear vision of equal opportunity for all could a sustainable and just society be built. Parliamentarians had a vital role to play in that process.

**Ms. J. Kronlid** (Sweden) said that it was more important than ever to uphold democracy, human rights and the rule-based international order, particularly in the face of growing threats to territorial integrity and fundamental freedoms. The strength of any society lay in its ability to offer equal opportunities to all.

In Sweden, gender equality was not just a policy but the foundation of society, built through decades of deliberate parliamentary work and strong role models across genders. A dedicated gender equality group existed in the Swedish Parliament, involving men and women members from all political parties. For more women to participate in politics and leadership, systems must enable them to balance professional and family life. As a mother of three, she credited Sweden's parental leave policies, childcare services and flexible voting procedures for enabling her to continue parliamentary work.

The welfare system was also foundational to Swedish society. Core public services such as education, healthcare and pensions were financed through taxation, ensuring equal life opportunities for all.

Gender-based violence and harassment were critical global challenges that hindered both gender equality and security. Parliamentarians must combat the issue through legislation and by leading by example. She expressed concern over the normalization of sexual harassment and abuse on social media, which had raised tolerance thresholds and desensitized societies. Referring to the recent IPU study *Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in the Asia-Pacific region*, she noted that women in parliaments were increasingly targeted by hate speech, disinformation and image-based abuse. She urged collective action to reverse the harmful trend and promote a more respectful public discourse.

War and conflict were the most devastating threats to security, welfare and gender equality. She condemned Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which had disproportionately harmed women and children, leading to death, displacement and abductions, as well as the Hamas attack on 7 October 2023 and the war in Gaza, where women and children had also suffered severely. Such conflicts put societies on hold and denied children years of education.

Despite the above difficulties, it was also important to acknowledge positive developments in gender equality around the world. In particular, she praised Uzbekistan for its recent progress on criminalizing domestic violence, and highlighted improvements in women's rights in countries such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar, where women were increasingly entering the workforce and public life.

**Mr. H.D. Ngarimaden** (Chad) highlighted his country's recent return to constitutional order and the establishment of a bicameral parliament comprising 188 deputies (68 women) and 69 senators (34 women). To promote social development and justice, the Parliament was working to enhance its legislative framework so as to improve access to essential services, such as education, healthcare, drinking water, electricity and housing, while also exercising oversight over the Government to combat poverty and improve rural infrastructure. The Parliament was committed to promoting social inclusion

by implementing laws that supported the rights of women, young people and persons with disabilities. A standing committee had been created to monitor the implementation of the SDGs and assess public policy progress in sustainable development. A broad social reform agenda was also being pursued in alignment with global concerns such as reducing poverty, addressing inequality, expanding vocational training, promoting youth entrepreneurship, combating discrimination and ensuring access to free education. He underscored that social justice was central to national cohesion and stability.

Despite those initiatives, Chad still faced significant challenges. The country emphasized the need for greater support and capacity-building for its parliamentarians to strengthen their ability to tackle social issues and foster greater citizen engagement in the legislative process.

**Ms. M. Valente** (Angola) said that social development and justice were not just ideals but urgent needs in a world marked by growing inequalities. Parliaments must serve as pillars of democracy, inclusion and progress. Angola was committed to renewing the social contract between the State and its citizens, which must be anchored in human rights, equal opportunities and universal access to essential services such as education, healthcare, housing and social protection.

Angola had made consistent efforts to improve living conditions, especially for the most vulnerable. Its Parliament played a key role in enacting laws and monitoring policies that protected fundamental rights. A key initiative was the Kwenda programme, which aimed to provide direct support to 1.5 million vulnerable families by 2027. The country was also expanding free primary and secondary education, improving healthcare infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, promoting gender equality through women's empowerment programmes that supported active participation of women in politics and decision-making, and fostering youth employment through entrepreneurship and vocational training. She stressed that investing in youth was investing in the nation's economic and social development.

Recognizing the importance of digital inclusion, Angola was prioritizing digital literacy and technology training both in urban and rural areas. It remained committed to the SDGs and continued to advance legislative reforms to support economic growth and social inclusion. Guided by the principles of the rule of law, democracy and human rights, the country was also working to improve access to justice through a more efficient and fairer judiciary.

She called for global cooperation, peace and sharing of best practices, underscoring the essential role of the IPU in strengthening multilateralism and people-centred policies. Developing innovative solutions to social development and justice required continued inter-parliamentary dialogue.

**Ms. J. Simanovska** (Latvia) expressed deep concern about the global decline of democracy, noting that in many countries, elected leaders were increasingly limiting citizens' rights, freedoms and participation. Citing studies from the World Bank, Freedom House and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), she identified inequality, social insecurity and disinformation as key contributors to the erosion of trust in democratic institutions and the rise of populist movements. Excessive focus on economic growth, measured primarily through GDP, without addressing income disparities and social inequality, undermined social cohesion and could increase the risk of political instability, ultimately hindering sustainable development. Sustainable growth must ensure that all segments of society benefitted equally.

She highlighted how climate change-related insecurity contributed to xenophobia and authoritarianism, especially when disinformation targeted the economically or socially vulnerable with oversimplified explanations for complex problems. A particularly troubling consequence was youth apathy, with many young people feeling unheard in political processes. A stronger commitment to social justice and equality was essential.

Latvia had made tangible progress in providing universal social protection and essential services particularly to the most vulnerable, financing affordable housing and improving access to medicine. A progressive income tax system had also been implemented, benefitting 80% of workers, especially low-income earners. To build public trust, Latvia had launched a presidential initiative to expand citizen participation mechanisms, such as referendums, ensured open access to government and parliamentary processes via digital platforms, and worked extensively to combat disinformation, protect electoral integrity and promote transparency by limiting monetary influence in politics. Engaging young people in policymaking was another priority, as reflected in initiatives such as the Youth Parliament and the decision to lower the voting age to 16.

International justice was also essential since the decline of democracy in one country could threaten the stability of others. Global human rights systems protected billions, including vulnerable populations in small and developing countries and in those affected by climate change. If those systems collapsed, conflict and injustice would flourish. Latvia called for international cooperation to promote social justice and democratic freedoms.

**Ms. R. Kirova** (Bulgaria) said that social development and justice were key to building stable and prosperous societies, underscoring the powerful role of the IPU in promoting global cooperation in that regard. Referring to a study by the UN Sustainable Development Group, she noted that over half of the world's population, approximately 52.4%, currently benefitted from some form of social protection, which demonstrated the progress made in expanding social safety nets globally.

Bulgaria's notable achievements included ranking first in the EU for the longest paid parental leave, providing free medicine and medical treatment to children under the age of 7, and, since 2022, offering free access to kindergartens and nurseries. The Parliament had been actively pursuing legislative initiatives to improve employment and social security rights, including reforms to improve work-life balance for parents and carers, better integrate persons with disabilities into the workforce and regulate teleworking arrangements. Efforts had also been made to align Bulgaria's social assistance policy with broader European standards, thus streamlining the system, and a review of the Gender Equality Law was currently in progress, focused on enhancing gender balance among directors of publicly listed companies. Various social groups were included in those discussions. Ensuring free, high-quality education for children of all ages was another priority, as one of the most effective ways to combat poverty, gender inequality and social injustice. Laws on fair wages, access to healthcare, pension systems and support for the unemployed and persons with special needs were also being reviewed.

Overall, there was a need for comprehensive social protection systems that left no one behind. The global conversation on social justice and development was no longer about why they should be pursued but how and how quickly.

**Mr. J. Mhagama** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that social development and justice involved ensuring fair and equitable access to opportunities, resources and rights that enabled all individuals, regardless of their background, gender or socioeconomic status, to fully participate in social, economic and political life. Achieving the SDGs required addressing structural inequalities and prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, particularly young people.

Globally, young people faced significant challenges such as high unemployment rates, limited access to quality education and skills training, political marginalization, social inequalities, discrimination and barriers related to the digital divide. In Tanzania, where 34.5% of the population was under the age of 35, the Government had taken several important steps to promote social development and justice for its young people. They included free primary and secondary education in public schools and loans for underprivileged university and college students. A national youth development policy had also been adopted, which promoted entrepreneurship, education, gender equality and social equity, as well as a youth development fund offering financial support and training to young entrepreneurs. In addition, local governments were required to allocate 10% of their revenue to empowerment programmes for young people, women and persons with disabilities. On women's rights, the Parliament had conducted a gender-focused review of existing laws, resulting in the repeal of two discriminatory laws, amendments to 18 others and the enactment of 5 new laws aligned with international gender equality standards.

Parliament played an essential role in fostering social development and justice. By enacting legislation, formulating inclusive policies, allocating budgets and exercising oversight, parliaments could help build a fair and just society for all, especially for young people.

**Ms. H.I.N. Naffa** (Jordan) said that humanity had grown desensitized to suffering, prioritizing ego over empathy and allowing bloodshed to continue at the hands of Israel. As innocent women and children were killed and forced from their land, the international community remained shamelessly silent, and instead of holding perpetrators accountable, victims were blamed – a profound injustice. Selective enforcement of international law and double standards in human rights were eroding global credibility and fuelling instability in the Middle East. She called for an end to the war and for the establishment of dialogue and peace. Jordan stood firmly for Palestinian rights and interfaith coexistence.

On social development and justice, Jordan had developed a national strategy on social protection for the 2025–2033 period and had reformed its electoral laws to improve representation of women and young people in parliaments, citing her own leadership role as a woman heading the IPU parliamentary delegation as evidence of progress. However, while Jordan strove to create a new more inclusive social pact, the three pillars of sustainable development – social, economic and human – were under threat globally, particularly as tensions escalated and governments retreated from their responsibility to protect citizens.

**Ms. S. Codina** (Andorra) said that ensuring social cohesion in an increasingly polarized world required governments and parliaments to work together for the well-being of the people. Social cohesion was the glue that bound communities together, enabling them to overcome differences, promote a sense of belonging, pursue collective goals and build a better future. Andorra had prioritized social cohesion through legislative action, including a new law on sustainable growth and the right to housing, which aimed to address affordable housing shortages resulting from economic growth and foreign investment. A parliamentary committee had also been established to shape Andorra's future, focusing on sustainable development and universal access to essential services such as healthcare, education and social welfare. Other efforts included setting the minimum wage at 60% of the average wage and maintaining three strong public education systems. Tackling social cohesion required a multisectoral approach.

She warned that growing global uncertainty threatened democratic institutions. Parliaments must reinforce social cohesion by ensuring equal opportunities for all, as a united society was also a fairer, more prosperous and more peaceful one.

**Mr. P. Comissario Afonso** (Mozambique) said that parliamentarians had a crucial role to play in advancing sustainable development and social justice by enacting laws that served the common good and ensured peace and citizens' well-being. Sustainable development was a multidimensional process, with social justice and equity at its core. Educating citizens about the importance of sustainability and encouraging their active participation in building a healthy, fair and balanced world was imperative. Collective efforts must be focused on implementing and financing the SDGs.

Acknowledging the complex challenges facing Mozambique, he noted that 2025 marked 50 years of the country's independence, which coincided with the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations (UN). As indicated in the Charter of the United Nations, international cooperation was central to solving many of the world's problems.

*Dr. T. Ackson (United Republic of Tanzania), the President of the IPU, took the Chair.*

#### Item 2 of the agenda

#### **Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda** (A/150/2-P.1-rev, P.2-rev.2, P.3-rev and P.4)

**The President** said that four emergency item proposals had been submitted as follows: (1) *Advancing global economic cooperation: Reducing tariffs and combating protectionism* submitted by the delegations of Chile and Peru; (2) *Parliamentary diplomacy to promote peace and address the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar* submitted by the delegations of the Philippines and Thailand; (3) *The need for urgent action on the recent violation of the ceasefire agreement by Israel in Palestine, the escalating conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan, and the compounding effects of global warming* submitted by the delegations of the Seychelles, Zimbabwe, Jordan and Egypt with the support of the Arab Group and the African Group; and (4) *Ending the double standard: Calling on the international community to accept refugees from Gaza instead of exploiting them to attack Israel* submitted by the delegation of Israel.

The Steering Committee of the Assembly had met twice, on 6 and 7 April, to review the admissibility of the proposals, in line with Rule 11.2 of the Rules of the Assembly, which required emergency items to address a recent major situation of international concern. The proposal of Chile and Peru had met the criteria and had therefore been accepted. The initial proposals of Thailand and the Philippines as well as of the Seychelles, Zimbabwe, Jordan and Egypt had not met the criteria, and their authors had been invited to revise them accordingly. While the revised proposal of Thailand and the Philippines had been subsequently accepted, the one from the Seychelles, Zimbabwe, Jordan and Egypt remained broad, covering multiple topics. Although concerns had been raised about its scope, the latter proposal had not been withdrawn and therefore remained on the table, as per the Rules. Israel's proposal, initially incomplete, had been later accepted after revisions and the submission of an explanatory memorandum.

The Steering Committee had noted that the language used in two proposals did not meet IPU standards on the use of abusive language – defined as defamatory, intolerant, racist or xenophobic language, or expressions inciting hatred. She urged all delegations to uphold the principles of dialogue and mutual respect in keeping with the IPU's core values.

**The Secretary General** read out the titles of each of the four emergency items.

**The President** said that, according to the Rules of the Assembly, only one emergency item, with a two-thirds majority vote, could typically be added to the Assembly agenda. The item with both the required majority and the highest number of votes would be selected. However, to allow for the consideration of a broader range of pressing issues, and following a suggestion by the Executive Committee, the 150th Assembly might wish to trial the adoption of a second emergency item, if it too received a two-thirds majority. If successful, the approach might inform future amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules. Under Rule 15.3 of the Rules of the Assembly, emergency items were handled through an ad hoc procedure approved by the Assembly upon the Steering Committee's proposal.

**Mr. A. Gryffroy** (Belgium) raised concerns about the decision to trial the inclusion of a second emergency item at the 150th IPU Assembly without formally amending the IPU Statutes and Rules. He criticized the Executive Committee's authority to initiate such a trial, arguing that changes to fundamental rules, such as those governing emergency items, required a two-thirds majority vote, as specified in Article 31 of the IPU Statutes and Rules. He pointed out the inconsistency between the IPU's global promotion of parliamentary democracy and its own internal practices. He stressed the importance of adhering to democratic principles within the Organization itself.

**Mr. J.F.N. Mudenda** (Zimbabwe) said that current IPU Statutes and Rules, particularly Rules 11 and 12 of the Assembly, only allowed for one emergency item. Introducing a second emergency item without prior amendment to the Statutes and Rules would be procedurally incorrect. Any such change must first be approved by the Governing Council before implementation.

**Mr. H.-J. Talsma** (Netherlands) objected to the proposal to trial a second emergency item on the Assembly's agenda, stating that there was no legal basis for such an action under the current IPU Statutes and Rules. According to Article 14.2 of the Statutes and Rule 11.2(b) of the Assembly, only one emergency item could be included. Assembly Rule 15.3, cited as justification for the trial, pertained only to the debate procedure of an already approved emergency item and did not authorize the inclusion of additional items.

**A delegate from Iraq**, raising a point of order, objected to the emergency item proposed by Israel, arguing that it contravened international law and humanitarian standards. Israel was committing acts amounting to genocide, including the killing of women and children and the destruction of civilian infrastructure. He questioned how parliaments could be asked to vote on a proposal that allegedly supported those actions.

**The President** reminded delegates of the procedure for emergency items whereby the Secretariat received proposals and the Steering Committee reviewed them with a view to giving an opinion on their admissibility. The Steering Committee did not decide on the proposals – the final decision rested with the Assembly. According to Rule 12 of the Rules of the Assembly, before the Assembly made its decision, it must hear a brief explanation from the authors and from one opposing speaker. The delegate from Iraq would be given a chance to finalize his objection once Israel had delivered its explanation.

**Mr. B.O. Kalu** (Nigeria) raised concerns about the proposal of the Seychelles, Zimbabwe, Jordan and Egypt, noting that it combined three unrelated topics: the ceasefire violation by Israel in Palestine, conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan, and global warming. Citing Rule 11.2(c) of the Rules of the Assembly, which allowed for joint proposals only if they concerned the same subject, he argued that those issues were geographically and thematically distinct. In addition, the proposal, which was supposedly supported by the Africa Group, did not in fact reflect the stance of its members, including that of Nigeria.

**The President** said that the concerns raised by the delegate from Nigeria had also been shared by the Steering Committee. However, according to Rule 12 of the Rules of the Assembly, the Steering Committee did not have the authority to reject a proposal; its role was only to assess admissibility. As mentioned above, the final decision lay with the Assembly after hearing the explanations from authors

and any opposing views. The Steering Committee could not verify the genuine positions of different geopolitical groups since its role was simply to review what had been officially submitted to it. Any changes or objections could be raised during the emergency item debate before the vote.

She acknowledged the concerns raised by the delegates from Belgium, Zimbabwe and the Netherlands regarding the procedural validity of introducing a second emergency item and affirmed that those concerns were valid under current IPU Statutes and Rules. The idea of trialling two emergency items had been included in the convocation for the 150th IPU Assembly but no objections had been raised at the time.

The intention behind the proposed trial had been to explore the feasibility of expanding the Assembly's agenda to address a wider range of global issues, many of which often went unaddressed. It was not to usurp the authority of the Assembly. Given the evident discomfort among Members with the approach, she suggested that the proposal for the trial be withdrawn for the time being.

**The Secretary General** clarified that the proposal to consider a second emergency item was not a legal amendment to the IPU Statutes or Rules but rather an experimental initiative put forward by the Executive Committee. The Assembly retained full authority to reject the proposal if it so wished, but that decision should be based on an accurate understanding of the situation. The intent was simply to explore a possible solution to the recurring concern expressed by Members that the scope of issues addressed at the IPU was too limited. The Assembly should not mistake the proposed trial for a formal change to, or interference with, the Organization's legal framework.

**The President** took it that the Assembly wished to consider the adoption of just one emergency item rather than two.

*It was so decided.*

**The President** announced that one delegate representing each emergency item proposal would be given the floor, followed by opposing speakers in sequence, before proceeding to a roll-call vote. Speakers were reminded not to go into substance, as per Rule 12 of the Rules of the Assembly.

**Mr. R. Edwards** (Chile), presenting the emergency item proposal entitled *Advancing global economic cooperation: Reducing tariffs and combating protectionism*, said that the world was at a critical juncture in global economic history with stock markets plummeting and financial crisis looming. Behind those market downturns lay real-world consequences: job losses, poverty and widespread human suffering.

He called on delegates to reflect deeply upon the consequences of unilateral and retaliatory tariffs. Protectionism might seem to offer a shield, but, in reality, it was a weapon that ultimately harmed those it claimed to defend. The adverse effects of tariffs were not brief, as demonstrated by the "Chicken War" of the 1960s – a dispute between the United States of America and West Germany over poultry exports, which had led to the imposition of the "chicken tax", with consequences that persisted for decades. Another example was the 2018 tariffs imposed by the United States of America on imported washing machines. The tariffs had led to an increase not only in the price of imported washing machines but also in the price of domestic ones, as local producers took advantage of reduced competition. Those outcomes were self-inflicted wounds that were unnecessary and avoidable.

Protectionist measures were not just a form of economic mismanagement but an abandonment of the very principles that had helped lift over a billion people out of poverty since the 1990s: open markets, international cooperation and the free flow of goods and ideas. Furthermore, protectionism did not offer a sustainable solution; instead, it drove up prices, fuelled inflation, increased uncertainty and raised the risk of a global recession. Most importantly, it disproportionately harmed developing nations, widening inequality and deepening hardship in those countries.

He urged the Assembly to reaffirm its commitment to a multilateral trade system that was transparent, fair and inclusive – one that united nations in mutual prosperity rather than pitting them against each other. It was vital to support global economic cooperation, advocate for tariff reductions and speak out clearly and firmly against protectionism.

**The President** said that no delegation wished to speak against the proposal.

**Mr. K. Suebsang** (Thailand), presenting the emergency item proposal entitled *Parliamentary diplomacy to promote peace and address the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar*, expressed his disappointment over the lack of international attention to Myanmar's humanitarian crisis. On 28 March 2025, a devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake had struck Myanmar's Mandalay region, killing over 3,300 people, displacing more than 51,000 and affecting over 1.1 million. Infrastructure including homes, schools and hospitals had collapsed, and families were now living in temporary shelters with limited access to basic services, such as food and water.

The disaster had struck an already vulnerable nation where years of conflict and instability had left more than 15 million people in urgent need of humanitarian aid. Despite ceasefire announcements following the earthquake, airstrikes and bombardments had continued, including in areas most in need of assistance. It was one humanitarian crisis layered upon another. He urged the Assembly not to ignore Myanmar's plight and called for unhindered, timely humanitarian assistance, stressing the importance of coordination and access.

**The President** said that no delegation wished to speak against the proposal.

**Ms. M. Aljaghoub** (Jordan), presenting the emergency item proposal entitled *The need for urgent action on the recent violation of the ceasefire agreement by Israel in Palestine, the escalating conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan, and the compounding effects of global warming*, said that the African and Arab Groups had come together to present a proposal centred on the longstanding issues of injustice and humanitarian crisis. Citing the situation in Palestine, the speaker denounced 76 years of illegal occupation, marked by severe violations of international humanitarian law. The ongoing crisis was a genocide, with deliberate targeting of civilians, hospitals and schools, and the use of starvation as a weapon of war. The African and Arab Groups rejected the forced displacement of Palestinians, reaffirmed their unwavering support for Palestinian rights and called for an end to the occupation as the only viable path to peace in the region. The struggle against occupation and for dignity and freedom must be a shared commitment.

She also highlighted the ongoing suffering in Africa, particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where armed conflict continued to claim lives, and drew attention to the compounding effects of climate change, including droughts, floods and extreme weather, on the continent's vulnerability.

**Mr. W. William** (Seychelles), following on from Ms. Aljaghoub, said that the proposal aimed to mobilize international cooperation in line with the IPU's core principles and the 2030 Agenda, of which only 17% had been achieved. The proposal called for: (1) strengthening international parliamentary diplomacy to uphold multilateralism, peace and international security; (2) enhancing global climate action and submitting more ambitious national contributions, especially in light of global temperatures exceeding the 1.5°C threshold; (3) scaling up international mediation efforts in Palestine, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and (4) mobilizing IPU resources to address those crises.

**Mr. D.E.Y. Illouz** (Israel), expressing his strong opposition to the proposal, said that it was not a genuine effort to promote peace but an attempt to vilify Israel while whitewashing terror. The proposal failed to acknowledge the brutal attack by Hamas on 7 October 2023, involving the murder, rape and kidnapping of Israel's civilians, and omitted any mention of Israeli hostages, many of whom continued to be held in underground terror dungeons. It also unfairly blamed Israel for the breakdown of a ceasefire when it was in fact Hamas' refusal to release hostages that had led to its collapse. He denounced the proposal as a moral failure and a stain on the institution, affirming that Israel would never apologize for defending itself.

Turning to the emergency item proposal entitled *Ending the double standard: Calling on the international community to accept refugees from Gaza instead of exploiting them to attack Israel*, he accused the international community of moral hypocrisy in their response to the conflict in Gaza, particularly for weaponizing Palestinian suffering against Israel while abandoning Palestinians themselves. While the international community demanded no civilian casualties in Israel's fight against terror, it refused to open borders to Palestinian refugees, thereby enabling Hamas' strategy of using civilians as human shields. The refusal by countries that had historically welcomed refugees – for instance, from the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine and Afghanistan – to accept civilians from Gaza was a deliberate political strategy to keep civilians trapped, increase casualties and weaponize their suffering against Israel.

The attacks of 7 October 2023 had been a massacre, not a military operation, and instead of demanding justice from perpetrators, the world had chosen to isolate Israel. The proposal called for an end to those double standards. Israel was simply doing what any responsible democracy must do: defend its people. Acknowledging that the proposal was unlikely to pass due to global bias, he requested its withdrawal from the agenda.

**The President** said that, in accordance with the Rules of the Assembly, no opposing opinion would be presented to Israel's proposal since it had been withdrawn.

**Mr. M. Hadid** (Palestine) said that it was not fair to allow a delegate to speak freely at the podium without allowing others the opportunity to respond.

**The President** acknowledged his concerns but emphasized that the Rules must be followed. Delegates might wish to propose an amendment to the Rules on the matter.

**Mr. D.E.Y. Illouz** (Israel) said that, in the name of transparency, he had no problem hearing an opposing opinion.

**Mr. M. Hadid** (Palestine), making a point of order, warned that Israel's intent to forcibly remove Palestinians from their land, along with ethnic cleansing and genocide, had now become a formal proposal at the IPU.

**Mr. B. O. Kalu** (Nigeria) expressed frustration that discussions at the Assembly focused predominantly on Israel and Palestine when other countries, notably those in Africa, had problems of their own that they wished to discuss, having funded their participation for that purpose.

**The President**, responding to Mr. Hadid, said that his remarks were not a point of order but a response to Israel's proposal and therefore she was obliged to interrupt him. According to the Assembly Rules, it was not possible to respond to a proposal that had been withdrawn because the proposal no longer existed. The Rules must be applied consistently across all motions.

**Mr. M. Hadid** (Palestine) said the IPU States and Rules should give space for a discussion regarding a nation that was being displaced from its own land.

**The President** sympathized with his concerns but emphasized the need to follow the Rules.

**The Secretary General** said that the Assembly would proceed to a vote by roll call on the three remaining proposals. He explained the voting procedure in line with the IPU Statutes and Rules.

*A vote by roll call was taken.*

*With 482 votes in favour, 460 against and 255 abstentions, the proposal submitted by the delegations of Chile and Peru failed to obtain the required two-thirds majority of the votes cast and was therefore rejected.*

*With 630 votes in favour, 358 against and 209 abstentions, the proposal submitted by the delegations of Philippines and Thailand failed to obtain the required two-thirds majority of the votes cast and was therefore rejected.*

*With 584 votes in favour, 393 against and 220 abstentions, the proposal submitted by the delegations of Seychelles, Zimbabwe, Jordan and Egypt with the support of the Arab Group and the African Group failed to obtain the required two-thirds majority of the votes cast and was therefore rejected.*

**The President** said that, since none of the proposals had obtained the required two-thirds majority, an emergency item would not be added to the agenda of the Assembly.

*The sitting rose at 20:05.*

## Final Agenda

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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 on the theme *Parliamentary action for social development and justice*
  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
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## Sitting of Tuesday, 8 April

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 09:00 with Mr. F. Jitoko (Fiji) in the Chair.*

Item 3 of the agenda  
(continued)

### **General debate on the theme *Parliamentary action for social development and justice*** (A/150/3-Inf.1)

**The Chair** said that he was honoured to preside over the General debate, noting that small island developing States (SIDS) made a valuable contribution to social development and justice.

**Mr. Wi Seonggon** (Republic of Korea) said that healthy and resilient societies ensured fair access to opportunities and resources and upheld rights, including labour rights which ensured shared and inclusive growth and human dignity. His National Assembly had recently amended labour legislation to require employers to pay interest on current employees' unpaid wages and introduced penalties for employers who habitually delayed wage payments. The Republic of Korea supported the social and solidarity economy which promoted community values and drove sustainable development. However, those laws and policies would be impossible without the firm foundation of democracy. Following the declaration of martial law in December 2024, citizens had peacefully taken to the streets for 123 days. They had chosen patience over violence, solidarity over division and democracy. The Constitutional Court of Korea had upheld the National Assembly's decision to impeach the President, formally removing him from office. It was a historic moment. Democracy must be protected through sacrifice and courage. He urged delegates to remain vigilant to threats to democracy and ensure citizens' voices were not silenced. Solidarity could help build a more just and equitable world.

**Ms. S. Atallahjan** (Canada) said that parliamentarians were more crucial than ever to social development and justice as conflict, economic instability, climate change and humanitarian crises exacerbated inequality, poverty and social mobility. Those challenges demanded policy responses and parliamentarians' commitment to ensuring that institutions, laws and democratic processes worked for everyone. Parliamentarians must translate aspirations for social development and justice into legislative action, strengthen oversight, advocate for inclusive economic policies and uphold human rights.

Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy aimed to halve the poverty level recorded in 2015 by 2030. It had established a poverty line based on the cost of specific goods and services necessary for a basic standard of living. The poverty rate had fluctuated from 14.5% (2015) to 6.4% (2020) and 9.9% (2022), demonstrating that challenges persisted despite national wealth. Eradicating poverty was crucial, ensuring individuals had dignity and access to essential services, and contributed meaningfully to society. Failing to do so would hinder true equity and sustainable progress. Canada had introduced tax credits for low- and middle-income families, and low-income workers. The Government had implemented strategies and action plans to combat racism, advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, address discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) individuals, and remove barriers that people with disabilities faced. Sustainable development was only possible when its three pillars – economic, social and environmental sustainability – were strong and balanced. Social development and justice were also fundamental.

**Mr. M. Vujičić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that equality and political trust underpinned democratic societies. Parliamentarians were responsible for shaping the future through laws that ensured justice, equality and social development. They must establish legislative frameworks ensuring equal opportunities and oversee the executive branch of government. Although parliamentarism had led to prosperity, it was currently in crisis. Democratic institutions had failed to address significant challenges, including citizens' distrust, and parliamentarians must respond. The essence of parliamentarism was the balance of power between the executive and legislative branches of government, and its fundamental principle was accountability to citizens. Parliamentarians must renew political dialogue, improve inter-party cooperation and increase citizen participation. Excessive parliamentarism risked losing democratic legitimacy. Parliamentarians must recognize their responsibility as lawmakers to promote social development and ensure justice for all.

**Mr. H.R. Haji Babaei** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that there were unprecedented challenges to achieving social development and justice. Parliamentarians were responsible for building a more just and developed world. In that regard, his Parliament reviewed and approved development programmes, and monitored their implementation. However, unilateral and illegal sanctions had seriously harmed Iranian citizens and hindered social development. Repeated threats of military action, which United States of America officials had made since January 2025, seriously threatened regional and international peace, stability and security. They violated international law and the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly Article 2 paragraph 4. The international community and the United Nations (UN) General Assembly should not remain silent; failure to act risked catastrophe for the region, and international peace and security. His country was committed to regional peace, stability and security and had no desire for conflict or escalation. However, it would respond swiftly and decisively to aggression from the United States of America or its proxy, the Zionist regime of Israel, against its sovereignty, territorial integrity or national interests. The United States of America would be fully responsible for the consequences of hostile action.

The criminal Israeli regime's unprecedented crimes against Gazans, its blatant genocide and its repeated aggression against Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic seriously hindered regional social development and justice. Those inhumane actions deprived inhabitants of their right to life, hope for a better future and development opportunities. Parliaments worldwide must speak out against blatant violations of human rights and international law. To restore peace, security and hope for regional development, those crimes must cease and the perpetrators must be held accountable. A two-State solution would legitimize the Zionist regime which, alongside the United States administration, opposed such a solution. Nations worldwide had not and would not believe the Zionist actors' fabricated narratives and false documents. The only way to democratically realize Palestinians' rights to self-determination and an independent Palestinian State was through a general referendum for all the Indigenous people of Palestine.

It was time for effective action against unilateralism in order to protect future generations. The IPU could be pivotal in coordinating international efforts to combat illegal actions that threatened social development and justice. The positions and decisions that delegates had taken at the current IPU Assembly indicated: (1) consensus against the Zionist regime's unprecedented crimes, and support for Palestinians; and (2) widespread opposition to the United States administration's bullying tactics and unilateral coercive measures against independent sovereign States, including unfair and retaliatory customs and trade tariffs. Parliamentary efforts should concentrate on those issues to achieve social development and justice.

**Mr. C. Lohr** (Switzerland) said that, to achieve sustainable goals, parliamentarians must become more credible and raise awareness of how policies could impact future generations. Those generations must have opportunities to shape their future through socially just and fair structures for all. He was committed to guaranteeing access to comprehensive healthcare for all, ensuring dignity for the elderly and providing an education system that met all needs. Building an inclusive society with opportunities, especially for people with disabilities, was a matter close to his heart. It was important to cooperate on economic, environmental and social matters, which were crucial to sustainable development. Cooperation between diverse peoples was valuable, and parliamentarians should continue to collaborate through the IPU. Their efforts should interconnect like links in a chain and were only as strong as their weakest link. They should make realistic plans and find approaches that worked at all levels. Every person was important, equally valuable and could further progress.

**Ms. M. Bartos** (Hungary) said that globalization had not benefited everybody, resulting in frustration, marginalization, humiliation, and perceived threats among individuals and communities. Parliamentarians played an important role in reducing and bridging divides. They must avoid generalizations and consider individuals' and communities' traditions, culture, current state, adaptability and social support. It was important to think strategically, consider the long term, and build upon what was already available. It was also important for individuals and communities to cooperate.

The Hungarian Government raised awareness of opportunity programmes, which included a long-term social integration programme for its 300 most disadvantaged communities that improved housing conditions and early childhood development, prevented drug addiction and provided family mentoring. The Government had successfully developed a wide-ranging support system covering all stages of life and provided institutional support for programme stakeholders. It emphasized the importance of early childhood development, provided school and university scholarships, and created jobs for youth. Feedback from stakeholders revealed that the opportunity programmes had reached and benefited target groups.

Hungary was a family-friendly country that provided three years of parental leave. Since child-rearing could set women back, including in their professional lives, the Government wanted to enable mothers and families to decide how to strike a work-life balance. It supported housing and financial security, and had recently announced the largest tax cuts in Europe. Hungary had also witnessed one of the highest increases in female employment in the European Union (EU), and Hungarian women worked significantly more than their European counterparts.

**Mr. H. Mohamad** (Malaysia) said that Malaysia was committed to ensuring equity, inclusiveness and justice within national and global agendas. Parliamentarians must reflect their constituents' voices, align policies with needs, and listen to, understand and support those who were often marginalized. Malaysia, alongside other nations, was grappling with the effects of globalization, fluctuations in the financial system and technological advancement, all of which were transformative but deepened inequality. Social development supported the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and underpinned an equitable and just society. The Malaysian Parliament had championed poverty reduction and social protection initiatives. The universal healthcare system demonstrated the Malaysian belief in inclusivity and the fundamental human right to health. The Twelfth Malaysia Plan – one of the objectives of which was building an inclusive and resilient society – aimed to reshape inclusive and sustainable development. Key measures included expanding social security, providing direct financial assistance to meet immediate needs and increasing skill development programmes. The climate crisis was exacerbating vulnerabilities within marginalized populations and parliamentarians must enact laws ensuring sustainable development. Integrating social justice into climate policies would broaden climate action and strengthen commitment to justice for all citizens.

The UN Secretary-General's emphasis on the need for a new social contract had represented a call to action for Malaysia. It was imperative to forge ahead with bold and robust policies guaranteeing access to essential services, fair wages, and safe and dignified working conditions, and to embed different perspectives into legislative practices. That collective responsibility represented both a challenge and an opportunity for transformation. He urged delegates to reflect on the elements that the proposed new social contract should include; on how control over social development could be regained; and on what new commitments should be made at the IPU Assembly to prioritize needs. The IPU Assembly was a platform for transformative action, and parliamentarians should commit to working towards a better future and transforming aspirations into reality.

**Ms. J. Tielen** (Netherlands) said that parliamentarians made many promises, and asked which promises delegates had made to their citizens. She had pledged to provide good jobs, enable entrepreneurship, support health and advocate for women who were at greater risk of experiencing poverty, poor health, insufficient healthcare, domestic violence and harassment. Although the Netherlands ranked well in terms of gender equality, it had not achieved full equality. Most Dutch people believed women were better at providing – and should exclusively provide – childcare. Employers often offered women small and insecure jobs. Women's income significantly decreased following childbirth and divorce, and women were more likely to experience complications during healthcare. The gender gap was widening, particularly due to conservative male tendencies that sought to diminish women's rights. She asked delegates whether those inequalities existed in their countries and whether they shared her concerns about women's social development. Parliamentarians must acknowledge that social development began by recognizing and fighting for women's rights and breaking down barriers to women's income, freedom and opportunities. They must remember the promises they had made.

**Mr. S.S.H.J. Amaral** (Timor-Leste) said that, in 2011, his Parliament had approved the Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan 2011–2030 and, in 2015, it had passed a resolution committing itself to the SDGs and calling for plans and budgets to align with them. In response, the executive branch of Government had established an SDG working group to assess adjustments to the strategic development plan. In Timor-Leste, Parliament must endorse the newly elected Government before it took office. Parliaments must contribute to and scrutinize policies to ensure that they reflected the opinions held across society. They must also prioritize the scrutiny and approval of legislation, as they were uniquely placed to ensure that it achieved social development goals. In that regard, they should establish frameworks, policies and laws concerning education, healthcare, social protection and gender equality.

Regarding national budgets, parliaments should hold public debates and hearings on the allocation of funds to social development sectors, and proactively oversee the use of those funds. Parliamentary debates should enable the consideration of diverse perspectives and ensure inclusive

social policies that met needs. Parliamentarians must listen to communities' concerns and resolve issues such as poverty, unemployment and lack of access to basic services. Parliaments were crucial to supporting international cooperation and promoting international partnerships by ratifying international treaties and agreements, which could cover social development objectives. Parliaments must ensure that countries fulfilled commitments to international social development standards. They should provide input for country reports, such as voluntary national reviews on SDG implementation. He hoped that challenges would not diminish parliaments' determination to work towards social development and justice.

**Mr. O. Korniyenko** (Ukraine) said that development aspirations united people in an increasingly politicized and divided world but required resources and action. It was impossible to ensure human-centred development in the context of wars and indiscriminate attacks. Shocking atrocities, such as the recent Russian attack on Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine, which had killed 20 people, happened regularly and he called for commitment to international law and diplomacy. In that regard, the Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs was convening an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council and a special meeting of the Permanent Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation In Europe (OSCE). Russian attacks had intensified despite Ukraine's agreement to a full and unconditional ceasefire. The international community must persuade the Russian Federation to stop fighting; must provide military supplies, and financial and humanitarian support to Ukraine; sanction the Russian Federation and prevent the evasion of those sanctions; and join the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine and the compensation mechanism for victims of aggression.

The current IPU Assembly would facilitate action-oriented cooperation to make the Russian Federation end the war. He thanked President Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan for expressing his support for Ukraine and those who had stood with Ukraine worldwide. Despite the circumstances, Ukraine had continued to develop and the economy was recovering. Its digital transformation was admired worldwide, and the Grain From Ukraine initiative prevented hunger in many developing countries. With support, Ukraine could persuade the Russian Federation to agree to the proposed unconditional ceasefire, enabling it to focus on social development and justice.

**Mr. G.K. Almeland** (Norway) said that young people felt that the system was not built for them and that, regardless of their efforts, the future was not bright. Inequality and climate anxiety were rising, and communities increasingly felt ignored. As a young parliamentarian, he was particularly concerned that young people were losing trust in systems established to empower them, and that they saw examples of economic development concentrating wealth among the already privileged. Before becoming an elected official, he had participated in the SDG development process which had been filled with hope and he remained hopeful, despite the work that remained to be done. Politicians should strive to achieve the SDGs.

Citizens, particularly youth, were tired of being told to accept imperfect systems. More human-centred economic development was necessary. A new social contract required multiple measures for progress, such as well-being, equality and sustainability, because true growth protected people, the climate and fundamental rights. It was important to push for global reforms promoting justice, which could include holding multinational companies accountable internationally, introducing fair trade rules, and providing climate financing for vulnerable communities and development aid. Social development demanded inclusion and equality. However, the gender pay gap persisted worldwide. Women were underrepresented in leadership positions and disproportionately impacted by poverty and violence. It was necessary to invest in reproductive health, support women's economic independence and ensure that women shaped policies. Too many young people – including minorities, LGBTI individuals, people with disabilities and the impoverished – did not have equal access to opportunities which wasted their potential. Space must be made for their voices. It was also essential to invest in schools and ensure timely mental healthcare. Policies must be rooted in fairness, dignity and potential. Social development would fix the economy and strengthen society.

**Mr. S. Monreal Ávila** (Mexico) said that, under the current President's leadership, Mexico was undergoing a profound transformation, redefining the exercise of public power, promoting social justice, strengthening democratic institutions and consolidating the foundations of the fourth industrial revolution. Significantly, it had introduced legislation for citizens to elect judges, magistrates and justices, which guaranteed transparent, impartial and citizen-centred justice, eliminated privilege and impunity, and strengthened the rule of law. The former President had placed well-being at the heart of public policy. Senators and deputies had outlined constitutional reforms concerning well-being, justice and peace; provided universal stipends for the elderly, people with disabilities and students at all

levels; and doubled salaries for teachers, health workers and police officers. Those benefits represented constitutional rights and were guaranteed by law. Plan México, a comprehensive development strategy, prioritized national reindustrialization, energy sovereignty and self-sufficiency in food. It tackled national challenges in line with the SDGs.

At the international level, Mexico had reaffirmed its role as an independent voice and was committed to multilateralism, peace and cooperation. It had strengthened relations with strategic partners around the world, furthering partnerships for development, climate justice and human rights. In multilateral forums, Mexico proposed solutions to global challenges. It was more important than ever to build bridges, not walls. It was possible to create a world in which parliaments acted with global vision and commitment to local communities, and in which laws ensured citizens' well-being. Mexico stood ready to collaborate and he invited delegates to share their experiences.

**Ms. P.-H. Hangan** (Romania) said that demographic changes, and financial and economic crises, were driving major challenges. Given the pressure on public budgets and the risk of structural deficits in the labour market, parliaments must support measures to modernize social policies to ensure efficient and sustainable funding, and adapt national legislation. They should also support initiatives such as the European Pillar of Social Rights which aimed to improve living and working conditions across the EU, including by analysing how digitalization impacted the labour market.

In Romania, reforms had been introduced to facilitate the provision of electronic public services and ensure the interoperability of information systems at all levels. The reforms would modernize social assistance, improve quality of life, reduce poverty and promote social inclusion. Through the Programme for Government 2024–2028, the Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities had introduced objectives to support families and children. The National Strategy on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction for the period 2022–2027 outlined policies for vulnerable groups, which parliamentarians supported through legislation and budget allocations. Through collaboration with EU partners, Romania had developed and implemented a road map for quality jobs that supported existing national policies – such as introducing a European minimum wage standard – and strengthened dialogue with partners to address workers' and businesses' needs. There were strategies and action plans for those at risk of homelessness and working in precarious conditions which, alongside the reforms and strategies of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, would strengthen public services and reduce poverty and social exclusion. In Romania, the pension system would be reformed, citizens had access to training to adapt to the green and digital transitions, and universities participated in the European Universities initiative. Parliamentarians must adopt economic and legislative measures to reduce poverty, promote equal opportunities and combat discrimination to ensure sustainable development.

**Mr. F. Nkurunziza** (Burundi) said that the IPU Assembly theme was particularly important given the rise of individualism and unequal access to resources, which could stoke national and international tensions. State institutions must swiftly reclaim their roles as resource distributors, social protectors and economic regulators by promoting development and social justice policies that aligned with the SDGs. Such policies were prioritized within Vision Burundi 2040–2060 and the National Development Plan 2018–2027, and were central to the national social protection policy that aimed to eradicate poverty. The Burundian Government was implementing people-centred development and rebalancing the economy through improved access to basic social services. The Parliament ensured that the Government had the necessary resources for that development.

**Ms. S. Abd Ulrahim** (Libya) said that economic challenges threatened stability worldwide and migration affected many societies. Palestine was experiencing an urgent humanitarian crisis and war had created catastrophic conditions in Gaza. The situation violated the most fundamental rights, and undermined social development and justice. Libya had adopted legislation to strengthen social justice, protect the most vulnerable, and ensure equality and justice in all areas of life. The national human rights system had been strengthened to combat poverty and shoulder humanitarian responsibilities. Social justice demanded international action. There was a shared responsibility to protect people, promote social and economic policies that left no one behind, and ensure social welfare especially among the most vulnerable. It was important to develop economically while preserving dignity and equality. There could be no justice or equality without protection, and no protection or welfare without adequate policies. The international community must respond to crises worldwide.

**Mr. B. Ouch** (Cambodia) said that, given growing inequality and geopolitical uncertainty, parliaments must develop inclusive policies that promote justice and social development, particularly through equitable access to education, healthcare, employment and social protection. Strengthening those areas would create more resilient, fair and cohesive societies. Parliaments had a moral responsibility to ensure that individuals could lead dignified and meaningful lives. They must respond to current challenges and ensure equality.

Following years of war, Cambodia profoundly understood the value of peace and its importance to social justice and sustainable development. Since 2006, Cambodia had deployed over 10,000 Blue Helmets to UN peacekeeping operations across various countries. It had hosted the 11th Plenary Session of the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace, during which it had introduced the Universal Peace Charter for People and the Planet.

Social development, alongside economic growth and environmental responsibility, underpinned sustainable development. The SDGs could not be achieved without addressing the most vulnerable and marginalized populations' needs. Cambodia had embraced the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), producing the Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals Framework (2016-2030) which included a goal to clear mines. To date, 3,000 square kilometres of land had been cleared and were used for agriculture, infrastructure and livelihoods. In 2024, Cambodia had hosted the Siem Reap-Angkor Summit on a Mine-Free World and it continued to promote universal adherence to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. To tackle increasing inequality, Cambodia continued to address the legacy of conflict, poverty, gender inequality, land issues, and disparities in healthcare and education. Strong development partnerships had led to significant progress.

**Mr. A.R. Al Nuaimi** (United Arab Emirates) said that social development and justice had humanitarian roots; should bring people together; ensured peace, security, welfare and prosperity; and should be part of a clear process ultimately leading to sustainable development. In his country, social development and justice had been the subject of laws and were part of a dynamic process concentrating on individual welfare and the fulfilment of ambitions. A comprehensive system provided the best housing, healthcare and education. Emiratis were proud of those achievements.

The choice of theme for the General Debate was commendable but the international community must acknowledge that many people worldwide lacked social justice, development, and educational and professional opportunities. It was important to resolve those issues and not focus solely on achievements. Parliamentarians could not be proud of social development and justice when their fellow citizens suffered injustice, marginalization, exclusion and lack of opportunities. Parliamentarians must uphold human values. No society could succeed at the expense of another. It was important to seek partnerships and alliances that ensured success for all.

**Ms. H. Kütt** (Estonia) said that parliaments could shape the future and achieve social development and justice for all. Parliamentarians were privileged to work for the marginalized and duty-bound to ensure equal opportunities. Deep-rooted inequality and a failure to address needs led to division, marginalization and eventually radicalization, which could not be tackled without addressing underlying injustices. Moreover, vulnerable groups must receive support as unfriendly forces often targeted them to disrupt communities. Societies must fight inequality and celebrate differences. National representatives must speak up and act, particularly by adopting measures upholding the universal rights to life, development, education, property and freedom of speech. Fundamental freedoms must not be restricted anywhere. Inclusive societies and justice would create a more peaceful world for current and future generations. With democracies crumbling and radicalization increasing, parliamentarians must aim for stability. In addition to passing laws, they must foster stability, justice and opportunities for all. They must advocate for change and ascertain that policies reflected those shared values. Meanwhile, citizens must hold representatives accountable, have them speak out for the voiceless and build a more just society. Through action, it was possible to create an inclusive and just world in which everyone could thrive.

**Mr. O.H. Yelkouny** (Burkina Faso) said that, despite technological progress, inequality persisted and millions of people continued to experience uncertainty, exclusion and marginalization. That situation resulted from policies that had sacrificed human progress for economic growth, decisions that had reinforced privilege instead of expanding rights, and promises of equality that had overlooked solidarity. Social development required equal access to education, healthcare, housing, employment and culture, as well as a desire to reduce structural inequalities affecting the most vulnerable. Social justice must underpin public policies and required distributing resources equitably,

recognizing diversity and fighting against all forms of discrimination. Social development and justice required peace and stability. Despite combatting terrorism, Burkina Faso and the Alliance of Sahel States endeavoured to provide progressive fiscal reforms, targeted social aid, investments in public services, access to education, high-quality care – particularly for mothers and children – and universal health insurance, and youth social inclusion programmes through educational reforms. The Transitional Legislative Assembly had therefore adopted laws and monitored public policies concerning social development and justice. The Burkina Faso Government, alongside the Parliament, strove to enable citizens to live in dignity. Parliamentarians must commit to building a better world together.

**Mr. H. Carneiro** (Portugal) said that it was crucial to recognize that social justice and development were impossible while armed conflicts persisted. Ending conflicts would ensure sustainable development for all and social justice grounded in respect for human rights worldwide. That justice included protection for the most vulnerable, access to essential services and a guarantee of a better life for future generations.

Parliamentarians must implement a fair tax system to provide the necessary resources for tackling social challenges. Multinational companies must pay their fair share and resources must be redistributed to guarantee equal opportunities and social protection for all. Tax reforms would help to eradicate poverty, ensure access to high-quality education and healthcare, and promote decent housing. Abandoning Pillar Two of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) tax reform would leave a significant portion of global wealth untaxed.

Increases in international trade tariffs could exacerbate difficulties in financing public policies, particularly in developing countries, as well as reduce access to essential resources and frustrate efforts to guarantee social rights for the most vulnerable. A trade war would harm everyone, including consumers in those countries that had increased tariffs. It was therefore essential to promote free trade according to the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Citizens must have access to decent jobs with fair wages. There must also be anti-discrimination laws to ensure equal opportunities, including access to education and technology, and to participate in decision-making. Migrants and refugees must be integrated in a fair and humanitarian manner that maintained citizens' trust. Parliamentarians must promote a new social contract based on peace, fiscal justice, respect for human rights, international solidarity and multilateralism. Parliamentarians had a role to play in ensuring that the world must remain open to dialogue and diplomacy.

**Ms. S. Nane** (Uruguay) said that the world was changing rapidly: a week earlier there had been no tariffs; five years earlier, the COVID-19 pandemic had broken out, affecting rich and poor alike and shaking the global economic system. Scientific systems that had spent 30 years developing a vaccine for malaria – a disease that killed 500,000 people per year in Africa – had managed to develop COVID-19 vaccines in just over one year. Although the COVID-19 vaccines had been developed using public funds, the wealth that they had generated had benefitted few people. Moreover, those with the means to pay had received vaccines first. Such a situation resulted from inequality. Although the average global age was 31 years, in Africa it was 20 years and in Italy it was 45 years. Life expectancy, which was closely linked to social protection, sustainable development and dignified living conditions, was 20 years higher in North America than in Africa. The combined fortunes of the 10 richest individuals worldwide was approximately 30 times greater than the gross domestic product (GDP) of the 10 poorest States whose Parliaments were represented within the IPU. One could argue that those individuals had earned their fortunes, but it was important to consider the rules that had enabled them to do so. Those rules should be revised through a new social contract. Parliaments were important to promoting public debate and ensuring representation, fostering laws and oversight to regulate wealth accumulation, and ensuring inequalities did not persist. The new social contract must highlight that inequality was the cause – not the consequence – of social injustice.

*Mr. T. Hurter (Switzerland) took the Chair.*

**Mr. B.G. Tunkara** (Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)) said that the General Debate provided an invaluable opportunity to reaffirm shared commitments to a more just and equitable world. According to the preamble to the Constitution of the International Labour Organization (ILO), lasting peace could only be established if based upon social justice. That principle guided ECOWAS efforts to respond boldly and collectively to social development challenges and socioeconomic disparities. West Africa had immense cultural wealth and human potential. However, it continued to grapple with challenges including poverty, unequal access to education and

healthcare, youth unemployment, food insecurity and the devastating effects of climate change. Terrorism, violent extremism and the complex political transitions of some ECOWAS Member States further compounded those challenges. In response, there must be inclusive legislation guaranteeing gender equality and universal access to healthcare for the vulnerable; investment in human capital through education, vocational training, and youth and women's empowerment; and regional cooperation to address the transitional crisis. Regarding the latter, ECOWAS was enhancing coordination through a parliamentary diplomatic mission.

Social justice and citizen participation were inseparable, and parliaments must represent citizens' aspirations. ECOWAS had therefore introduced a mechanism to engage with civil society and trade unions, and to represent women and youth. It fostered legislation that was rooted in local realities, combatted discrimination and protected the rights of the most vulnerable. Inter-parliamentary cooperation was crucial, and he called for strong North-South and South-South partnerships to bridge technological, financial and capacity-building gaps.

It was impossible to remain silent when armed conflicts caused such suffering, particularly for women and children, in the Sahel, the Democratic People's Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Ukraine and the Middle East. Such conflicts undermined social development. He commended existing initiatives to foster diplomacy which must prevail. No war had ever truly ended through force. ECOWAS advocated for multilateralism and reaffirmed its commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. He hoped that solidarity would foster a future in which everyone enjoyed full rights and could contribute to a sustainable world, and societies were fairer and more equitable. He shared his condolences with the Zambian delegation for the passing away of the Secretary General of the National Assembly.

**M. Ali Sera** (Indonesia), noting that only 17% of the SDG targets were on track for achievement by 2030, said that challenges disproportionately impacting marginalized and vulnerable populations hindered social development. On average, wars and geopolitical conflicts slowed progress by 5%. Those figures highlighted parliaments' role in establishing comprehensive regulatory frameworks to promote investment in education, healthcare, employment, children, and women's and youth empowerment. Laws must address inequality and systemic barriers to equal opportunities and representation. International collaboration had never been more urgent. Parliamentary diplomacy must help strengthen and reform the international system. The UN and IPU were impartial and must develop resolutions to end violence, uphold justice based on international law and create sustainable peace in Myanmar, Palestine and elsewhere. Parliamentarians must ensure that citizens' voices were heard, their needs met, and their rights respected.

**Mr. W. William** (Seychelles), sharing his condolences with the Zambian delegation, said that 2024 had been the hottest year on record. According to six international datasets, global temperatures had exceeded the limit established in the Paris Agreement of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Rising global temperatures would affect humans and damage biodiversity and ecosystems. That would impact social development and justice, and the peace and security aspects of the 2030 Agenda. Global pandemics, conflicts and wars, economic slowdown and the effects of climate change had left only 17% of the SDGs on track for achievement by 2030. A new social contract based on human rights required individuals and societies to take ownership of and responsibility for national and global challenges. Doing so was crucial to sustainable development and social justice. Policies without appropriate laws would hinder progress. The Finance and Public Accounts Committee and the Committee on Government Assurances of his National Assembly ensured that commitments made during public hearings were upheld.

Greater parliamentary diplomacy was required to tackle international challenges. He was grateful for IPU initiatives, including the Joint Meeting with the Chairpersons of the Geopolitical Groups and the Presidents of the Standing Committees, to brainstorm ideas for improving the IPU. His delegation looked forward to the new IPU strategy which should consider how emergency items were dealt with and whether amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules were necessary to respond better to current challenges. Parliamentarians must therefore act precisely. It was also essential to reform the UN Security Council to give more impetus to parliamentary diplomacy and action.

**Mr. A.O. Abshir** (Somalia) said that, despite challenges, Somalia continued to demonstrate its resilience, hope and unwavering commitment to social justice and development. Parliament had made significant progress in ensuring citizens enjoyed equality, dignity and opportunities. Justice was the foundation of peace and fostered development. However, development was only possible in equal societies. Parliaments ensured development and justice by legislating, advocating for citizens' needs,

and ensuring policies and laws were implemented transparently, equitably and inclusively. The Somali Parliament had legislated to address marginalized populations' needs, combat corruption, promote good governance and ensure equitable resource allocation. Parliaments were also crucial to achieving social justice and development, and the Somali Parliament had implemented sustainable livelihood programmes to address its poorest communities' needs. The Government aimed to build an inclusive economy and the Parliament had established a labour court to protect workers' rights.

The Somali Parliament recognized that social development and justice were global concerns, and was committed to international collaboration. Given the particular vulnerability of Somalia to the effects of climate change, Parliament had approved the Environmental Protection and Management Act. Additional challenges, such as armed conflict, health crises and economic instability, required collective action and cooperation. Somalia had actively participated in international efforts to achieve the SDGs and remained dedicated to international justice and solidarity. The Somali Parliament would continue to promote social justice, development and equality, and he called for collective commitment to strengthening global parliamentary action for social development and justice.

**Mr. A. Ugolini** (San Marino) said that social justice, fair development and dignity were universal rights. San Marino had valued freedom for centuries and, in 1955, had established the Institute for Social Security which guaranteed free and universal healthcare for all. Over the years, the social safety net had expanded, providing support for families, protection for students and workers, and free education. In San Marino, social security meant collective protection in everyday activities. Social charity was necessary alongside justice, and development was not genuine unless it benefitted everyone. San Marino guaranteed equal pay for men and women, and continued to promote an economic model based on solidarity and sustainability. Workers, students and pensioners had access to public canteens. Following the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, measures had been approved to facilitate access to housing and work for people with disabilities because inclusion was a matter of justice. Any society wishing to be safe must guarantee opportunities for individuals to reach their full potential.

He appealed to the international community to give citizens control of their future through real opportunities for growth and well-being. Parliamentary institutions must build a more equitable world in which economic development improved quality of life for all. The new social contract must include universal social protection, inclusive democratic participation and an ethical economy that included collective well-being as a measure of progress. San Marino would continue to work for justice, peace and freedom. There was a need for an international community that believed in solidarity and in progress through social justice. Injustice anywhere threatened justice everywhere. He hoped that the current IPU Assembly would foster a collective commitment to ensuring that humans could live with dignity, hope and justice.

**Ms. S. Najem** (Mauritania) said that Mauritania had endeavoured to promote social development – including through laws – and reduce inequality, particularly by improving healthcare. Decision makers must ensure social justice, which was only possible through effective democratic institutions and parliaments that promoted citizens' well-being. The IPU should provide capacity-building to the most vulnerable nations. Empowering women was a noble policy objective and gender quotas were necessary. Despite progress in women's representation in Mauritania, challenges persisted in rural areas. Parliamentarians must therefore promote women's empowerment and provide women with training. Climate change threatened countries, including those that had contributed little to it. In Mauritania, efforts were underway to establish more renewable energy sources. It was essential to guarantee a cleaner and more sustainable world, and to protect the environment and natural resources for future generations.

The genocidal war waged on Palestinians was a major global tragedy and the inability to adopt the emergency item proposed by the Arab Group and the African Group was a failure. Meanwhile, the occupying power in Gaza and the West Bank continued its destruction; those responsible for the genocide must be brought to justice. International pressure could prevent that tragedy and greater steps must be taken to uphold international law and promote a two-State solution. The occupying power continued to block those steps. The current IPU Assembly should adopt a resolution calling for an immediate end to the genocidal war in Gaza and the return to the pre-1967 borders. Colonial settlement must cease in order to build a future Palestinian State to which refugees could return in accordance with UN resolutions. There must be international support to end the war.

**Mr. W.M. Aye** (Myanmar) said that 2025 had been challenging worldwide. Collective and united actions must strengthen efforts to protect democracy and promote equality, human rights, justice and accountability. The further the spread of autocracy, the greater the threat to democracy. The rule of law, which was being undermined, was fundamental to peace and prosperity. Four years after the military coup, the military continued to kill civilians in Myanmar with impunity. It had seriously damaged social justice and development, leading to widespread displacements and economic hardship. The recent earthquake had killed and injured thousands, and left many in urgent humanitarian need. The National Unity Government and ethnic resistance organizations had declared a ceasefire to facilitate aid delivery, but the military had launched 63 airstrikes in one week. Despite announcing a temporary ceasefire six days later, the military had continued airstrikes and obstructed aid delivery and rescue efforts. There were serious concerns that it would use international humanitarian funding to further violence, which must be prevented. He called for immediate humanitarian assistance, a real ceasefire, an end to airstrikes and for help to return democracy to Myanmar.

**Mr. C. Cajado Sampaio** (Brazil) said that only a pact ensuring harmony between humans, nature and the economy would provide universal benefits. Parliaments were the ideal setting to discuss measures in that regard, and parliamentarians were fundamental to ensuring development upheld social and environmental justice. In 2024, Brazil had started providing funds to certain students who achieved a minimum monthly attendance rate in public secondary schools. The funds became available upon graduation, incentivizing students to stay in education, to attend university, or start a business. A national student assistance policy provided scholarships, housing, transport and food to ensure low-income students could finish university. Plans to reserve public sector posts for minorities were being considered. In 2024, a programme had been launched to promote the socioeconomic inclusion of people from low-income backgrounds through professional training, access to microcredit and entrepreneurship support. The programme, which prioritized women, youth, and Black and Indigenous populations, had already benefited 68,000 people. Those initiatives were fundamental to Brazilian social development and helped to leverage growth and achieve sustainable development.

Two important fiscal policies had been introduced to reduce inequality. The first concerned a fiscal framework to control governmental spending and revenue, manage debt and guarantee the sustainability of public accounts. Fiscal responsibility provided the economic conditions to invest in sustainable development initiatives and reduce inequality. The second initiative involved replacing complex and overlapping taxes with value-added tax to encourage economic growth. Taxes had increased on luxury items and decreased on essential products. Rules had been established for municipal and state tax collection to avoid escalating the fiscal war between federal entities. Ensuring fairer and more efficient taxes reduced inequality and stimulated sustainable economic growth. Such structural reforms would create economic support in any country and ensured sustainable development initiatives were viable.

**Mr. M.R. Majidi** (Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)) said that multilateral parliamentary diplomacy had failed for a third time to support innocent Palestinians and condemn the genocide in Gaza. The debate theme was highly significant and should be a key agenda item within every IPU Member Parliament. Rights to social development and justice were often denied, especially in war-ravaged areas, which particularly impacted women and children. The clearest example was in Gaza, where war crimes and a humanitarian crisis had been occurring for almost 18 months. Incessant Israeli bombardments had devastated infrastructure, killing, displacing and impoverishing inhabitants. Parliamentarians must make every effort to further parliamentary diplomacy and prevent the apartheid regime's war crimes. That regime was relocating and displacing Palestinians through unilateral policies conducted by its close allies. Such acts were the most extreme contemporary attempt to dehumanize a group of people that the regime and its allies believed should be exterminated. The occupying regime's genocidal acts were gravely concerning.

**Ms. D. Bergamini** (Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)) said that social development and justice were essential to sustainable development and well-being worldwide. The unregulated use of artificial intelligence (AI), misinformation and disinformation campaigns, and foreign actors' increasing attempts to disrupt democratic processes threatened democratic institutions' resilience. Social development and justice had always been central to PAM's work and were enshrined in the Charter of the Mediterranean. Inequality threatened regional stability, peace and prosperity. PAM therefore advocated for socioeconomic and political solutions that were inclusive, equitable and sustainable. It steered parliamentary diplomacy towards enhancing social equity, gender empowerment, access to natural resources, education, health services and respect for human rights.

To rebuild trust in multilateralism, the UN had requested that PAM assist and monitor the UN Member States in implementing the Pact for the Future which was fundamental to advancing social equality, investing in sustainable development, addressing disparities and supporting vulnerable groups. Gender equality was essential to inclusive and sustainable progress. PAM promoted women's empowerment and ensured women's access to education, work and healthcare. Sustained and accelerated parliamentary engagement, alongside dialogue and action, could support coordinated efforts to advance social justice, inclusivity and solidarity, and build a more equitable and resilient future.

**Ms. E. Scolaro** (World Health Organization (WHO)) said that social development and justice were closely linked to health and well-being. Good health fostered stable and equitable societies. The WHO proudly collaborated with the IPU on guaranteeing universal health coverage, ensuring global health security, and promoting health and reducing inequality, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights. The collaboration linked science and policy, which was more necessary than ever given the current assault on health and multilateralism. Geopolitical tensions, the sharp decline in global health funding and widening health inequalities threatened vulnerable populations. Health services were strained and health investments were falsely perceived as financial burdens. The IPU's support, including for securing a pandemic agreement and sustainable health financing, was appreciated and vital. She invited delegates to the Global Parliamentary Dialogue that the IPU and WHO would host at the 78th World Health Assembly.

**Mr. S. Pospelov** (Collective Security Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly (CSTO PA)) said that the general debate was a timely contribution to sustainable development. Parliamentary diplomacy must play an increasingly important role in international relations and parliaments should exchange best legislative practices, particularly to counter terrorism, corruption and transborder crimes, provide aid following man-made disasters, and ensure proper elections. The CSTO PA stood ready to work with the IPU and its Member Parliaments on regional security, and share its experience which could help overcome international challenges. International parliamentary cooperation on the SDGs at the regional level, and among small- and medium-sized States, was particularly important. Central Asian nations had a record of success. The Presidents of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan had recently signed the Agreement on the Junction Point of the State Borders of the Three Countries and the Khujand Declaration of Eternal Friendship. Fifty years after the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, more must be done to ensure security through the UN system.

**Ms. F. Bustreo** (Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH)) said that healthy, well-nourished and educated populations were central to social justice. To ensure such populations, mothers, newborns and adolescents must be healthy. The previous day had marked World Health Day, the theme of which had been maternal and newborn health. At a time of geopolitical tension, reduced financing, and crises, countries and parliaments sought examples of progress despite financial constraints. One such example was Uzbekistan which had reduced maternal and child mortality by 75% since 2000. She hoped that the leadership that South Africa had demonstrated in chairing the Global Leaders Network for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health would generate leadership within parliamentary debates and prompt parliamentarians to draw attention to maternal and child health in the context of social development.

**Ms. M. Lorenzo** (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)) said that the adoption of the Pact for the Future reaffirmed commitment to sustainable development, peace, security and human rights which were all interlinked. UNRWA contributed to human development for Palestinian refugees. Over 2 million students – half of whom were girls – had graduated from UNRWA schools and health indicators among refugees had improved. UNRWA remained hopeful that a just and lasting political solution could be found.

However, decades of investment had been lost, peace remained elusive, and human rights were systematically denied. Gaza had the highest numbers worldwide of child amputees, UN staff deaths, and destroyed hospitals and shelters. Humanitarian aid and disinformation had been weaponized, and the West Bank was experiencing its worst levels of violence and displacement since 1967. Without education and basic essentials, regional peace would remain under threat. UNRWA continued to provide 11,000 medical consultations per day in Gaza, run schools and health centres in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and to provide shelter to those displaced within the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon. Delegates at the IPU Assembly demonstrated how they strove against indifference, unlawfulness and injustice. Parliamentarians could foster empathy and fairness, fight

dehumanization, and rebuild homes and infrastructure. It was essential to uphold peace and human rights to ensure human development; defend the rights to education, healthcare and decent living conditions; and recommit to multilateralism and the Charter of the United Nations. Addressing underfunding of the humanitarian-development agenda must be prioritized, and life-endangering disinformation campaigns must be prevented. It was essential to support a political process to settle the question of Palestine definitively, and to support the UNRWA mandate until a just and lasting solution was found.

**Mr. A. Patnaik** (UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health), outlining the work of the Network, said that social development placed well-being at the centre of sustainable development. Therefore, policymakers, decision makers and representatives must ensure equitable health access which was essential to well-being and was a human right. Universal health coverage was fundamental to sustainable development. The COVID-19 pandemic had revealed the interconnectedness of health systems and the importance of international cooperation to overcoming challenges. However, a pandemic agreement had yet to be reached. Threats to the international health system, funding cuts, and doubts about the concept of vaccination and WHO work were particularly concerning. Parliamentarians must defend global health and call on governments to increase investment in national health systems and in transitioning health systems towards preventive models focused on well-being, to strengthen primary healthcare, and to ensure affordable services and the inclusion of vulnerable populations. Digital health tools must be leveraged. He called on parliamentarians, who were well positioned to emphasize the impact of financial health investments, to support international organizations such as the WHO and Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The aim to replenish that Fund with US\$ 18 billion must be supported, as it would save 23 million lives and avert some 400 million new infections by 2029. He commended the IPU for expanding its Advisory Group on Health into the Committee on Health. Strong health systems drove productivity, stability and economic growth, and were essential to social and sustainable development.

**Ms. P. Kauma** (Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE) said that the Helsinki Final Act had laid the foundation for security and cooperation in Europe, demonstrating the power of diplomacy and dialogue. Its principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, human rights and cooperation remained relevant. By waging war against Ukraine, the Russian Federation – an OSCE member – had broken the commitments it had made through the Act. Parliamentarians must continue to hold the Russian Federation accountable and support those fighting for democracy. Geopolitical tensions, humanitarian crises and challenges to democracy made inter-parliamentary cooperation more essential than ever. The Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE remained committed to promoting security, stability and democratic resilience and had spearheaded efforts to promote meaningful dialogue, support democratic institutions and strengthen the rule of law. It deeply valued the IPU's cooperation. Dialogue must continue, even with those with whom one disagreed. Commitment to multilateralism and cooperation must be reaffirmed, and parliamentarians must ensure that multilateralism remained effective, uphold the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, defend fundamental freedoms, foster trust between nations and collaborate to address emerging threats. The shared commitment to parliamentary diplomacy reinforced the global rules-based order and strengthened legislators' role in preventing and resolving conflicts. It was critical to work across regional and institutional boundaries. Together, parliamentarians could promote greater stability and a future based on cooperation and mutual respect.

## SECOND SPEAKERS FROM DELEGATIONS

**Ms. M.-N. Battistel** (France) said that current environmental, political and social crises must prompt transitions towards more virtuous models. However, all citizens must accept those transitions, and measures constraining personal liberty must be accompanied by support for the underprivileged. Social justice was essential to an effective green transition. Given the emergence of individualistic ideologies that disregarded public spending, a new social pact could not simply uphold individual interests. Health, education, security, equality, wealth distribution and the energy transition required public regulation and a strong legislative framework that was just and widely accepted. Parliamentary democracy must better represent those who felt excluded from the system, particularly given the emergence of illiberal, often masculine and centralized regimes. Women, youth and those with the least power must be included in institutions and decision making. Parliamentarians' work must reflect everyday realities, and support social justice and the public interest.

**Ms. T. Vardanyan** (Armenia) said that she had always dreamed that the conflict she had been born into would end. Social development and justice would remain unobtainable without peace, the foundation for all progress. Over the previous three years, Armenia had worked with Azerbaijan on a peace agreement ensuring regional stability and prosperity. Both countries had laid out their visions for peaceful coexistence and agreed a text. All that remained was to agree a time and place to sign it. Delegates must support the agreement and not lose sight of it.

**Ms. Ueno Michiko** (Japan) said that, as 2030 approached, efforts to implement the SDGs must continue despite challenges. Japan was due to host Expo 2025 which would showcase new technologies and systems to achieve the SDGs in the fields of health and the environment, and provide an opportunity to consider societies beyond the SDGs. The Special Mission Committee for the Promotion of Japan Well-Being Plan had submitted seven recommendations to the Government, prompting the concept of well-being to be defined within various policy areas. Based on a Japanese proposal, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) had published ISO 25554:2024 on ageing societies and promoting well-being within communities. It was important to ensure self-affirmation and self-realization, and strengthen interpersonal ties to enhance overall well-being. Parliamentarians worldwide must ensure well-being by tailoring growth strategies to their countries and regions, and grounding their work in the SDGs. Peace and order were essential to well-being.

**Mr. W. Mc Coy** (Guyana) said that the current IPU Assembly provided a powerful reminder that people, dignity, opportunities and well-being must remain central to sustainable development. The call for a new social contract reflected the imperative to build more inclusive, just and equitable societies. The Government of Guyana had steadfastly prioritized citizens by investing in healthcare and education, providing state-of-the-art institutions, improving infrastructure in rural and hinterland areas, and increasing training for teachers and health workers. Housing schemes and land allocations had made housing and home ownership more accessible for thousands of low-income families, and cash transfer programmes were available for adults, students and vulnerable populations. Guyana had emerged as a global model for leveraging natural resources to invest in human capital and economic diversification. Investments in agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, and information and communications technologies (ICT) were creating new professional opportunities, especially for women and youth. There were also scholarships for international study and the Guyana Coders Initiative on digital awareness. Given the importance of digital equity to future inclusion, the national digital transformation agenda included expanding broadband connectivity in hinterland areas, promoting ICT literacy and positioning Guyana as a regional digital hub. Social justice must be grounded in opportunities, fairness, services and rights. Guyana demonstrated that progressive leadership, fiscal responsibility and inclusive governance were mutually reinforcing. Ahead of the Second World Summit for Social Development, parliamentarians should champion a new social contract that valued equity, solidarity and people.

**Ms. D. Olko** (Poland), acknowledging important issues such as income inequality, wealth disparity and environmental protection, said that the housing prices in Poland and elsewhere had skyrocketed. Poland had the highest mortgage rates in Europe. Over the previous 30 years, most Polish public housing programmes had been privatized and the wealthiest in society were increasingly investing in real estate. Few rented out their properties. Parliamentarians must recognize housing as a human right and commit to providing affordable and accessible housing for all. They must expand public housing programmes, decrease interest rates and regulate banks.

**Mr. M. Duffy** (Ireland) said that democracy was being tested worldwide and inequality was increasing. Although people affected by poverty, conflict and neglect were often overlooked, history showed that hope could be found even in the darkest times. Antoine Ó Raifteirí, an 18th century Irish poet who had been blind, had provided hope through words. The vulnerable should not be considered burdens, but as voices with gifts to share. Democracy and social justice were at the heart of Irish history. Democracy, which was sustained through social justice, promised every citizen a stake in the future. The Irish peace process had demonstrated that justice meant listening, reconciling and building a society that left no one behind. Parliamentarians must renew democracies with courage and champion peace, social justice, security and equality for all. They must protect the vulnerable and speak out for the voiceless. Ireland stood ready to work with states, recognizing that the issues under discussion were universal.

**Ms. L. Reynolds** (Australia) expressed her delegation's dismay at the increasingly aggressive, bullying and disrespectful behaviour at the IPU Assembly, including within the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, which did not reflect the spirit of the IPU or democratic debate. The

inability to agree on the emergency item to promote peace and address the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar demonstrated that the IPU was off track. However, elsewhere, including in the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, proceedings had remained consistent with the Assembly theme and had shown the IPU at its best. Parliamentarians had collaborated and assisted in implementing important domestic and global reforms. She hoped that the geopolitical groups would foster communication and not become isolated from each other.

**Mr. T. Utikere** (New Zealand) said that parliaments were key to promoting and improving social development and justice across society. They must represent citizens, provide development opportunities, and ensure a fair and transparent system. New Zealand was hugely diverse and social justice had been key to its legislative approach. It had passed the Homosexual Law Reform Act in 1986, enabled same-sex civil unions since 2005 and become the thirteenth country to allow same-sex marriage in 2013. Parliaments must protect and provide for all citizens by eradicating poverty, improving wages and facilitating access to education, employment, healthcare and public services. The Tai a Kiwa: Stronger Pacific Parliaments programme provided technical assistance to parliamentarians and staff, enhanced inter-parliamentary relations and fostered greater parliamentary understanding of and engagement with the public. New Zealand also played a leading role in legal matters, using the International Court of Justice where necessary.

**Ms. G. Chakor** (Netherlands) said that her country – home to the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court – was a hub for justice and peace. Economic security underpinned a just society. Meeting basic needs and ensuring healthcare, education, housing and fair wages fostered trust in democracy and gave citizens the feeling of belonging. However, insecurity and the wealth gap were increasing, fomenting distrust and uncertainty, and weakening democracy. Social development was therefore essential. She believed in a future that provided universal social protection and left no one behind. Creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship would thrive in societies where people felt safe. It was essential to foster trust in democracy by showing that it worked for everyone. Security would ensure a just society, which would in turn foster a strong democracy.

**Mr. V. Reynisson** (Iceland) said that the world was like an orchestra: each nation represented an instrument and the IPU acted as a conductor. Orchestras created beauty by blending sounds while conductors ensured that each instrument was heard. Likewise, societies thrived on citizens' unique contributions. Inclusion fostered creativity. However, systemic barriers, discrimination and other factors presented challenges and there was a collective duty to ensure inclusion. Throughout history, the greatest masterpieces had been created through collaboration and mutual respect. Embracing inclusion would foster a world of harmony and understanding to which everyone could contribute.

**Mr. A. Ekpenyong** (Nigeria) said that, in the current global economic and social climate, it was imperative to provide safety nets for the less privileged and build more just and inclusive societies. Social development and justice guaranteed all citizens equal access to education, healthcare, housing and human rights. His National Assembly had established the Nigerian Consumer Credit Corporation to provide structured low-interest credit, and had passed the National Health Insurance Authority Act and the Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Act. Through budget allocations and legislative oversight, those laws continued to evolve as instruments of equity and inclusion. The establishment of the Nigerian Education Loan Fund was a landmark achievement expanding access to higher education through interest-free loans. The Government had doubled the allowance for members of the National Youth Service Corps, a compulsory one-year scheme for tertiary institution graduates. The Senate had passed a motion acknowledging that digital access was fundamental to economic opportunity and inclusion, and that it should be protected from indiscriminate price increases. However, in Nigeria and elsewhere, challenges including poverty, inequality and social exclusion persisted. He remained hopeful that practical, responsive and compassionate parliamentary action would further progress towards social justice, inclusive development and lasting peace in Nigeria.

**Mr. R. Callus** (Malta) said that parliamentarians must continuously strive for social development and justice. Inflation was outpacing increases in the net incomes of medium- and low-income families. Tariffs further threatened financially weak and marginalized groups and would strain already insufficient incomes. Parliamentarians should use the IPU to call on their governments to fight trade protection measures. Parliamentarians must strive for better wealth distribution and wages that reflected profits. It was important to eradicate poverty; provide basic services, fair wages and good working conditions; integrate migrants; and ensure the participation of women, youth and minority groups.

*The sitting rose at 12:45.*

## Sitting of Tuesday, 8 April 2025

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 14:50, with Ms. T. Narbaeva (Uzbekistan), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.*

Item 3 of the agenda  
(continued)

**General Debate on the theme *Parliamentary action  
for social development and justice***  
(A/150/3-Inf.1)

### YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS

**Mr. M.S. Gidi** (Ethiopia) said that the future of global leadership depended on investment in equipping youth to lead with wisdom, integrity and vision, which demanded structured mentorship, inclusive education and active participation in governance. Leadership must be nurtured, not assumed, with young people engaged as problem-solvers, not mere observers. Beyond symbolic gestures, youth must be offered tangible responsibilities and access to platforms, such as parliamentary youth forums and civic innovation hubs, that built competence and confidence. In Ethiopia, for instance, a coders initiative empowered young trainees with digital and leadership skills, preparing them to shape their own futures and contribute meaningfully to national progress. Championing youth inclusion was as much about character as capacity and intelligence. In advocating for youth leadership, the IPU must build inclusive ecosystems for fostering the same. Guided by the energy of youth and the wisdom of elders, a more just, innovative and sustainable world could be shaped.

**Ms. P.M. Wieninger** (Austria) said that her country's experience highlighted the power of strong social systems, universal healthcare, access to quality education and robust public infrastructure. Those were not luxuries but the foundation of a stable and inclusive society, values that must be globally scaled. The Austrian model was underpinned by the social partnership that had emerged in response to the devastation of the Second World War and the dangers of social division. That partnership ensured fair wages, robust protections and economic resilience in a system closely intertwined with the Austrian Parliament. The leading roles of many Austrian parliamentarians in key stakeholder groups guaranteed that diverse socioeconomic interests were embedded throughout the entire lawmaking process. The new social contract must be people-centred, fair, inclusive and focused on health, education, equality and a safe planet, with an economy that worked for all, and progress measured by how people lived and not how much was produced.

**Mr. P. Rice** (Ireland) said that the world would be a better place with less spent on weapons and more on welfare, education, health and housing. All parliaments must do more to end wars and conflicts; build peace and prosperity for all; stand up against brutality, including through resounding calls on Israel to stop its genocide in Gaza; advance the rights of women and minority groups of every description; deliver robust protections, universal human rights and true equality for all; and listen to young people and respond to their concerns with meaningful climate action, social media regulation, better employment opportunities and improved workers' rights. Looming trade wars and tariffs would create economic uncertainty and damage global trade, with no one winning and everyone poorer. However, a more peaceful, prosperous and fair world was still achievable through working together for the greater good, with the IPU playing a key role in making that vision a reality.

**Mr. N. Ruengpanyawut** (Thailand), expressing deepest condolences to his people and those of Myanmar following the deaths in the recent powerful earthquake in their countries, said that their tragedy was a reminder of life's fragility and the urgent need for social justice. Parliamentarians had a duty to legislate and provide oversight with justice in mind, ensuring that people like those who had lost their lives in the disaster, most of them Thai or migrant construction workers, were not left behind.

In education, the Thai Parliament was pushing for decentralization, which would empower local schools and government to tailor learning. It had also just passed a bill banning children's corporal punishment. As representatives of the people, parliaments must remain fully committed to moving their societies forward towards greater social development and justice, especially now that the world was being upended by trade tensions.

**Ms. G. Cesarini** (San Marino) said that the digital revolution driven by emerging technologies offered extraordinary opportunities to promote well-being, economic growth and social justice that parliaments should seize by committing to forward-looking inclusive policies. In their pivotal role of promoting sustainable, equitable and people-centred development, they must ensure investment in digital education, fair and widespread access to new technologies, and a regulatory framework fostering innovation without compromising fundamental rights, democratic values or public safety. A modern and efficient justice system should moreover prioritize digitalization, judicial independence and equal access to justice for all, while gender equality – another prerequisite for sustainable development – implied no gender pay gap, greater women's representation in decision-making, and a true work-life balance. Also needed was renewed commitment to welfare, healthcare and education alongside shared responses to global challenges. Through such measures, parliamentarians could together build a world where progress was a right for all.

**Mr. A.P. Batista** (Portugal) said that parliamentary cooperation was a key tool for the defence of human rights, democracy and freedom. The young and not so young alike expected parliamentarians to have the sense to end the tariff and protectionist frenzy that would only foster misunderstanding and cause the most vulnerable to suffer. As the saying went, history repeated itself if forgotten, hence the importance of upholding and strengthening social values. Differences must, however, be preserved; without them, diversity would be stifled, a "night-watchman state" would prevail, and oversimplistic discourses would feed the far right. Until the guns were silenced, there would still be work to do. Parliamentarians must continue to cooperate with both feet on the ground but with eyes fixed on the horizon for a more sustainable humanity.

**Ms. T. Tasheva** (Ukraine) said that parliaments must listen if laws were to respond to needs, which called for continuing open communication, especially during crises. In Ukraine, it was a matter of justice and dignity to protect the rights of the millions forcibly displaced or otherwise affected by the full-scale war and to promote their participation in local decision-making. Access to education, employment and community was essential to enabling those millions to reintegrate and shape their own future. Parliamentarians must create effective feedback mechanisms, as in public consultation and digital tools, to connect with all parts of society. To that end, a new Ukrainian law provided for citizen participation, which should include all groups, especially youth. Justice meant standing up for those whose voices were silenced, including religious, indigenous and ethnic minority communities, which in Russian-occupied Ukrainian territory were under threat. Constant closeness to the people was how parliaments built trust and resilience.

**Mr. Z. Khanzada** (Pakistan), noting the calls favouring diplomacy and dialogue as means of conflict resolution, said that his country endured unending consequences from its decision to side with the West in fighting the Taliban. Former Prime Minister Imran Khan had always advocated dialogue to protect Pakistan against the fall-out from a war not of its doing, yet had been in prison since 2023. Despite sacrificing its own security, soldiers and citizens, Pakistan had been told to do more and been branded in addition with the terrorist label. While the world understandably sought dialogue with the new Afghan Government in the interest of regional peace and security, Pakistan faced a resurgence in terrorism and needed the economic strength to counter that threat effectively. Given the unique challenges facing countries transitioning from a security crisis to sustainable development, the IPU should establish a working group on post-conflict nations. Pakistan was ready to lead that conversation.

**Mr. M. Yousefi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, in an interconnected world, no country could single-handedly achieve true development and security. The unilateralism driven by the United States and other totalitarian regimes had resulted in the genocide in Gaza, where thousands were being slaughtered in plain sight, epitomizing the outcome of support from self-proclaimed champions of human rights for a terrorist, child-killing regime. Deaf to the widespread global protests against that genocide, United States and European leaders in particular would be judged in history as supporters of such killing. Any new regional adventurism would have a domino effect in sparking new conflicts,

while any escalation in West Asia would threaten the world's energy pulse. Youth had a duty to oppose illegal unilateral sanctions in favour of multilateralism, peace, security and justice. Unless parliamentarians stood firmly on the right side of history against unilateralism, genocide and totalitarianism, they risked being dubbed supporters of terrorism, State terrorism and genocide.

**Mr. W. Soto Palacios** (Peru) said that wide social inequality in his country had led to persistent polarization and instability. Recent economic progress notwithstanding, the gaps in access to justice, education, quality healthcare and basic services in general were significant, especially in rural areas, with vulnerable groups most affected. Parliaments should prioritize the equitable distribution of economic resources and focus on building more balanced societies through inclusion. The Peruvian general elections in 2026 would be a great opportunity to strengthen the country's institutions and renew the commitment to socioeconomic development. Moreover, the return to a bicameral system after a 30-year absence would fundamentally improve representation and drive action for social development and justice. Lastly, he thanked the IPU and the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) for having paved the way for Peru to host the Eleventh IPU World Conference of Young Parliamentarians in September 2025, to which all were invited.

**Ms. S. Gautam** (Nepal) said that she had grown up witnessing inequalities and limited opportunities but now proudly represented a society that was learning to value inclusion, justice and dignity for all, and was steadily advancing with hope and determination. Alongside the new generation, parliamentarians must lead the daily battle for justice and social development with vision, courage and unwavering commitment to inclusion, turning the people's voice into policy. While working to institutionalize justice through its Constitution, Nepal needed to build a political culture grounded in empathy, accountability and inclusion that truly reflected the people's needs and aspirations which were best understood by youth. Young people wanted to forge progress through innovation, courage and global solidarity, and offer a path towards peace, unity and shared humanity. With their fresh energy and bold ideas, an empowered youth could lead, put an end to war, protect the planet and bring with speed the desired results.

#### ADDRESS BY THE SPECIAL GUEST

**Ms. N. Maalla** (Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on violence against children), special guest, said that social development and justice were ever more needed in a world of multiple overlapping crises in which innocent children were paying a huge price, with growing poverty and social exclusion undermining their human rights protection and well-being. Globally, many millions of children lived in extreme poverty, multidimensional poverty or severe food poverty, which could push them into exploitative situations. Progress in addressing poverty and social exclusion – well-known drivers of violence against children – had been insufficient and unequal. The lack of child-sensitive social protection, especially in fragile settings, had enormous costs for children, their families and overall society, with potentially life-long and intergenerational effects. Those costs were to the economy from lost productivity; to human and social capital owing to reduced life expectancy, health, education and skill levels; and to political capital through an erosion of institutions that potentially endangered the functioning of democracy. The economic cost was even higher when counting the direct and indirect cost of violence against children.

Parliamentarians could significantly advance a life-cycle approach to child-sensitive social protection, which was an investment in sustainable people-centred development and human capital. Through their legislative, oversight and budgetary functions, they could support and monitor the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensure accountability for effective policy implementation. Uniquely positioned to serve as an interface between people and state institutions, they could promote people-centred policies that left no one behind. By connecting with peers from other jurisdictions, parliamentarians could exchange knowledge on addressing emerging challenges. Crucially, they also provided spaces for engaging with and bringing together other key stakeholders, including civil society as an essential counterpower in holding States to account, and played a leading role in ensuring that children and youth were civically engaged and involved in decision-making.

Despite setbacks, the timely achievement of the SDGs, including SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, remained possible. In 2024, an unprecedented mobilization had culminated in the First Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence against Children, with the upcoming Second World Summit on Social Development providing another key opportunity to maintain that momentum at all levels. Together, a peaceful, just and inclusive society, free of violence, could be built, with no child left behind.

**The President** thanked Ms. Maalla for her thoughts on what was a paramount issue for parliamentarians and expressed appreciation to all participants in the General Debate for their interesting contributions.

*Dr. T. Ackson (United Republic of Tanzania), President of the IPU, took the Chair.*

### **Tribute to the memory of Mr. Roy Ngulube, Clerk of the National Assembly of Zambia**

**The Secretary General** said that the IPU had been deeply shocked and saddened to learn that its good friend Mr. Roy Ngulube, Clerk of the National Assembly of Zambia had passed away the previous night in Tashkent. He had known Roy personally for several years, notably in the context of the 134th IPU Assembly, held in Lusaka in 2016, which Roy had successfully helped to organize. All delegates would undoubtedly wish to join him in extending heartfelt condolences to the entire Zambian delegation.

*At the request of the President, a minute of silence was observed.*

#### Item 4 of the agenda

### **Special accountability segment on the implementation of IPU resolutions and other decisions**

(A/150/4-Inf.1)

**The President**, introducing the sixth accountability segment to have been held at consecutive Assemblies, said that those segments had enabled reflection on the IPU's accomplishments and fulfilment of its commitments. Important for ensuring the translation of IPU decisions into meaningful change, accountability had been a core message of her IPU presidency campaign and remained a priority. Parliamentarians owed it to their constituents to act on IPU resolutions and achieve real outcomes. Being Member-driven, the IPU needed to foster a culture of shared accountability within, between and from parliaments. The impact of IPU Assemblies largely depended on the work of parliamentarians to bring commitments to life on their return home.

Without accountability, IPU decisions risked becoming symbolic gestures rather than tools for genuine change. Twice annually, the IPU Member Parliaments gathered to adopt declarations and decisions on urgent global challenges. Results were expected and the buck stopped with parliamentarians, to whom it fell to deliver. With the power to legislate for a fairer, more inclusive and more sustainable future, allocate budgets and hold governments to account, parliamentarians were the bridge between the global dialogue and national implementation. Through its resolutions, decisions and declarations, the IPU gave them the necessary tools.

The accountability segment must be used to take stock, share information on actions taken and strengthen the collective resolve, with parliamentarians leading by example and continuing to build a stronger IPU that delivered together with and for the people whom they served.

**Ms. A. Filip** (Director, Division for Member Parliaments and External Relations, IPU), speaking on IPU accountability mechanisms and accompanying her remarks with a number of digital slides, said with respect to the 2025 reporting exercise that, other than those invited on a rotational basis to contribute, all IPU Member Parliaments were encouraged to volunteer information and good practices relating to their follow-up to IPU resolutions and decisions. Responses received before the June 2025 deadline to the recently circulated survey would be used to highlight such practices, as an inspiration to others, in the Secretary General's annual report to be presented at the 151st Assembly in October 2025.

The 2024 reporting exercise had achieved a response rate of 80%, the highest ever. Two geopolitical groups had ensured in exemplary fashion a response from all their members. The response rate among the other four groups had been raised in the recent Joint Meeting of the Chairs of the geopolitical groups, with the members concerned invited to participate actively in the exercise.

Examples of good practices identified in the 2024 reporting exercise included the Australian Parliament's establishment of an autonomous and independent national anti-corruption commission; the Mexican Parliament's approval of constitutional amendments to lower the age of eligibility for parliament and the Executive Cabinet to 18 and 25 years, respectively; the Burundian Parliament's

creation of a commission on the human rights of parliamentarians to investigate and report on cases of alleged violations; the Namibian Parliament's implementation of affirmative action policies to increase women's representation in decision-making; the Philippine Parliament's ratification of two key peace and security treaties promoted by the IPU; and the Pakistani Parliament's formation of a fully functional SDG secretariat providing guidance for legislative implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Thirty-nine IPU Member Parliaments were scheduled to respond to the 2025 reporting survey, with all others welcome to do so voluntarily.

Now in its fourth edition, the Cremer-Passy Prize had since 2022 been part of efforts to meet the IPU's strategic accountability objective at all levels, celebrating outstanding performance and results achieved by individual parliamentarians in promoting the IPU's key values, principles and objectives. The prize had been awarded in 2022 to Ms. López Castro of Mexico and the Chairman and members of the Ukrainian Parliament; in 2023 to the Speaker of the Tuvaluan Parliament, Mr. S. Teo, for advancing climate action; and in 2024 to the President of the Chadian National Assembly, Dr. H. Kabadi, for his exceptional peace and security work. In 2025, it would be awarded for an outstanding contribution to the promotion of gender equality. The six geopolitical groups were each invited to submit two nominations for a man and a woman, together with an explanation of why the nominees merited the prize, before the deadline of 30 June 2025.

For over 10 years, the IPU had worked with its partners from the World Future Council on the World Future Policy Award (WFPA), which celebrated policies for promoting the interests of current and future generations. Past examples of such policies had related to, in 2013, innovative solutions for disarmament; in 2014, ending violence against women and girls; in 2015, promoting the rights of children; in 2019, empowering youth; and in 2024, promoting peace for future generations. In 2025, the aim was to identify good policies for living in harmony with future generations.

In the statements and inspirational videos to follow, delegates would learn about some of the winning policies in 2024, the year of peace and security for both the IPU and the World Future Council. In November 2024, she had presented the WFPA to the Canadian Ambassador in Geneva for her country's highly impactful Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP), which had improved access to sexual and reproductive health services for millions of women and girls worldwide and promoted related vocational education and training. With a strong focus on women's empowerment, FIAP had importantly helped to inspire feminist policies around the globe, setting a new standard for the integration of gender equality into governance and demonstrating that such values could advance peace, prosperity and resilience.

*A video on FIAP was screened.*

**Ms. J. Morden** (United Kingdom), speaking on the 2015 Welsh Well-being for Future Generations Act, a 2024 WFPA winner, said that small and ancient Wales was innovative, ambitious and bold, which accounted for its lead in adopting that pioneering legislation for future needs. The Act required public bodies to consider the impact of policy on future generations in a whole system approach aimed at building a more prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, culturally vibrant and globally responsible Wales. Progress on well-being was evaluated by the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, with the delivery of fair work and a low-carbon society a legal imperative. Aside from the many examples of the Act's significance for sustainable transport, education, the economy and preservation of the Welsh language and culture, Wales had been the first country to declare a climate emergency and ranked second for recycling. The Act had received international praise, substantiated in 2024 by the UN Secretary-General's announcement of his intention to name a Special Envoy for Future Generations and the European Union's appointment of a Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport. With its 10 years of experience of long-term governance to share, Wales was doing today what the world would do tomorrow.

*A video on the Well-being of Future Generations Act was screened.*

**Ms. K. Carter** (New Zealand) said that she was an indigenous Maori parliamentarian proud to represent the Moriori indigenous people, a former warrior society in the Chatham Islands who, in the fifteenth century, had established Nunuku's Law, or the Moriori Peace Covenant, a 2024 WFPA winner. Violence was forbidden under that indigenous customary law, fostering social and environmental harmony, as symbolized in the close weave of the traditional cloaks still worn today. When Maori tribes had invaded in 1835, the Moriori had courageously upheld their commitment to Nunuku's Law by choosing non-violence and integrity over violent resistance. The world's longest-standing unbroken peace pact, the Covenant not only continued to inspire modern-day Moriori as a

living ethos central to their cultural revitalization, peace and sustainability efforts, but had also significantly influenced non-violent resistance movements and key peace leaders. With Indigenous Peoples easily the biggest custodians of the world's biodiversity, their voices must be heard to guarantee true climate justice and the future deserved by all children.

*A video on the Moriori Peace Covenant, or Nunuku's Law, was screened.*

**Ms. M. Kivelä** (Finland) said that her country had long prioritized the women, peace and security agenda and remained committed to the advancement of women's rights, safety and inclusion, especially in conflict zones, where access to sexual and reproductive health services was critical. Its related national action plan was focused on improving gender sensitivity in the security sector, supporting women-led organizations, and ensuring women's protection, above all in fragile environments. Developed through intensive consultation with stakeholders, the plan's main objectives included ensuring gender inclusion in Ukrainian reconstruction efforts and support for Ukrainian women, peace and security initiatives; strengthening women's role in mediation; aligning women, peace and security efforts with the security sector; enhancing women's participation in military and civil crisis management; exploring synergies between the women and youth facets of peace and security; and removing structural barriers to women's participation in climate action. The plan's strong multi-stakeholder cooperation model assured transparency, accountability and true progress towards gender equality in peace and security efforts.

**Ms. T. Bergman** (Senior Adviser – Strategy, Research and Policy Analysis, World Future Council) said that the World Future Council worked with others to bridge the gap between effective policy solutions and their implementation so as to embed the rights of future generations as an essential benchmark in decision-making. Another 2024 WFPA winner was the Kauswagan's "From Arms to Farms" programme launched in the Philippines in 2010. A transformative local initiative for socially reintegrating former combatants through sustainable agriculture, the programme applied an innovative environmental peacebuilding approach to addressing the root causes of conflict. She looked forward to continuing the World Future Council's work with parliamentarians towards the advancement of future just and truly transformative policies.

*A video on Kauswagan's "From Arms to Farms" programme was screened.*

**Ms. K. Slassi** (Morocco), referencing the IPU decisions relating to peace, security, sustainable development and parliamentary diplomacy, said that her country's interfaith initiatives included its hosting of the Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue in 2023 and the tenth session of the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace in 2022, as well as Pope Francis' historic visit to the country in 2019. In other initiatives, Morocco had established an information systems security department; signed a strategic partnership agreement for boosting Africa-wide travel technology; advanced the legislative framework in respect of fundamental rights and democratic principles; was developing clean and affordable energy sources; remained highly active in UN peacekeeping operations and regional conflict resolution efforts; and worked as a member of the UN Peacebuilding Commission to promote peace and security. Lastly, it prioritized human rights protection through legislation guaranteeing health, education and social welfare.

**Mr. H.B. Narayan Singh** (India) said that, through its Digital India programme, his country had revolutionized governance and service delivery, particularly in remote and underserved areas, while through its biometric identification system, Aadhaar, it ensured that welfare benefits reached those most in need. His Parliament had enacted data protection legislation and was integrating artificial intelligence (AI) to improve its multilingual support, streamline operations and provide better access to the vast parliamentary archives. In response to the ongoing rapid technological changes, India's vibrant parliamentary democracy was driving global solutions to pressing issues. Technological advancements must, however, be inclusive, equitable and rooted in shared human values, with priority given to ethics, governance, human rights and the rule of law.

**Ms. D. Adehm** (Luxembourg) said that, in November 2024, her Parliament had hosted a delegation from the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and learned about its vital work in support of persecuted parliamentarians. In 2024, the Committee had had before it a strikingly high number of cases involving human rights violations, intimidation, torture and even murder, signalling the urgent need for determined action to redress that situation. Following the visit,

Parliament had decided to further contribute to parliamentary solidarity by sponsoring political prisoners. Favouring nonetheless a more systematic and collaborative approach, it called on all parliamentarians to bolster their commitment to such solidarity and make their voices heard so that justice and fundamental rights prevailed, leaving their colleagues worldwide free to exercise their mandates in safety.

*A video on the IPU delegation's visit to the Luxembourg Parliament was screened.*

*Ms. K. Carter (New Zealand) took the Chair.*

**Mr. A Burapachaisri** (Thailand), speaking with reference to the IPU resolution adopted in March 2024 on partnerships for climate action, said that his country had set an ambitious target of increasing the renewable energy share in national power generation to at least 50% by 2040, and was advancing innovative and sustainable energy solutions for building a resilient low-carbon energy future. It was also promoting future mobility as a vital pillar of that green energy transition, aspiring to become a regional electronic vehicle hub and aiming for 30% electronic vehicle production by 2030 as part of its bio-circular-green economy model. It was furthermore promoting a just and inclusive transition to green and sustainable financing, expanding carbon credit markets and introducing key instruments for directing investment towards environmental and social projects. The overall aim was to ensure the benefits of climate actions were widely shared. His Parliament stood ready to collaborate with fellow parliaments and global partners to promote truly inclusive, sustainable and resilient futures.

*A video on Türkiye's progress towards its 2053 net zero emission target was screened.*

**Ms. A. Erdoğan** (Türkiye) said that her country had embraced a comprehensive development approach to which its 2053 net zero emission target was central. It had updated its Nationally Determined Contribution by increasing its 2030 emissions reduction target, adopted a new climate change mitigation and adaptation strategy, and was reviewing a draft climate law. In 2025, emissions trading systems would be launched and sustainable investments supported through green taxonomy regulations. Türkiye would actively contribute to joint endeavours such as the Turkic Green Vision and a 2026 regional climate summit in Kazakhstan. More than a technical goal, its net zero emissions target was a firm intergenerational commitment to building a more liveable, just and resilient future.

**Mr. F. Undurraga** (Chile), recalling the IPU resolutions adopted in October 2024 on AI and on science, technology and innovation (STI), said that his Parliament had since approved a new data protection law to safeguard data privacy and prevent misuse of personal data. Incorporating principles concerning the purpose, security and confidentiality of such data, the law regulated data-related rights and the duties of those responsible for data processing. A new personal data protection agency was also being established. As to AI, it required regulation and tools for identifying unacceptably high or other risks associated with it so as to limit or eliminate them. Otherwise, his Parliament was continuing to strengthen parliamentary democracy and, in accordance with the Framework Law on Climate Change, was setting ambitious climate action goals, including carbon neutrality and climate stability by 2050.

**Mr. Pham Phu Binh** (Viet Nam) said that IPU resolutions were highly valuable, helping to guide coordinated policy actions for achieving common goals. On returning home from each Assembly, his delegation conveyed information on the outcomes to relevant parliamentary and national authorities to ensure their timely implementation. Viet Nam was actively promoting bilateral and multilateral parliamentary diplomacy, while on climate change it had introduced laws, resolutions and policies to promote adaptation and mitigation, clean energy development, integration of the SDGs into policies and actions, and the transition to a green and circular economy. On STI, Viet Nam was energetically promoting bilateral and multilateral cooperation in research and development and technology transfer; increasing investments in scientific research; and executing a new national strategy for research development and AI application. It would continue to do its utmost to further the implementation of IPU resolutions and positively contribute to joint initiatives for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.

*A video message from the President of the Senate of Colombia on the current situation in his country was screened.*

**Ms. I. Kalnina** (Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH)) said that IPU resolutions were an excellent mechanism for acting in solidarity, engaging in international diplomacy, and discussing urgent global issues. Accountability and follow-up, moreover, were key to their effectiveness. Parliamentarians could learn from the good practices described by their peers and take them back to their national parliaments to explore ways of moving them forward at home. It was also important to raise public awareness of the issues at stake and engage with all stakeholders on how to tackle them in light of national realities. The experiences could then be shared at subsequent Assemblies for the benefit of all IPU Member Parliaments.

*The sitting rose at 16:50.*

# Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

**SITTING OF SUNDAY, 6 APRIL 2025**

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 09:45 with Ms. A. Kuspan (Kazakhstan), President of the Bureau of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.*

## **Adoption of the agenda (C-I/150/A.1)**

*The agenda was adopted.*

## **Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held at the 149th IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2024)**

*The summary record was approved.*

**The President** said that gender equality was the IPU priority theme in 2025, a pivotal year which marked the 40th anniversary of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The IPU was launching a new campaign *Achieving gender equality, action by action* on 7 April to encourage parliaments to translate their commitments to gender equality into tangible action.

She recommended that delegates read the new toolkit *SDG-informed legislative scrutiny*, which offered practical advice and checklists for aligning legislation with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), based on concrete case studies. The publication *Human security and common security to build peace* was now available in Spanish and Arabic, and delegates could request its translation into other languages. The *Common Principles for Support to Parliaments* had marked its tenth anniversary in 2024, and 152 Parliaments had endorsed it to date. She encouraged the remaining parliaments to pledge their support.

She also encouraged delegates to carefully review and implement the IPU anti-harassment policy, which aimed to ensure a professional, respectful and harassment-free environment for all.

## ***The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine***

### **(a) Presentation of the draft resolution and the explanatory memorandum prepared by the co-Rapporteurs**

**The President** recalled that a co-Rapporteur had been nominated from each of the six geopolitical groups to prepare the draft resolution and an accompanying explanatory memorandum: Mr. M.A. Bouchouit (Algeria), Ms. T. Vardanyan (Armenia), Mr. J. Buttimer (Ireland), Ms. T. Ts'ita-Mosena (Lesotho), Ms. M. Guerra Castillo (Mexico) and Mr. T. Utikere (New Zealand). She regretted that Mr. Buttimer and Ms. Ts'ita-Mosena were unable to attend, and invited the co-Rapporteurs in attendance to present the draft resolution and the explanatory memorandum.

**Ms. M. Guerra Castillo** (Mexico) said that the draft resolution reaffirmed that the only viable path to just and lasting peace was the two-State solution. Parliaments had a fundamental role to play by fostering dialogue, demanding respect for human rights and contributing to peacebuilding. One key aspect of the draft resolution was its focus on how the conflict had disproportionately affected Palestinian and Israeli women and girls, whose lives had been affected by displacement, violence, poverty and loss of access to essential services. It called on parliamentarians to adopt gender-sensitive laws and policies, protect the rights of women and girls, prevent gender-based violence, and actively promote the participation of women in peace processes. The resolution called for strengthening both direct and indirect parliamentary diplomacy as a tool for building trust and promoting cooperation on issues such as education, health, the environment and human security. She invited participants to support the draft resolution as an act of solidarity with those who were suffering, and as a necessary step toward a safer, more just and humane future for all.

**Mr. T. Utikere** (New Zealand) acknowledged the complexity and global significance of the draft resolution, and recalled that a prior attempt to adopt a resolution on the two-State solution had not been successful. In accepting the role of co-Rapporteur, he had aimed to bring a perspective informed by his experience in indigenous issues as well as a future-focused approach. Multiple elements had informed the drafting process, including an expert hearing held on 18 October 2024, and input submitted by participants during and following that meeting had been duly incorporated. The drafting process had benefited from the support of a retired diplomat, whose involvement was limited to technical assistance and did not bear upon the content.

From the perspective of New Zealand, the key areas of focus were, first, the roles that international bodies, such as the International Court of Justice, could play, and the co-Rapporteurs had sought to encourage parliaments to promote respect for the opinions of the Court. Second, there was an immediate need for unimpeded access to humanitarian aid. Third, parliamentary involvement in monitoring electoral processes in Israel and Palestine through election observation missions and capacity-building was key. Finally, it was important to include vulnerable communities in the draft resolution, and the co-Rapporteurs had decided to focus on children, women, people with disabilities and the elderly. Including those groups was an acknowledgement that they would also play a role in the solution. It was noted that some of the proposed amendments sought to clarify those groups or extend them further.

The co-Rapporteurs' approach to the task of agreeing on a draft resolution to present to the Committee was based on the need to be forward-focused and on the role that parliamentary bodies and other organizations, including the IPU, could play to achieve lasting peace. The explanatory memorandum was balanced, and some of the proposed amendments to provide clarity would strengthen the resolution while maintaining the spirit of balance that would be required to move things forward.

**Mr. M.A. Bouchouit** (Algeria) said that the IPU had been established on the principles of providing peace and justice to those who had endured injustice. The Committee had gathered to discuss crimes that were being perpetrated against people who had no weapons and who could not defend themselves. He hoped that the Committee could act to protect those innocent civilians and adopt the draft resolution.

The draft resolution, as it was originally written, represented justice and humanity, but some of the amendments that had been proposed would cause the resolution to lose its meaning. He called upon participants to acknowledge their responsibility in the face of the dire situation in Palestine, and questioned whether their conscience could permit them to overlook the daily massacres, starvation and injustices that had gone beyond any definition of crime. He stressed that the Committee was the custodian of the draft resolution.

**The President**, thanking the co-Rapporteurs, declared the debate on the draft resolution open.

### (b) Debate

**Ms. M. Md Nawi** (Malaysia) proposed several amendments to the wording of the draft resolution, including the request that the word "genocide" be used in the text.

**The President** clarified that during the debate, the discussion should focus on the resolution in general. Amendments to specific paragraphs and points would be taken up in plenary that afternoon.

**Ms. M. Lorenzo** (Director, Representative Office for Europe, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)) said that 75 years after the establishment of UNRWA, peace and security in the region remained elusive. The humanitarian situation in Gaza was dire, exacerbated by a prolonged suspension of aid and ongoing hostilities. At least 59 hostages remained in captivity, and over 100 children were being killed or injured daily, alongside a record number of United Nations (UN) staff casualties. The choice was clear: continued conflict and military occupation, or a pathway to peace through a ceasefire. In the West Bank, there was a rise in violence and displacement, with entire refugee camps emptied and significant destruction of infrastructure and homes. Again, the choice was clear: annexation of the West Bank, or a prospect for peace and security for Israelis and Palestinians alike.

At a time when aid should be increased, Israeli legislation against UNRWA was creating operational challenges. UNRWA was irreplaceable, as no other entity had the mandate or the capacity to deliver basic public-like services. During the ceasefire, UNRWA had provided food to two million people. Even now, UNRWA was still able to provide around 11,000 daily medical consultations in Gaza. UNRWA should be supported politically and financially to progressively conclude its mandate within the framework of a political process like that championed by the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution. The cycle of violence in Gaza and the West Bank must be reversed, the ceasefire renewed, all hostages released and humanitarian workers protected. She urged participants to recommit to multilateralism and its institutions, including UNRWA, through parliamentary diplomacy.

**Mr. D. Avramopoulos** (Greece) said that the vision of Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and mutual security was the only strategic, legal and morally defensible outcome to prevent perpetual conflict and safeguard the dignity of both peoples. This Committee and Member Parliaments must therefore become more than observers of a long diplomatic tragedy; they must be the institutional conscience of the international system. They must defend the primacy of international legality: if they allowed laws to bend under pressure, then they had already surrendered the foundation upon which the future peace must rest. A one-State reality was not peace; it was the slow replacement of conflict with domination and of hope with radicalization. The full spectrum of parliamentary diplomacy must be mobilized, which meant opening space for Israeli and Palestinian legislators to meet on equal footing; not as proxies for governments, but as architects of coexistence. The right of the Palestinian people to statehood was not a threat to Israel. It was the only way to secure its future as a democratic and Jewish state. Israel's right to exist in security was not a concession; it was a non-negotiable condition for peace. If, as parliamentarians, they did not insist on a return to political substance, they would be remembered not as facilitators of peace, but as bystanders to its burial. He called upon the Committee to send forth a message not of mere sympathy, but of firm resolve.

**Mr. Z. Mojskerc** (Slovenia) said that United Nations General Assembly resolution 181 (II), adopted in 1947, had provided the international legal basis for the creation of two States, but had yet to be implemented; the prospect of peace in the region still seemed distant. They should not lose sight of how the most recent conflict began: with an unprovoked attack by Hamas on Israeli civilians on 7 October 2023. He supported the two-State solution, but it could not be achieved without a permanent ceasefire and mutual recognition of both sides' right to exist.

The key factors in achieving lasting international peace and security were effective multilateralism and the central role of the UN. There were multiple peace initiatives and plans on the table, including the three-phase plan proposed by the United States of America and the Arab Peace Initiative. Regardless of the specific path forward, it was essential to find an inclusive solution that involved all parties and that would ultimately lead to a two-State solution. Achieving that would require sincere efforts by the international community to create the conditions for dialogue, reconciliation and construction. The present debate represented a step forward in the right direction.

**Ms. G. Jourda** (France) said that reinstating the ceasefire was an urgent priority. Her country supported the mediation efforts of the United States, Egypt and Qatar; the French delegation also supported Bahrain's amendment to the draft resolution to include a reference to those efforts. She called for the release of all hostages without delay and for an end to the blockade of food aid. Humanitarian workers should be protected as a basic tenet of international law, yet 15 aid workers had been killed last week in Gaza.

It was essential to return to political dialogue and open the way to implementing the two-State solution, as it was the only solution for lasting peace and for offering security guarantees to Israel. Implementing the two-State solution required Israel to renounce its plans for annexation and colonization of the occupied territories, which France had unequivocally condemned. Any forced displacement of the Palestinian population would constitute an inadmissible violation of international law. France and Saudi Arabia would co-chair a high-level UN conference on the two-State solution in June.

**Ms. R. Barghouthi** (Palestine) said that bombings in Gaza had targeted children and refugees who had no possibility of escape. Israeli leadership had used dehumanizing rhetoric toward the Palestinian people and had vowed to turn Gaza into a deserted island. Israel's extensive bombing of Gaza was equivalent to that of two nuclear bombs. Starvation was being used as a method of warfare,

and access to water, fuel and electricity had been cut off, which were blatant acts of collective punishment. An Israeli historian had described those acts as “a textbook case of genocide”. Collective punishment, forcible transfer, targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure, using starvation as a method of warfare, ethnic cleansing and incitement to commit genocide were all war crimes. A just and lasting solution required first ending the illegal Israeli occupation, which had been declared unlawful by the International Court of Justice.

The responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts required Governments not to aid or assist in the illegal occupation or the committing of crimes. She was disappointed that some of the proposed amendments to the draft resolution had shattered the meaning of the international legal order. She was surprised that the Standing Committee had accepted for consideration the amendments submitted by Israel, the illegal occupying power. Several countries had submitted counterproductive amendments that undermined the purpose of the draft resolution, including amendments proposing a change to the title, and she called upon delegates to vote against any amendments that equated the colonizer with the colonized. Some participants had condemned the acts of 7 October 2023 but had not condemned the killing of the Palestinian people; that double standard and the dehumanizing amendments must be voted against.

**Mr. A. Alkhalaleh** (Arab Parliament), thanking the co-Rapporteurs for their work, said that the draft resolution had been based on the international community's agreement that the two-State solution was the only path to achieving peace and stability in the region. The draft resolution contained several important principles to promote a just and fair outcome, including: the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, the condemnation of illegal settlements, a call to respect the advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice, a call for an immediate ceasefire and support for UNRWA. However, other paragraphs in the draft resolution appeared to equate the oppressor and the oppressed. It was important to be clear: the world was witnessing a genocide against the Palestinian people, and most of the victims were women and children. The draft resolution also failed to mention the war crimes being committed by the occupation of the West Bank. The draft resolution should support the Arab plan for the reconstruction of Gaza. Neither the Middle East nor the rest of the world could achieve stability without a clear and just resolution, and the time to act was now.

**Mr. A. Al-Hitmi** (Qatar) said that Qatar strongly supported the draft resolution and called for an immediate ceasefire, an end to the siege on Gaza, and unimpeded access to humanitarian aid. The suffering of civilians, in particular children, women and the elderly called for immediate action, and the international community could not stay silent. Qatar had made efforts to facilitate negotiations to achieve peace, including guaranteeing humanitarian aid and calling for the release of prisoners and detainees. However, diplomacy could not succeed in the face of flagrant violations of international law, including repeated Israeli violations of the ceasefire agreements, and the targeting of civilians and infrastructure in Gaza after a truce had been declared. Such actions did not reflect any real intention towards peace, and had led to further escalation and suffering. Respecting the ceasefire was not a political choice, but rather a legal and ethical commitment that all should abide by. Qatar strongly condemned the illegal expansion of settlements, forced deportations and ongoing violations of international humanitarian law. Forcefully annexing territories was unacceptable, and was a threat to both regional and international peace.

Qatar strongly supported the two-State solution based on the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as the capital of an independent Palestinian State. Palestine should also be recognized as a UN Member State, as political legitimacy was the key to permanent peace. Parliaments should bear their responsibilities in holding governments accountable and in guaranteeing that foreign policies would abide by international law. They should use their platforms to convey the voices of the oppressed, and advance towards justice through the International Court of Justice and other legal mechanisms, while calling for real steps to put an end to the occupation. He encouraged parliamentarians to act quickly for a just, fair and sustainable peace in the Middle East.

**Mr. O. Merezhko** (Ukraine) said that the key to finding a solution to the Middle East conflict was international law. Israel had a right to self-defense under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. On 7 October 2023, Israel was attacked by the terrorist organization Hamas, which had committed acts of genocide against the Israelis. That act of aggression had opened a Pandora's box from a legal and moral perspective, as those who committed crimes of aggression should be held responsible for all ensuing suffering.

The Russian Federation was currently engaged in the forceful acquisition and occupation of part of the territory of Ukraine. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) had recognized the Russian Federation as a terrorist regime. In order for international law to prevail, all terrorists should be brought to justice.

**Mr. D.E.Y. Illouz** (Israel) questioned how the Committee could convene to discuss recognizing a Palestinian State when Israeli men and women were still being held hostage, and were being tortured and starved in underground dungeons. The worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust had been committed on 7 October 2023: it was not a conflict, but a barbaric pogrom carried out by Palestinian terrorists. Instead of standing with Israel and demanding justice, the Committee had brought forward a draft resolution on a two-State solution in Palestine, without mentioning Israel in the title or feigning to acknowledge its existence. That was not diplomacy, it was erasure.

The current conflict was not about creating a Palestinian State, but rather erasing the only Jewish State in the world, amounting to cancel culture weaponized against the Jewish State. Moreover, meetings on the draft resolution had been held on Jewish holidays when the Israeli delegation could not attend. The draft resolution did not promote peace; it promoted terror and rewarded the same ideology that had led to 7 October. It sent a message to terrorists everywhere: slaughter innocents and the international community will give you a State. That State would be given to the Palestinian Authority, which funded terror, glorified murderers and denied Israel's right to exist. Real peace would never come from rewarding genocidal regimes; it would come from alliances like the Abraham Accords, where Jews and Arabs chose partnership over hate. Peace came from removing power from the extremists, not empowering those who made terrorism a national project. He urged participants to reject the draft resolution.

**Mr. M. El Qadi** (Jordan) said that it was important to make a distinction between terrorism and the right of States to self-determination. Jordan continued to call for peace and firmly believed that there would be no sustainable peace in the region without a comprehensive solution for the Palestinian State. Such a solution meant giving Palestinians the right of self-determination to establish an independent State on the basis of the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Peace could not be imposed with force, as that would lead to more violence, counter-violence and opportunities for extremism. An immediate ceasefire must be imposed, borders must be opened to allow humanitarian aid, and the siege on Gaza must be lifted. Jordan supported the two-State solution and the preservation of religious sites.

**Ms. D.E. Dlakude** (South Africa) said that adopting the draft resolution was an important opportunity to take action on the plight of the people of Palestine and Israel. Israel's military operations in Gaza had led to the loss of over 46,000 Palestinian lives with countless others displaced. The impunity for those transgressions had normalized a pattern of appalling behaviour. By endorsing the draft resolution, Member Parliaments signaled their collective commitment to pursuing a solution that could stop those horrific actions.

South Africa remained committed to supporting initiatives aimed at establishing a two-State solution. An immediate ceasefire was urgently needed, as well as a robust political process to pave the way for a just and enduring peace in the Middle East. As parliamentarians, it was their duty to strengthen collaborative efforts, working alongside the UN to help establish an independent Palestinian State.

**Mr. H. Wijemuni** (Sri Lanka) said that as parliamentarians, it was essential that they support initiatives that prioritized the well-being and rights of both the Israeli and Palestinian people. Parliamentarians should work together to address the root causes of the conflict, including the issues of borders, settlements, security, refugees and Jerusalem. Parliamentarians must strengthen diplomatic engagement and mediation by fostering constructive dialogue. Bilateral and multilateral engagement through parliamentary friendship groups, diplomatic delegations and regional assemblies could facilitate confidence-building measures between Israeli and Palestinian lawmakers.

It was regrettable that the collective voice of the UN was not being respected. A stable economic situation was integral to peace, and political discussion would remain ineffective without addressing the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the West Bank. Parliaments could allocate funds to help address those needs.

**Mr. R. Callus** (Malta) said that a two-State solution was the only viable option to ensure security, prosperity and equal rights for the peoples of Israel and Palestine, in line with international law and the principles of self-determination and territorial integrity. He welcomed the title of the draft resolution, which referenced the two-State solution, and expressed deep concern regarding the grave violations of fundamental rights and civilian safety, in particular with regard to the most vulnerable groups and persons with disabilities. He expressed concern about the latest escalation of violence and the deterioration of the situation in Gaza, which violated the ceasefire agreement. He called on both sides to exercise restraint and respect the ceasefire. The recent killing of humanitarian workers who were clearly identifiable as such could not be overlooked.

He welcomed the culture of engagement between Palestinian and Israeli members of parliament that the IPU fostered. Parliamentary diplomacy and cooperation were even more essential when all other doors were closed. The IPU should continue to uphold its great responsibility to foster dialogue in times of conflict and heightened tensions.

**Mr. Nemoto Yukinori** (Japan) said that Japan had consistently supported the two-State solution and had provided humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people in Palestine, particularly in the areas of employment, education and healthcare. Such efforts aimed at stabilizing lives and preventing violence from taking root, thereby breaking the cycle of retaliation in the region. It was essential to overcome differences in values; the IPU was expected to play a leading role as a platform for solidarity. At a time when trust in multilateralism was fading and nationalism was becoming more prevalent, parliaments must connect people with the international community. He was committed to continuing to work with Member Parliaments on the issue.

**Mr. Kim Hak Song** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the sovereignty of countries and nations was being trampled on in the international arena by the aggression and intervention of imperialist forces, including the United States of America. Israeli occupation should be ended, and the sovereign rights of the Palestinian people must be ensured. The principles of peace, which were enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, were being distorted and selectively interpreted due to the arbitrariness of the United States of America.

The key to lasting peace in the Middle East was to guarantee the legitimate rights of Palestinians, establish an independent State and put an end to Israel's aggression and hostile acts against Arab countries. The IPU Secretariat and its Member Parliaments should make concerted efforts to support the establishment of an independent Palestinian State, and should oppose and reject the obstructive moves of imperialist forces. His delegation condemned the actions of Israel and the United States of America for expanding the large-scale massacre of innocent civilians in the Middle East, and extended support and solidarity to Palestinian and Arab people in their struggle to defend sovereignty, the right to exist and territorial integrity.

**Mr. F. Chahuan** (Chile) said that remaining silent constituted complicity in genocide. It was clear that international humanitarian law had been violated, and that the only path to peace was full recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people. He called for the IPU to foster peace, respect, dialogue, memory and reparation. Chile had submitted a case concerning Israel to the International Criminal Court, which had resulted in arrest warrants being issued for those who had violated international law. The IPU should speak out regarding the application of Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations and question the effectiveness of Security Council veto mechanisms.

The only solution was the two-State solution. Chile's proposal for a peaceful resolution to the conflict sought to restore the spirit of the Madrid Conference and Oslo Accords, while also drawing on the Arab League's peace initiative, the Clinton Parameters and other security agreements. Chile condemned the violence of 7 October 2023 and the collective punishment inflicted on the civilian population, the forced displacement of people, the depopulation of Gaza and parts of the West Bank, the expansion of settlements and the dire situation facing humanitarian workers. The worst outcome would be for the Assembly to adopt no resolution on the most pressing conflict facing humanity today.

**Ms. S.S. Raza** (Pakistan) said that the situation in Palestine was not just a humanitarian catastrophe, but also a profound moral and political failure of the international community. Parliaments had a vital role to play in advocating for Palestine and ensuring that its right to self-determination, as provided for in the Charter of the United Nations, was a focus of peace efforts. Parliaments should urge world leaders to work towards inclusive justice. Recognition alone was not enough; Palestinians should be included in negotiations about their future, and they should shape the process. The two-State solution would fail without Palestinian leadership. Palestinian civil society, women, youth and the displaced community should also be included in the peacebuilding process. Pakistan remained steadfast in its support for Palestine, and urged the international community to do the same.

**Mr. N. Ruengpanyawut** (Thailand) said that Thailand had long maintained friendly relations with Israel and Palestine, and strongly supported efforts to achieve the two-State solution. The recent escalation of violence between Israel and Hamas was deeply concerning and had directly affected Thai nationals: 39 had died, 32 had been abducted and one was still being held hostage.

With regard to the draft resolution, peaceful negotiations were the key to resolving disputes. It was essential to stop the escalation of tensions and protect UN peacekeepers and humanitarian aid workers. Implementing the draft resolution would require parliamentary engagement and cohesive international responses, and its effectiveness would be constrained without genuine democratic processes in place. It was therefore fundamental to promote true democracy as a prerequisite for conflict recovery, development and long-term peacebuilding.

**Ms. A. Naeem** (Maldives) said that the struggles of Palestinian women could be traced back to a century of occupation, beginning with British colonial rule from 1917 to 1948. Since 1948, Israeli occupation had created nightmarish conditions, with Palestinian women bearing the burden; women and children made up 70% of Gaza's civilian deaths.

Great Britain and Israel must take accountability for their roles, and reparations should be used to bolster women's healthcare, education and legal support. International forces should dismantle Israel's blockade, tear down checkpoints and stop settlements. Grassroots voices should be amplified, such as the General Union of Palestinian Women, and the oral legacies of women's experiences under occupation should be recorded. The realization of Palestinian self-determination would dismantle systematic oppression, granting women agency over laws, resources and security. Without self-determination, there would be escalating violence, economic collapse and an erased culture. Achieving justice required the global recognition of Palestine's statehood, with women playing a central role in peacebuilding.

**Mr. R.D. Blanco** (Paraguay) said that his country, which had suffered the loss of nearly 80% of its male population over a century ago as the result of war, understood the humanitarian consequences of armed conflict. For that reason, Paraguay had historically championed self-determination. It did not oppose the recognition of the State of Palestine, but it also firmly supported the recognition of Israel as a Jewish and democratic State. He expressed the hope that the work of the IPU could be a turning point in parliamentary diplomacy to achieve peace.

**Mr. B. Mahtab** (India) said that his country supported a negotiated two-State solution to establish a sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine. India was a committed development partner of Palestine and had provided a significant amount of assistance over the years. India had strongly condemned the terrorist attacks on Israel on 7 October 2023 and the loss of civilian lives in the Israel-Hamas conflict. Hostage-taking was unacceptable. India remained deeply involved in the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, which needed the cooperation of all stakeholders and the international community. India would continue to support the Palestinian people through their bilateral development partnership, which covered a wide range of sectors, including health, education, women's empowerment and developmental initiatives.

With regard to the draft resolution, he reiterated the need for practical and action-oriented measures, long-term, structural solutions, an immediate ceasefire, a focus on humanitarian assistance, parliamentary democracy to promote dialogue, capacity-building assistance and the participation of women.

**Ms. A. Bengtsson** (Sweden) said that her country condemned all forms of violence against civilians, regardless of the perpetrator. The Hamas terrorist attack was a horrific event that had exacerbated the situation in the region. At the same time, the humanitarian suffering in Gaza was immense. Sweden had increased its humanitarian aid to Gaza by over US\$ 56 million, and despite its withdrawal of support for UNRWA, it was among the largest donors to humanitarian organizations on the ground. Sweden actively participated in the multilateral cooperation efforts of the European Union (EU) and the UN to promote a ceasefire and a long-term solution to the conflict. Her country supported United Nations Security Council resolution 2735 (2024) and urged all parties to adhere to international humanitarian law. A two-State solution was the only sustainable path forward. Israel had the right to security and the right to defend its country, and Palestinians had the right to their own State. Sweden would continue to work for just and lasting peace in the region.

**Mr. C. Law** (United Kingdom) said that it was deeply regrettable that the ceasefire had been broken, not all hostages had been released, and humanitarian aid into Gaza was being blocked. Aid workers, including workers from the United Kingdom, were being targeted. It was crucial to allow journalists to have access to Gaza to be able to document the truth of the reality on the ground.

Any notion of colonizing and annexing the West Bank, or the clearing of Gaza, also known as ethnic cleansing, was illegal under international law and must be condemned. Of the 193 Member States of the UN, 147 recognized Palestine as a sovereign State. Those States that had not yet done so should recognize Palestine, including the United Kingdom. He underscored the importance of the International Court of Justice and stressed that the two-State solution was the only route towards equality, mutual respect, dignity and security for Palestine and Israel.

**Mr. A. Salman Ahmad** (Bahrain) said that several delegates had erroneously stated that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict had begun on 7 October 2023; in reality, it had been ongoing for more than 75 years, when the Palestinians' land was stolen from them. In response to those who had asserted that Hamas had started the conflict, he asked what the justification was for shelling the West Bank and killing civilians there. Reaching peace required a commitment from Israel, as well as from the international community to uphold all UN resolutions. The Palestinian people were facing genocide, forced deportation and an unjust war. International resolutions had been adopted to promote the two-State solution, which the Arab world unanimously supported. Israel should halt the annexation of land, the expansion of settlements, the forced deportation of Palestinians, and its efforts to dismantle the Palestinian economy. He encouraged delegates to support the Arab plan for reconstruction and called for an immediate ceasefire. Tens of thousands of Palestinians were detained in Israeli prisons, and Palestinian children and women continued to be killed while the international community remained silent.

**Mr. K. Kapinga** (Botswana) said that Botswana supported all efforts aimed at securing an immediate and lasting ceasefire and condemned any escalation of hostilities. His country was gravely concerned over the scale of destruction and loss of life resulting from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, stressing that the principle of proportionality under international law had not been respected. Botswana's foreign policy was grounded in the principle of peaceful dialogue, not in the unfettered use of violence such as that witnessed in the ongoing conflict. He urged parties to stop the use of violence as a means of resolving the conflict.

**Mr. H. Fathi** (Indonesia) said that Indonesia supported the original draft resolution proposed by the co-Rapporteurs and refused Israel's proposal. It was imperative to continue to advocate for the two-State solution, and the draft resolution was a way to push for peace, stability, and a fair and long-term solution grounded in international law. In view of the crimes committed by the Israeli forces, it was time for parliamentarians to take a stand and push for the only feasible option, a two-State solution. Palestinians had the right to self-determination and statehood with East Jerusalem as the capital. Indonesia would continue to advocate for an end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and push for international action to support the independence of Palestine.

**Mr. A. Touizi** (Morocco) said that his country condemned the violation of the ceasefire by Israel, as well as the siege that had been ongoing for the past 15 years, turning Gaza into a prison. Morocco further condemned the destruction of hospitals, buildings and other infrastructure, and the killing of women, children and civilians. Wars could not solve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and the only path towards sustainable peace was a two-State solution. As parliamentarians and representatives of the people, they should push forward this solution. Western countries, in particular powerful Western countries that were at the root of the problem since 1948, should play a key role in promoting the two-State solution. Consecutive wars and the use of force were not the solution; negotiations and constructive dialogue were the only way forward.

**Mr. K. Darwish** (Egypt) reiterated the need for an immediate ceasefire, and called upon the international community to act to put an end to the violence and protect the people in Gaza. It was imperative to reject any initiative that would result in the displacement of Palestinians from their territory, whether voluntary or coerced, as such measures constituted a violation of international law. The international community should work to end the displacement of Palestinians, ensure that international laws were enforced, and respect the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination in the establishment of an independent State.

Parliamentarians should foster dialogue within their governments in working towards an international agreement on the two-State solution. Full access to humanitarian aid in Gaza was needed, along with financial and political support for the Arab plan to reconstruct Gaza. As parliamentarians, they should ensure that the Gaza reconstruction conference in Cairo would take place and that financial support would be mobilized.

**(c) Drafting and adoption of the draft resolution in plenary**

**The President** announced that the Committee would proceed to discuss the proposed amendments in plenary.

*The sitting rose at 12:05.*

**SITTING OF TUESDAY, 8 APRIL 2025**

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 14:15 with Ms. A. Kuspan (Kazakhstan), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.*

**Preparations for future Assemblies**

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

**The President** said that the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security had met earlier that morning to discuss the subject item for the resolution to be considered by the Standing Committee at the upcoming IPU Assembly. Several delegations had submitted proposals. In accordance with Article 20.4 of the Rules of the Standing Committees, the Bureau had chosen *The role of parliaments in establishing robust post-conflict management mechanisms and restoring a just and lasting peace.*

*It was so decided.*

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

**The President** said that no names had been put forward, and she invited interested parties to submit their names to the Committee Secretariat by the next day, so that they could be approved by the Assembly.

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

**The President** said that, according to Rule 6 of the Rules of the Standing Committees, the IPU Standing Committees established their own work plans and set their own agendas. In that context, in keeping with usual practice, the Bureau proposed that a hearing with experts on the adopted subject item be held in October 2025. During the 151st IPU Assembly, the Committee would have four additional hours for its activities. The Bureau proposed that discussions be organized on the following items: *Strengthening parliamentary oversight of defence spending* and *Arms control policy and non-proliferation: Preventing the next arms race.*

*It was so agreed.*

**Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee**

**The President** said that the Committee was requested to fill six vacancies for terms ending in March 2027. The following nominations had been submitted: for the African Group, Mr. O. Ngwu (Nigeria); for the Arab Group, there remained a vacancy; for the Asia-Pacific Group, Ms. F. Sauda (Maldives), and there remained a vacancy; for the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. L.A. Silva (Mexico) and Mr. R. Blanco (Paraguay).

Six members of the Bureau had completed their first two-year terms and were eligible for re-election for a second two-year term: the delegates of Iraq, Italy, Malawi, Uganda, Republic of Moldova and Switzerland.

*The nominations were approved.*

***The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine***

(continued)

**(c) Drafting and adoption of the draft resolution in plenary**

(continued)

**Ms. A. Filip** (Director, Division for Member Parliaments and External Relations, IPU) outlined the procedural options available concerning the draft resolution, in light of the heated and divisive debates related to its content. Under standard procedure, the Standing Committee would vote on and adopt the draft resolution, which would then be submitted to the Assembly for adoption. The Committee had started on a positive footing with a good and balanced draft resolution prepared by six rapporteurs from all the geopolitical groups, which had initially provided a solid basis for consensus. Given the contentious deliberations in the Committee and the outcome of the recent vote on the emergency item, there was a risk that the draft resolution might be rejected by the Assembly. That rejection would undermine the demonstrated commitment of the IPU to the two-State solution.

An alternative, as provided for under Rule 16 of the Rules of the Standing Committees, would be to establish a drafting group to continue to work on the draft resolution, thereby deferring its consideration to the next Assembly. It was important to avoid exacerbating divisions and to uphold the longstanding support of the IPU to the two-State solution.

**Mr. F. Chahuan** (Chile) said that the worst outcome for the Assembly would be a vote against the draft resolution. He asked whether it would be possible for the Committee to issue a declaration affirming its support for the two-State solution, in the event that the draft resolution was not adopted by the Assembly. Silence on the part of the Organization could be seen as complicit. He also asked whether it would still be possible to dialogue with delegates from the European Union who had opposed some of the amendments, to ensure that the core issue, the two-State solution, remained protected.

**Ms. A. Filip** (Director, Division for Member Parliaments and External Relations, IPU) said that there was no time to reopen discussions or to renegotiate the draft resolution. Any additional negotiations would have to take place at the following Assembly in October.

She recalled that when the Assembly had failed to adopt an emergency item resolution on Palestine in March 2024, a leadership statement was issued by the IPU President and Secretary General reaffirming key principles, including respect for international law. The Secretariat could do the same and prepare a brief, non-negotiated statement for adoption before the Assembly. The other option would be to continue working towards a full resolution, which would carry more weight.

**Ms. L. Reynolds** (Australia) said that her delegation had initially supported the draft resolution, as Australia supported a genuine two-State solution. However, the draft resolution with the amendments was twice as long and was substantially different from the initial text, resulting in a draft resolution that many delegations, including her own, might find difficult to support. She strongly supported continuing the debate, referring the matter to a drafting group and seeking further consensus to be confident that the draft resolution would pass in the Assembly.

**Mr. M.A. Bouchouit** (Algeria) said that the amendments had been approved by the Committee as part of a democratic process. The IPU should be proud to see that there were voices demanding humanity, peace and security, the principles upon which the IPU was founded. The Secretariat should respect its procedural rules, and the minority should respect the opinions of the majority. Adopting the draft resolution would send a message of solidarity and hope that the world had not forgotten the people of Palestine. The Committee should uphold the principles of democracy and proceed to a vote on the draft resolution.

**Ms. R. Saint-Germain** (Canada) expressed support for the intervention by Ms. Reynolds, recalling that the mandate given to the Bureau and the Standing Committee was to produce a resolution in support of the two-State solution. That objective remained a shared goal, consistent with

international law and the core principles of the IPU. However, the Committee's deliberations had led them away from the spirit of cooperation. She suggested postponing the vote on the draft resolution to allow additional time for consensus-building.

**Mr. A. Al-Zu'bi** (Jordan) said that his delegation's support for the two-State solution was based on United Nations resolutions, which stipulated the right of the Palestinian people to establish an independent State based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Their support was not a position against anyone; it was a position for justice and peace. He called for support for the draft resolution as a step towards putting an end to the occupation and settlement activities. He hoped that the Committee would vote for the two-State solution during the present sitting.

**Mr. A. Alharbi** (Saudi Arabia) said that the co-Rapporteurs and Committee members had exerted considerable effort to arrive at a viable solution. He was surprised by the proposal to postpone the vote on the adoption of the draft resolution. Saudi Arabia opposed the postponement and called for abiding by the Rules of the Standing Committees. He questioned why delegates were hesitant to support the two-State solution when their governments had already done so in international forums. He called for a vote to be held on the draft resolution.

**Mr. M. Hadid** (Palestine) said that he had expected the draft resolution to be divisive, as anything related to the Palestinian cause was arduous at the IPU. The proposal to postpone voting was not democratic.

His delegation was surprised to see the high number of proposed amendments, the majority of which contravened international law and international humanitarian law. The amendments had shifted the meaning of the original draft resolution away from a two-State solution, steering it instead towards condemnations and formulations to appease a particular party. He proposed another alternative: to return to the initial draft resolution that had been drafted by the co-Rapporteurs representing the six geopolitical groups. The initial draft resolution appeared to be more acceptable to the majority than the version with the proposed amendments.

**Mr. J. Juwaini** (Indonesia) expressed support for the statements made by the delegates of Algeria, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan. The Standing Committee must adopt the draft resolution, and should not postpone the process until the next Assembly in October. Postponing would undermine the urgent need to address the ongoing loss of life in Palestine.

**Ms. E. Salkičević-Dizdarević** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that her country would not support the draft resolution, although it supported the resolution's underlying humanitarian concerns. She expressed empathy with the plight of the Palestinian people and called upon European countries to consider the implications of such devastation occurring on their land.

**The President** suggested that the Committee vote on how to proceed with the draft resolution. The first proposal was to revert to the initial draft resolution that had been drafted by the co-Rapporteurs. The second proposal was to vote on the draft resolution with the amendments that had been approved by the Committee in its prior sitting. The third proposal was to allow a drafting committee to continue to work on an adapted draft resolution, which would be presented at the following Assembly.

**Mr. M.A. Bouchouit** (Algeria) said that the Committee should abide by the rules and vote on the draft resolution with the amendments.

**Ms. D. O'Neill** (Australia), speaking on a point of order, said that a number of countries had raised their nameplates and were within their rights to ask to speak on the topic before a vote was proposed. She asked the President to allow them to contribute to the discussion.

**Mr. M.A. Bouchouit** (Algeria), speaking on a point of order, said that the Committee members had adopted the agenda and that they should continue to follow the agenda.

**Mr. F. Chahuan** (Chile) said that the initial text had offered the possibility for the IPU to unanimously adopt the draft resolution. The proposal put forth by Palestine demonstrated its willingness to move forward so that the Organization could finally take a clear stand on the two-State solution. He asked whether the Committee was willing to adopt the initial text of the draft resolution.

**Ms. W. Fahad** (Iraq) said that her delegation had asked for an emergency item on Palestine, but the request had not received a response. The international community, due to its many divisions, had failed to be equitable toward the sufferings of others. Now the Committee was failing to adopt a draft resolution on the role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution. They had been working relentlessly, and they were left debating three proposals, which was a waste of time. She called for the dismantling of the IPU, which was also a waste of time.

**Mr. A. Ozkaya** (Türkiye) said that delegates had negotiated the amendments one by one the previous day, and now was the time to vote. They should not wait another six months until October; people were dying every second, children were hungry and a genocide was unfolding.

**Mr. S. Ali** (Pakistan) implored delegates not to delay action until October, warning that such postponement could result in the loss of another 50,000 lives. He suggested that the Committee consider just two options: vote on the amended draft resolution or on the initial draft resolution.

**Mr. M. Hadid** (Palestine), speaking on a point of order, clarified that he had proposed that they revert to the initial draft, provided that it would not go to a vote in the Assembly. He asked whether that was possible under the Rules of the Assembly.

**Ms. N.M. Mhlongo** (South Africa), speaking on a point of order, said that it was unacceptable to propose postponing the adoption of the draft resolution to October. The matter must be resolved now: if it were postponed, there might not be people left in Palestine. While waiting for October, children continued to die.

*Mr. H. Mohammad (Malaysia), Vice-President of the Standing Committee, took the Chair.*

**Mr. K. Darwish** (Egypt), speaking on a point of order, said that the agenda of the Standing Committee had been approved at the beginning of the session, and it should be followed.

**Mr. A. Salman Ahmad** (Bahrain) said that the full draft resolution, including its amendments, should be voted on, as the amendments had been approved in a democratic manner, in line with the standard practices of the IPU. Advocating for solidarity with Palestine was not simply acting out of emotion, but it was upholding rights enshrined in international instruments and recognized through democratic processes. Reopening discussion on such issues constituted a departure from the democratic principles that should guide the Assembly's deliberations.

**Ms. D. O'Neill** (Australia), speaking on a point of procedure, acknowledged Mr. Hadid's clarification that although he had proposed that the Committee adopt the initial draft resolution without referring it to the Assembly, it had been confirmed that such a procedure was not permissible. She requested the Secretariat's clarification regarding whether the draft resolution that had been the work of the Committee over the past two days was the only draft resolution that the Committee could vote on.

**Ms. S. Amero** (Uganda), speaking on a point of procedure, said that voting should proceed and the Committee should not debate a matter that had already been agreed upon. She called upon the delegates to support the draft resolution in the Assembly.

**Ms. S. Najem** (Mauritania) said that while the Palestinian people were enduring the worst massacre in human history, delegates were sitting discussing a document that they could not agree upon. It was shameful and the discussion negated the parliamentary spirit that they were there to represent. She proposed that the Committee vote on the draft resolution, including its amendments, without any further proposals or alternatives. She urged all countries to recognize the suffering of the Palestinian people and stand up and support them.

**The Chair** replied that he would not allow the IPU Assembly to become a shameful gathering, and he would do his best to continue the proceedings.

**Mr. E. Mahabe Weiss** (Djibouti) said that the Palestinian people did not need talk; they needed help. The Committee should proceed immediately to a vote.

**Mr. C. Law** (United Kingdom) said that all delegates desired consensus on a resolution supporting a two-State solution, and there was more that united than divided them. The options available for the draft resolution were not ideal, as it risked being defeated by the Committee or the Assembly. There were factual inaccuracies and illogicalities in the draft resolution, and two days might not have been sufficient for drafting. He proposed another option: the formation of a balanced drafting committee to develop a resolution that could garner broad support, addressing both the two-State solution and the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

**Ms. M.-N. Battistel** (France) said that there was general agreement on the importance of not leaving the Assembly without a resolution, as too much was at stake. A vote on the current text of the draft resolution would likely fail the following day. Her delegation, along with other delegations, wished to vote on Palestine's proposal to return to the initial draft resolution. An alternative would be to have a drafting committee convene to remove inconsistencies, so that they could reach a consensus and avoid delaying the matter to October.

**Mr. S. Smith** (New Zealand) expressed support for the statement made by Mr. Law. The current document was not something they could be proud of; it was poorly drafted, full of inaccuracies and overly long. The Committee should neither support the text nor send it to the Assembly in its current form, as it would reflect badly on the IPU. The initial draft resolution was better, although it could also be improved.

**Ms. L. Marzal** (Secretary of the Committee, IPU), responding to the question from Ms. O'Neill, said that there was nothing in the Rules of the Standing Committees that would prevent them from reverting to the initial draft resolution. There was also nothing that was explicitly stated that it was allowed. Therefore, it was up to the Committee to decide.

**Ms. D. O'Neill** (Australia) said that with regard to the proposal from Palestine, it was her understanding that the draft resolution must be sent to the Assembly. That was a risk: if the draft resolution were defeated, it would send a negative message. She agreed with the sentiments expressed by Ms. Mhlongo and hoped that the draft resolution would convey a sense of solidarity to those suffering in the Middle East.

**Mr. M. Hadid** (Palestine) clarified that his earlier proposal had been misunderstood; he had not intended to suggest that the initial draft resolution should bypass the Assembly. Rather, he had meant that if the rules allowed for the initial draft resolution to be guaranteed to be adopted in the Assembly, then that approach should be considered. However, if a vote was required, the amended draft resolution should be submitted instead. To resolve any confusion, he withdrew his earlier proposal.

**The Chair** proposed that the Committee proceed with a vote on the draft resolution.

**Mr. F. Chahuan** (Chile) said that the concern raised by the delegate from Palestine, Mr. Hadid, related to whether the rules allowed for the initial draft to reach the Assembly with a sufficient guarantee of approval. Mr. Hadid had asked the Secretariat to confirm that guarantee.

**Ms. L. Marzal** (Secretary of the Committee, IPU), said that as a member of the Secretariat, she could not provide a political guarantee regarding the outcome of the vote. The only people who had a say in whether the initial draft resolution would be adopted were the delegates. It was the delegates who would vote, not the staff of the IPU.

**Mr. F. Chahuan** (Chile) said that it was a question of a technical guarantee of whether the initial draft resolution would be allowed to be put to a vote. The Secretariat should confirm whether it was technically possible for the initial draft resolution to be submitted to a vote in the Assembly.

**Mr. A. Gryffroy** (Belgium) requested the Chair to briefly suspend the sitting in order to allow the representatives of the geopolitical groups to set up an ad hoc drafting committee to discuss the possibility of proceeding with a vote on the initial draft resolution.

**Mr. M. Hadid** (Palestine) asked Mr. Gryffroy whether he was suggesting that they should meet with the proposed ad hoc drafting committee in order to make changes to the draft resolution. If that were the case, it would undermine the efforts of the Committee over the past three days. He also asked what the guarantee was that the draft resolution would ultimately be adopted by the Assembly.

**Mr. A. Gryffroy** (Belgium) replied that he proposed to bring the initial draft resolution to the ad hoc drafting committee in order to ease tensions and then that the unmodified draft resolution would be brought before the Assembly. There was no guarantee that the draft resolution would be adopted by the Assembly; such uncertainty was inherent in the democratic process.

**The Chair** proposed to suspend the sitting to allow the representatives of the geopolitical groups to meet and reach a consensus before proceeding to a vote on the draft resolution.

*The sitting was suspended at 16:00 and resumed at 16:25.*

**The Chair** invited representatives from the geopolitical groups who took part in the ad hoc drafting committee to take the floor and share with the Committee the outcome of their consultations.

**Mr. L. Wehrli** (Switzerland), speaking on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group, said that it was important that the original text of the draft resolution had been drafted with the cultural differences and opinions of each geopolitical group in mind. The Twelve Plus Group supported the initial draft resolution, without amendments, and he was confident that the Committee's consensus on the draft resolution would carry over to the Assembly.

*Ms. A. Kuspan (Kazakhstan), President of the Standing Committee, resumed the Chair.*

**Mr. F. Chahuan** (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), expressed support for the initial draft resolution. His Group would support the draft resolution at the Assembly with strength and conviction.

**Ms. S. Amero** (Uganda), speaking on behalf of the African Group, expressed support for the initial draft resolution.

**Mr. M.A. Bouchouit** (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, thanked his fellow co-Rapporteurs and all the participants for their efforts. The Arab Group also supported the initial draft resolution.

**Ms. D. O'Neill** (Australia), speaking on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, said that moving towards consensus was a positive outcome. The Committee was building trust, and their consensus would carry over to the Assembly the following day.

**Mr. A. Denisov** (Russian Federation), speaking on behalf of the Eurasia Group, said that despite a few doubts regarding the draft resolution, the Eurasia Group supported its adoption for the sake of moving forward and taking immediate action.

**The President** invited the Committee to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

*The draft resolution was adopted unanimously, with 47 delegations in favour and 0 against.*

*The sitting rose at 16:35.*

# Standing Committee on Sustainable Development

**SITTING OF SUNDAY, 6 APRIL 2025**

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 9:35 with Mr. W. William (Seychelles), President of the Committee, in the Chair.*

**Adoption of the agenda**  
C-II/150/A.1

*The agenda was adopted.*

**Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held at the 149th IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2024)**

*The summary record was approved.*

**The President** drew attention to two upcoming workshops, *Enhancing parliamentary communication and advocacy for climate action* and *Reducing methane emissions: A critical pathway for addressing the climate crisis*, to be held during the Assembly.

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

**(a) Presentation of the draft resolution and the explanatory memorandum prepared by the co-Rapporteurs**

**The President** said that IPU Member Parliaments had received the draft resolution entitled *Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impacts of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development* on 13 January 2025. The deadline to submit proposals for amendments had been 14 March 2025. Twenty-nine parliaments had submitted 241 amendments, a particularly high number given the limited drafting time. The co-Rapporteurs – Ms. H.R. Fayeze (Bahrain) and Mr. R. Fogiel (Poland) – had met the previous day to review the proposals.

**Ms. H.R. Fayeze** (Bahrain), co-Rapporteur, said that the Committee had held a discussion on the sidelines of the 149th IPU Assembly to reflect diverse viewpoints and highlight the effects of conflicts on sustainable development worldwide. Parliamentarians' contributions had aimed to ensure that the resolution would align with the common interests of IPU Member Parliaments. The main objective of the draft resolution was to strengthen parliaments' role in mitigating the impacts of conflicts on sustainable development. It recognized that conflicts disrupted economic progress, and sought to marshal global parliamentary efforts to counter that disruption and promote sustainable development in conflict-affected areas. It highlighted parliamentarians' crucial role in fostering peace and stability, and in shaping policies to rebuild and develop conflict-affected areas. It also underscored the shared responsibility to safeguard future generations' well-being, and aimed to bridge gaps between stakeholders to achieve inclusive and sustainable development in post-conflict settings. The explanatory memorandum set out the principles underpinning the draft resolution. Based on the amendments received, the co-Rapporteurs had rephrased some paragraphs of the draft resolution.

**(b) Debate**

**Mr. P. Bakovic** (Slovenia) said that the concerning rise in global crises hindered progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and increased inequality and vulnerability. Geopolitical tensions threatened rules-based multilateralism and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). In 2024, humanitarian needs had surged worldwide following natural disasters and emergencies caused by humans that had exceeded previous crises in their scale, frequency and severity. Prolonged conflicts – particularly in Ukraine, Gaza and parts of Africa – had fuelled that surge. Conflicts increased poverty, hunger, forced displacements and

infrastructure destruction, and approximately 60% were linked to natural resources, political instability and security. Crisis management and peacebuilding efforts must address that reality more comprehensively. Slovenia, which would serve as a non-permanent member of the United Nations (UN) Security Council until the end of 2025 and which was a member of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), respected international law and human rights. Its priorities were to prevent conflict; protect civilians, water resources and infrastructure; implement the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda; and address the links between climate, peace and security. Parliaments were vital to resolving conflicts and promoting peace, stability and sustainable development. Parliamentarians should therefore support democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and efforts to provide humanitarian aid and development in crisis-affected areas.

**Ms. Kim Jae Won** (Republic of Korea) said that, in the light of rapid changes to the global economic order, trade protectionism and the impact of the fourth industrial revolution, it was time to identify sustainable engines for growth. The culture industry could help in that regard and had enabled the Republic of Korea to enhance its global image and generate economic value. Korean music and television were popular worldwide, increasing tourism to the Republic of Korea and exports of Korean products. Culture could also foster empathy and appreciation for differences, identify common ground between diverse peoples, promote peaceful coexistence, and therefore alleviate armed conflicts. Parliaments worldwide should develop and implement measures to enhance cultural exchanges between nations. The Republic of Korea stood ready to help in that regard and was committed to facilitating cultural exchanges and partnerships, including through official development assistance within relevant sectors. She proposed establishing a consultative body for cultural and economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

**Mr. Sugio Hideya** (Japan) said that Japan had not used force or participated in any war since the Second World War and would never initiate an attack on another State. Operative paragraphs 25 and 26 of the draft resolution called upon parliaments to oversee security budgets, which was parliaments' most important function. Although the political party to which he belonged was in opposition, it played a role in government oversight. It appreciated that the security budget was necessary in the evolving security environment but admonished the Japanese Government for unreasonable increases. In line with operative paragraph 27, his party strove to create a society in which a diverse range of people could participate in decision-making. He echoed preambular paragraph 1 which highlighted the interconnectedness of peace and sustainable development. Japan sought to leverage the trust that it had earned from the rest of the world, including through official development assistance, to facilitate peacebuilding based on human security. Japan would pursue national interests that would also benefit other countries, and it promoted nuclear abolition, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

**Mr. H. Jurgensen** (Chile) said that humans were central to the amendments that his delegation had proposed. Development must, first and foremost, be human-centred. Humans were central to political action, and parliamentary and congressional work worldwide. It was much more precise and accurate for each sentence to refer to human development, which better aligned with international law and national development. Regarding the proposal to add a preambular paragraph on critical infrastructure, Chile had witnessed how systematic attacks on critical infrastructure – including metro stations, supermarkets, pharmacies, private and public property, and churches – could destabilize democracies and overthrow governments. Such barbarity had demonstrated the need to prepare and respond to a very real danger and safeguard the rule of law and democracy.

**Ms. A. Thilakarathne** (Sri Lanka) said that, at the 149th IPU Assembly, peace, inclusivity, social rebuilding and international cooperation had been identified as key areas for action. Countries worldwide were implementing new peacebuilding frameworks that emphasized recovery and resilience. Diplomatic efforts had been strengthened, with parliaments advocating for peaceful negotiations and national legislatures holding governments accountable for post-conflict actions.

Following decades of ethnic conflict, Sri Lanka was working towards reconciliation and sustainable development, guided by the principles of inclusivity, dialogue and shared ownership among communities. The Office for National Unity and Reconciliation addressed the causes of the conflict, promoted harmony and unity among Sri Lankans, and celebrated diversity. There was commitment to creating a society that respected fundamental rights, freedom and equality. The Government had introduced measures to enhance intercommunal dialogue, expand education access, and prioritize youth and women's political participation. It was important to adopt a forward-looking

approach. The draft resolution called for urgent action in several areas. Although there were significant challenges ahead, there was a collective resolve to mitigate the impacts of conflict on sustainable development. The strategies implemented within Sri Lanka, rooted in diplomacy, inclusivity, human rights and resilience, represented actionable paths forward. Parliamentarians should reaffirm their commitment to working boldly and decisively, and to ensuring that no one was left behind.

**Mr. N. In-na** (Thailand) said that his delegation fully supported the draft resolution. Conflicts damaged economies, governance and the environment which delayed the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Given the link between conflict, environmental degradation and climate security, parliaments must integrate climate resilience into peacebuilding to address food and water insecurity. Parliamentary oversight of the security sector was essential and must be strengthened to uphold democracy, human rights and accountability. Regional cooperation and multilateralism were valuable; sustainable peace and development required unity, collective action and partnerships. His Parliament was committed to working with IPU Member Parliaments to translate the draft resolution into action.

**Mr. V.D. Ram** (India) expressed appreciation for the reference in the draft resolution to the need for comprehensive strategies to protect sustainable development during conflicts. His delegation proposed a deletion in preambular paragraph 12 to provide cohesion and eliminate redundancy. The proposed amendment to operative paragraph 16 emphasized that climate change and security were addressed through different international mechanisms and conventions. Operative paragraph 19 should be deleted as it was unclear which body would oversee the mechanisms to select experts. In operative paragraph 24, the reference to 17 SDGs should be deleted because they were part of the 2030 Agenda.

The Indian democratic governance model strongly advocated for dialogue, non-interference and peaceful dispute resolution. Parliament was vital to shaping policies that enhanced resilience against conflicts while ensuring social, economic and environmental sustainability, which was in line with the draft resolution. Rigorous parliamentary scrutiny ensured accountability within security and development policies, while collaboration with regional and global parliaments shaped best practices for peacebuilding and sustainable development. India advocated for the meaningful participation of all society in political and economic processes, and uninterrupted access to essential services in conflict-affected areas. He requested that the Committee carefully consider the proposed amendments.

**Ms. R. Abunayan** (Saudi Arabia) said that her delegation had proposed three amendments. The first concerned adding mental health challenges to the long-term effects of conflicts. Violence and loss caused severe anxiety and post-traumatic stress, while persistent insecurity, displacement and grief contributed to depression. Vulnerable groups were at greater risk. The second concerned ensuring social stability in conflict zones to prevent violence and ensure national security. The third concerned youth participation in peacebuilding, as young people represented a significant population segment in many conflict-affected areas. Their exclusion could lead to frustration, radicalization and renewed violence. Engaging youth helped to address the causes of conflict, such as unemployment and inequality, and provided new ideas for reconciliation and economic recovery. Investing in youth leadership ensured continuity in governance and broke cycles of violence.

**Ms. A. Shakya** (Nepal) said that the Asia-Pacific region, which faced significant challenges, was on track to achieve only a third of the SDGs by 2030. The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Accord had marked the end of the Nepalese civil war and had created opportunities for women, who represented respectively 33.5%, 37% and 40% of representatives in the House of Representatives, the National Assembly and in local government. Efforts were under way to increase that representation to over 40% at all levels.

To date, Nepal had achieved 41% of the SDGs. The extreme poverty rate is on target to fall below 5% by 2030. Annual per capita income was increasing and the undernourishment rate was predicted to drop to 3% by 2030. The infant mortality and maternal mortality rates had significantly decreased. All homes would have access to electricity by 2030, roads and communication services connected all district headquarters, and 75% of the population had internet access. Social security had also improved. Positive, transformative change required regional cooperation, coexistence, collaboration and coordination. There was an urgent need to address inequalities affecting marginalized groups, and for the draft resolution to have an immediate impact.

**Mr. A. Sabbour** (Egypt) said that conflicts impacted SDG implementation and hindered States' efforts to eradicate poverty and provide education. Even brief conflicts could undo years of work. In 2021, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) had published alarming findings, including that approximately a third of countries lacked the minimum data required to make progress, which would take them out of the sustainable development cycle and leave them in need of assistance. Parliamentarians must enact legislation that aligned with the SDGs, especially at a time when conflicts were prevalent. International efforts must focus on alleviating the impact of conflict on sustainable development. There must be commitment to international laws and conventions to achieve sustainable development during conflicts. International organizations must provide humanitarian support to reduce suffering and meet basic needs. Post-conflict assistance must also be provided and prioritized to further reconstruction. However, the best way to mitigate those negative impacts was to prevent conflict and reach peace settlements through diplomacy.

**Mr. Y. Al-Khater** (Qatar) said that the relationship between peace and sustainable development was important. Lack of development could lead to conflict, and societies in conflict could not prosper. Many conflicts hindered SDG implementation and endangered millions of lives. Alongside working on legislation, parliamentarians supported stability through deliberations, negotiations and international initiatives. He therefore supported the draft resolution and called for diplomacy to settle conflicts and protect infrastructure and humanitarian assistance. Parliaments must intensify efforts to guarantee that sustainable development policies considered armed conflicts. Conflict-affected areas must receive support and international law must be respected to prevent civilian targeting. Youth and women must receive assistance. Qatar was committed to supporting sustainable development and would pursue efforts to empower societies and youth for a better future. It was parliamentarians' responsibility to act effectively and tackle challenges.

**Ms. F. Osler** (Canada) said that parliamentarians helped to prevent and resolve conflicts, and mitigate long-term impacts on sustainable development. Given the widely recognized importance of women's active participation in peacebuilding, parliamentarians must improve the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). Her delegation had therefore proposed amendments to emphasize women's peacebuilding role by implementing the WPS Agenda. Disruption to education and mental health issues resulting from violence and family displacements contributed to the next generation's particular vulnerability to conflict. Her delegation had therefore also proposed amendments highlighting the important role that youth played in peacebuilding by implementing the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agenda. It was unclear who would be responsible for establishing, maintaining and funding a global commission with a mandate to work towards a ceasefire in conflict-affected countries. Her delegation therefore proposed reinforcing existing multilateral, regional and subregional conflict prevention, peacebuilding and reconciliation institutions. It was similarly unclear who would be responsible for the international parliamentary committees to mediate disputes and promote understanding between States in conflict. She invited the co-Rapporteurs to provide more information.

**Mr. D. Sam** (Cambodia) said that conflicts had profound and enduring consequences, particularly for the most vulnerable. They dismantled institutions, fractured communities and inflicted immense suffering. His country had witnessed how prolonged conflict could bring down a country, but also how peace could be rebuilt when pursued with conviction and compassion. The Cambodian Win-Win policy, emphasizing negotiation, dialogue and national reconciliation, had been instrumental to ending the civil war. It had guaranteed ex-combatants' personal safety, employment and property, which had restored trust, rebuilt lives and helped create a peaceful nation. Parliaments were essential to post-conflict recovery and must lead with purpose and integrity, ensuring lasting peace and society-wide development. Parliaments must strengthen legal frameworks for peace and justice; promote inclusive development to address inequality; and ensure transparency and accountability by scrutinizing reconstruction funds and holding governments accountable. Accordingly, the Cambodian Parliament had passed legislation to support victims, reform institutions and promote justice, and its development policies had prioritized education, healthcare, rural development, and women and youth empowerment, particularly in conflict-affected areas.

**Mr. R. Airlangga** (Indonesia) said that conflict could reverse progress towards achieving the SDGs by up to 5% in certain critical development areas, such as education, infrastructure and ecosystem protection. Failure to protect ecosystems could create new sources of conflict. His delegation therefore requested that operative paragraph 12 emphasize ecosystem protection as key to peacebuilding. He agreed with Ms. Osler and proposed strengthening existing global commissions, such as the UN Mediation Support Unit, to resolve conflicts.

**Mr. S. Alotaibi** (Arab Parliament) said that the scope of the draft resolution should be expanded to mitigate the impacts of occupation on sustainable development. It should also condemn all types of forced deportation and displacement as a clear violation of international humanitarian laws and conventions. Operative paragraph 19, which called for the establishment of a global commission to work towards ceasefires in conflict-affected countries, should also call for the expansion of the legal framework, explain the commission's work and provide powers to settle disputes peacefully in accordance with international law.

**Ms. M. Cederfelt** (Sweden) welcomed the draft resolution, the topic of which was particularly important. Armed conflict affected sustainable development worldwide, and the Russian Federation's illegal war had particularly impacted Ukraine. Ukrainian progress in sustainable development had been reversed and would take considerable time to recover. She asked why countries resorted to armed conflicts when there were treaties and international agreements to support peace, as well as the UN, IPU and the International Criminal Court. Parliamentarians must protect sustainable development. Her delegation looked forward to the discussion in the Committee, whose work was impactful. Parliamentarians could ensure sustainable development and peace, provided that women were included throughout the peacebuilding process.

**Ms. E. Goetze** (Austria) expressed her delegation's support for the draft resolution. Similarly to the Swedish and South African delegations, the Austrian delegation had submitted an amendment referring to UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) because women were affected by conflicts and could contribute to resolving them. Austria endeavoured to provide development aid to promote peaceful and inclusive societies. It was increasingly important to mitigate the effects of climate change which could also stoke conflict.

**Mr. M.G. Mahlaule** (South Africa) implored delegates to recognize the profound impact of conflicts on civilians. Solidarity was imperative to meet challenges. South Africa was committed to peace, and had a long-standing history of actively supporting and contributing to peace and stability across Africa. He urged delegates to support and adopt the draft resolution which emphasized the challenges that conflicts presented for civilians and the environment. The draft resolution represented a crucial step towards empathy, understanding and action. He further urged delegates to help reduce conflict and resolutely support affected communities. Current collective efforts would help to build a peaceful, prosperous and hopeful future.

**Mr. M. Karakaya** (Türkiye) said that escalating conflicts and geopolitical tensions hindered the achievement of the SDGs, jeopardizing development and global food security. They prompted large-scale population movements that affected economic growth and deepened poverty and inequality. Following conflicts, countries must guarantee peace and security, repair primary infrastructure and public institutions, rebuild and maintain economic stability, and adapt resource allocations to the post-conflict context. Many improvements were necessary to ensure countries could implement those actions and achieve the SDGs.

**Ms. F. Amrani** (France) said that her delegation had proposed an amendment to preambular paragraph 3 to highlight the environmental impact of armed conflicts, and noted that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) had recently published a report on that topic. Given that conflicts, particularly armed conflicts, disproportionately affected vulnerable groups, her delegation had submitted amendments to highlight the situation of civilians, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized. In line with the resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly referred to in UN Security Council resolution 1502 (2003), her delegation proposed including a reference to humanitarian personnel in the draft resolution. Parliamentarians should adopt legislation to protect humanitarian personnel to ensure they could work unhindered and without fear of reprisals. The draft resolution should explicitly refer to parliamentarians' actions, the Charter of the United Nations and the SDGs. Her delegation would submit amendments in that regard. Parliaments should take up those issues promptly.

**Mr. I. Krulko** (Ukraine), using his mobile phone to show the bombing that had occurred overnight in Kyiv, Ukraine, emphasized the importance of the draft resolution and requested support for his delegation's proposed amendments. He noted the IPU's efforts to condemn acts of aggression and human rights violations, particularly through the resolutions entitled *Peaceful resolution of the war*

*in Ukraine, respecting international law, the Charter of the United Nations and territorial integrity and Condemnation of the invasion of Ukraine and of the subsequent annexation of territories, in defence of the territorial integrity of States.* Both condemned the invasion of Ukraine and the attempted annexation of Ukrainian territories, called for a peaceful resolution to the war and upheld the principles of international law. In the light of current discussions on peace negotiations and ceasefires, it was important to remember those IPU resolutions, the causes of the horrific war and who was the aggressor, and the price that Ukrainians were paying for the right to exist as an independent country. His delegation's proposed amendments reaffirmed the IPU's strong and principled stance, showed commitment to the territorial integrity of all States, respected international law and condemned acts of aggression.

**Mr. O. Mumbuna Amutike** (Zambia) recognized that conflict, especially armed conflict, significantly impacted social progress and SDG attainment, disrupted livelihoods globally and was devastating for marginalized groups. Peace and sustainable development were closely interlinked and his delegation supported the draft resolution. Although Zambia had not experienced conflict or war, it faced challenges such as historical grievances, socioeconomic disparities, the politicization of ethnic identities, election violence, economic inequality, underdevelopment and weak state capacity that could threaten national cohesion and sustainable development. Parliamentary strategy was crucial to mitigating the long-lasting impacts of potential conflicts and ensuring stability for sustainable development. Zambia had therefore implemented legislative frameworks, approved international agreements and treaties, strengthened governance and accountability, and engaged with regional and international peacebuilding initiatives. The National Assembly of Zambia had hosted the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly of the Forum of Parliaments of Member States of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region to foster cooperation among countries.

**Mr. A. Denisov** (Russian Federation) said that, although he would like to respond to the Ukrainian delegation's statement, he did not wish to waste the Committee's time nor share similar pictures. Although his delegation fully supported the topic of the discussion, the title risked focusing on purely political issues. He wished to maintain a balanced approach and separate the Committee's agenda from that of the Standing Committee for Peace and International Security. The discussion should also focus on sustainable development in accordance with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities (QCPR) for the development of the UN system. Doing so would ensure a constructive discussion and unite efforts to achieve the SDGs.

**Mr. M. Reddad** (Morocco) said that peace and development were two sides of the same coin. Morocco had contributed to resolving regional conflicts, including in Libya, and had worked to ensure regional peace, stability and prosperity. Economic growth and sustainable development were pillars of stability and prosperity, particularly in Africa. His Government had launched infrastructure initiatives which provided hope to the region and a model for regional stakeholders. Current crises required cooperation, and he therefore invited the international community to consider his country's successful and positive experiences of creating a more prosperous and stable world.

**Mr. Phu Binh Pham** (Viet Nam) said that his delegation appreciated the significance of building consensus around the draft resolution. It was important to emphasize parliaments' role in minimizing the consequences of conflicts, protecting civilians, promoting reconstruction and developing sustainably for all. In his country's experience, undertaking institutional reforms, creating an effective and enabling legal environment, protecting human rights and implementing stable, fair and peaceful policies were essential to restoring sustainable development in conflict-affected countries. Policies and development programmes must meet all social groups' and sectors' needs. His delegation supported the spirit of the draft resolution and had proposed amendments, including to preambular paragraph 15 and operative paragraphs 24, 25 and 26, to emphasize the role of the UN and respect for countries' independence and sovereignty.

**Ms. J. Morden** (United Kingdom) said that her delegation shared the concern that conflict hindered SDG achievement and had devastating effects, particularly on marginalized groups. Parliamentarians shared the responsibility to tackle those issues. Noting the proposed amendments from the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, she highlighted her delegation's amendment to operative paragraph 27 which referred to the finding by UN Women that women's participation in peace processes increased the probability of a peace agreement lasting 15 years by 35%. She called for support for her delegation's other amendments which sought to uphold respect for existing institutions;

the primacy of the UN and other multilateral processes, particularly the UN Security Council; and the importance of other commissions and committees that were part of existing UN processes. Ideally, that would mean deleting operative paragraphs 13 and 19 which duplicated content.

**Mr. Jo Tong Hyon** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that high-handedness, arbitrariness, aggression and interference were shaking the foundations of peace and security. In various parts of the world, sovereignty, a sovereign State's right to develop and people's rights to existence were flagrantly violated. Clashes between States, nations and civilizations were escalating into armed conflicts with no end in sight. The cause of the crisis in Ukraine proved that lasting peace was unobtainable while the United States of America and Western countries implemented hegemonic and one-sided policies that included double standards. Ukraine had implemented its own pro-American and pro-Western policy, and had blindly followed the confrontational policy of the United States of America and the West against the Russian Federation. It had attempted to bring in troops from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and to provide shock troops. Tragically, the resulting conventional war – the fiercest since the Second World War – had persisted for three years. The absurd ambition to inflict a strategic defeat on the Russian Federation by prolonging the crisis in Ukraine was no longer financially viable. The United States of America and the West, whose policy towards Ukraine had failed, were lost and disintegrating. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea opposed any attempts to deny international justice and undermine global peace and security, and remained committed to supporting the righteous cause of the Russian army and people to defend their sovereignty, security and territorial integrity.

**Ms. M. Baratova** (Uzbekistan) said that demographic growth in her country presented opportunities and increased responsibilities for Parliament. The Uzbekistan 2030 strategy set key benchmarks for achieving the SDGs. Over four years, the poverty rate had decreased from 23% to 11%, and it was set to fall to 9% in 2025. Improving education was key to reducing poverty, and over 25,000 kindergartens and 70 universities had been established in the private sector. Climate change presented a global threat, significantly impacted geopolitical conflicts and caused issues concerning food, energy security, water and resource management. Parliaments must tackle transportation, infrastructure and drinking water issues. Her delegation supported expanding parliamentary cooperation for sustainable development.

**Mr. W. Mc Coy** (Guyana) expressed his delegation's support for the draft resolution. He hoped that delegates' contributions would demonstrate commitment, foster cooperation and strengthen efforts to mitigate the impacts of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development. The role of governments was to ensure citizens' welfare, foster their development and prevent conflicts. The Government of Guyana exemplified how to use governmental resources to care for citizens, distribute wealth and ensure that the democratic process fostered consultative democracy, dialogue and citizens' participation in national development. The sale of carbon credits through the Low-Carbon Development Strategy 2030 of Guyana had funded national infrastructure development, including within 253 Indigenous communities. The Government had also provided online scholarships and expanded internet connectivity.

**Mr. W.A. Nikiema** (Burkina Faso) said that his Parliament implemented policies to strengthen local communities' crisis resilience by promoting citizen participation in reconstruction efforts. Conflicts had weakened State institutions and Parliament was therefore key to promoting institutional reforms that improved transparency, responsibility and citizen participation. Bolstering governance was essential to preventing future crises and developing sustainably. To ensure stability, the reintegration of ex-combatants and internally displaced people was prioritized. Parliament was working to strengthen international partnerships, implement inclusive economic policies, and raise awareness of peace and sustainable development.

**Ms. J. Simanovska** (Latvia) said that the draft resolution adequately covered human rights and social issues but should address people who were suffering. While it was natural to focus on their immediate needs, lasting progress required broader and more long-term thinking. Environmental protection was foundational to sustainability. People could not return to areas that remained polluted or destroyed even after a conflict had ended. Overlooking the environment neglected threats such as climate change and biodiversity loss. Real sustainability balanced environmental, social and economic factors and her delegation's amendments therefore integrated environmental considerations as a basis for long-term sustainability. She supported calls, including from the Forum of Women

Parliamentarians, to include women in efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change. It was important to avoid double meanings and misinterpretations in the wording of the draft resolution. There were no legitimate grounds to violate an independent country's sovereignty.

**Mr. M. Aqel** (Jordan) said that Jordan was, and always had been, committed to sustainable development. It designed infrastructure plans to develop sustainably and create suitable environments for women and youth. However, in the Middle East, conflict was harming sustainable development. Israel continued to occupy the Palestinian territories, depriving Palestinians of statehood and national self-determination, and was committing genocide. Tens of thousands of men, women and children had died, vital institutions had been destroyed, and the risk of famine had increased. The deportation and forced displacement of Palestinians must end. It was impossible to discuss sustainable development in Palestine and Gaza in the light of such oppression and aggression. An international IPU-led alliance should seek to end the undermining of international law and restore livelihoods. Jordan worked with all branches of the Government to support Palestinians and ensure justice, and stood with other oppressed peoples around the world.

**Mr. J.O. Makali** (Kenya) said that peace and sustainable development were interlinked. Military conflicts in particular hindered sustainable development, worsened social inequality, destabilized economies and diverted funds from development objectives. In Kenya, ethnic clashes were a recurring challenge, particularly in areas with conflict over resources, land and water. Al-Shabaab, a militant group, had carried out terrorist attacks including on the Westgate shopping mall and Garissa University. Pastoral conflicts, land-related disagreements and historical injustice had also contributed to long-standing disputes. Parliaments were essential to shaping post-conflict recovery plans that ensured sustainable development. International cooperation and regional engagement through parliaments secured resources and expertise for sustainable recovery. Parliaments should therefore align national policies with frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda and engage in global parliamentary forums to source funds for development programmes. Kenya had passed laws, signed international conventions and established institutions that were crucial to mitigating conflicts. The National Cohesion and Integration Commission monitored hate speech and ethnic tensions that could escalate into violence. Kenya was also involved in regional and international conflict mitigation efforts. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development provided Kenya with early warning conflict response mechanisms. His delegation fully supported the draft resolution and the amendment concerning youth initiatives in peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

### (c) Drafting and adoption of the draft resolution in plenary

**The President** said that the Committee would proceed to discuss the proposed amendments.

*The sitting rose at 13:00.*

## SITTING OF TUESDAY, 8 APRIL 2025

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 17:00 with Mr. W. William (Seychelles), President of the Committee, in the Chair.*

**The President** said that, after two days of intensive work, the consolidated draft resolution was complete and available in both English and French. The following day, it would be presented to the Assembly for adoption. Since most of the items had been adopted by majority vote, he took it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution in its entirety.

*It was so decided.*

**Mr. A. Denisov** (Russian Federation) said that certain amendments had been added to politicize the text which was inappropriate given the fragile but growing possibility of peace in Ukraine. It was important to remain close to the reality on the ground and move gradually to enhance the chances of a reliable ceasefire and ensure a just peace. Although his delegation supported the entire resolution as a gesture of goodwill, he requested that the Secretariat include the following reservations

as an integral part of the text. Operative paragraph 21, which had previously been balanced, was unacceptable. The Russian Federation was living under 28,595 restrictions and denied using unilateral arbitrary sanctions as a political weapon. Operative paragraph 26, which was an attempt to legalize the use of money stolen from the Russian Federation, was also unacceptable. Although operative paragraph 14 was good, his delegation wished to disassociate itself from it because the term “ecocide” was unclear and frequently used politically. Preambular paragraph 20 was also good but his delegation disagreed with it because the Russian Federation had voted against the adoption of the Pact for the Future.

**Mr. M.G. Mahlaule** (South Africa) asked where he could access the text of the consolidated resolution.

**Ms. A. Blagojevic** (Secretary of the Committee, IPU) said that the resolution, as drafted by the Committee over the previous two days, was available online via the application and website of the 150th IPU Assembly, and in hard copy at the documents desk outside the meeting room.

**Ms. M. Cederfelt** (Sweden) said that she had experienced connectivity issues and it would therefore be helpful to have the document in hard copy.

**A delegate from the Islamic Republic of Iran** said that his delegation generally agreed with the text of the resolution. Although the topic of the resolution was important, his delegation had voted against certain paragraphs and wished to record its reservations.

**The President** asked which paragraphs the Iranian delegation had voted against.

**A delegate from the Islamic Republic of Iran** said that he did not currently have access to the text but his delegation had discussed operative paragraph 27.

**The President** said that the Iranian delegation could send the paragraphs which it had voted against to the Secretariat that evening. He had been informed that copies of the resolution were available at the documents desk.

**Ms. M. Cederfelt** (Sweden) requested a break to consult the resolution.

*The Standing Committee paused proceedings for five minutes.*

#### **(d) Appointment of a Rapporteur to the 150th Assembly**

**The President** proposed that Ms. Al Suwaidi, Vice-President of the Standing Committee, present the draft resolution at the plenary session of the Assembly.

**Ms. M. Alsuwaidi** (United Arab Emirates) agreed to the proposal.

**The President** took it that the Committee wished to appoint Ms. Al Suwaidi as Rapporteur to the 150th Assembly.

*It was so agreed.*

#### **Preparations for future Assemblies**

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

**The President** said that the Committee was expected to submit to the final plenary of the Assembly a proposal for the theme of its next resolution. Following its meeting earlier that morning to consider themes, the Bureau proposed *Building a fair and sustainable global economy: The role of parliaments in combating protectionism, reducing tariffs and preventing corporate tax evasion*.

*It was so decided.*

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

**The President** said that the Bureau had received one candidature for co-Rapporteur from Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia). The Parliaments of Chile and Nigeria would nominate additional co-Rapporteurs.

*It was so agreed.*

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

**The President** proposed that, at the 151st IPU Assembly, the Committee allocate one sitting to a debate on the theme of the next resolution. He also proposed that the Committee organize a panel debate on the theme *The impact of global warming: A parliamentary call to protect the most vulnerable*, and that it host a preparatory segment for the 30th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30) due to be held in Brazil.

*It was so agreed.*

### Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee

**The President** said that the Bureau was composed of three representatives of each geopolitical group. There were two vacancies in the African Group, one in the Arab Group, two in the Asia-Pacific Group, one in the Eurasia Group, three in the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), and one in the Twelve Plus Group.

The African Group had nominated Mr. M.N. Fru (Cameroon)<sup>1</sup> and Ms. F. Mahamat Seid (Chad); the Arab Group had nominated Mr. Y. Al-Khater (Qatar); the Asia-Pacific Group had nominated Ms. A. Shakya (Nepal); the Eurasia Group had nominated Mr. S. Rachkov (Belarus); GRULAC had nominated Ms. L. Carneiro (Brazil), Mr. C.A. Rendón (Mexico) and Mr. N. Castellano (Paraguay); and the Twelve Plus Group had nominated Ms. R. Miliute (Lithuania) to complete the term of Ms. G. Burokiene (Lithuania), who was no longer a member of parliament, and Mr. F. Notari (Monaco) for a second term. The Arab Group had also put forward the candidature of Ms. M. Al Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates) for reappointment, and the Asia-Pacific Group had nominated Mr. R. Airlangga (Indonesia) and Ms. M.R.J. Arenas (Philippines) for a second term. He invited the Committee to approve the nominations.

*The nominations were approved.*

### Any other business

**The President** said that, at its previous session, the Committee had received updates on the development of an IPU toolkit for parliamentarians on *SDG-informed legislative scrutiny*. The toolkit had been published in January 2025. With only five years remaining for SDG implementation, the toolkit was essential for parliamentarians to take action and ensure legislation aligned with the SDGs and their targets.

**Ms. A. Blagojevic** (Secretary of the Committee, IPU), accompanying her remarks with a digital slide presentation, expressed her appreciation to the Bureau and the Committee for their contributions over the previous year to develop the toolkit. The toolkit was primarily intended for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff, and it covered the SDGs which could relate to many areas of parliamentary work including food, health, climate change, renewable energy, water and oceans. However, parliamentary committee chairs, deputy chairs and support staff were also invited to use it, as were organizations and state institutions that supported parliamentary work, particularly around the SDGs. The toolkit helped to effectively implement the SDGs and provided step-by-step guidance, practical examples and case studies. It could help users to amend and develop laws and oversee budget allocations in line with the SDGs. It contained very little text and instead outlined steps, such as on the SDG-informed pre- and post-legislative scrutiny processes, and provided examples of questions that parliamentarians could ask within the Committee and to their governments. There were two well-developed case studies on climate change and gender with specific questions about those areas

<sup>1</sup> The African Group subsequently changed this nomination to Ms. L.P. Ngwenya (Eswatini).

and how they aligned with the achievement of the SDGs. It also included innovative ideas about stakeholders with whom parliamentarians could collaborate from outside of their parliaments. The toolkit also included checklists for SDG-informed pre- and post-legislative scrutiny, which parliamentarians could use to support their parliamentary committees. The toolkit was available in French and English, and she encouraged parliaments interested in translating the toolkit into additional languages to contact the Secretariat.

**The President** drew attention to the parliamentary meeting that the IPU and the Brazilian Senate were organizing at COP30. It was a flagship IPU event and major global gathering of parliamentarians working on climate change and sustainable development. The Brazilian Senate had nominated Mr. H. Costa as Rapporteur for the meeting.

**Mr. H. Costa** (Brazil), speaking in a pre-recorded video message, said that 2024 had been the hottest year ever recorded, with the global average temperature exceeding 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. In that context, Brazil would host COP30 in November 2025 in the Amazon rainforest. Brazil was resolutely committed to the environment and recognized the need for multilateralism. Parliaments played an increasingly significant role in developing new global geopolitics which required representative international organizations with effective mechanisms for action. He had been entrusted with coordinating the parliamentary forums at COP30 which would include high-level discussions on how nations could coexist and progress, and how the trajectory of climate change could be altered. It was important to recognize that the capacities and tools to reverse climate change were available. The parliamentary forums, and particularly the IPU parliamentary meeting, should provide a focal point for discussions outlining legislative strategies for sustainable development. He called on parliamentarians to attend COP30, where meetings of the IPU Standing Committees and Forums would be held.

*The sitting rose at 17:30.*

# Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

**SITTING OF MONDAY, 7 APRIL 2025**

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 14:30 with Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.*

## **Adoption of the agenda (C-III/150/A.1)**

*The agenda was adopted.*

## **Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held at the 149th IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2024)**

*The summary records were approved.*

## **Preparatory debate on the next resolution of the Standing Committee: *Recognizing and supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent this practice***

**Mr. O. de Frouville** (Chair, United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances), speaking via video link and accompanying his remarks with a digital slide presentation, said that intercountry adoption had begun in the 1950s, had gathered pace during the 1970s and 1980s, and had peaked during the mid 2000s. However, the Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (HCCH 1993 Adoption Convention) had reduced such adoptions. From the late 2010s onwards, some adoptees had discovered that their adoptions had been illegal. In response, they had launched criminal and civil cases, provided testimonies, contributed to press investigations and created associations to discover their real identities. The Swiss Federal Council had expressed regret that illegal adoptions had taken place from countries including Sri Lanka and had launched a process to uncover the truth and compensate victims. The Netherlands had launched an independent investigation and, following a moratorium, had reinstated intercountry adoption with stricter criteria and only from certain countries. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of the Republic of Korea had received over 300 cases, particularly from Denmark, and had recently produced a report. In France, a study had been carried out and an administrative investigation had been launched. However, the Government had yet to implement recommendations, including amending French law and assisting victims.

Article 21 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child stated that the best interests of the child should be the paramount consideration in matters concerning adoption; only the competent authorities, established within the national framework, should authorize adoptions; informed consent should underpin the adoption process; the principle of subsidiarity – prioritizing national over intercountry adoption – should be upheld; the child should enjoy standards equivalent to those existing in the case of national adoption; and the placement of the child should not result in improper financial gain for those involved. Corruption, involving large payments, often fuelled intercountry illegal adoption. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography obligated States to criminalize the improper obtaining of consent to an adoption, particularly from biological families who may be illiterate or experiencing financial difficulties. State Parties to the HCCH 1993 Adoption Convention should establish safeguards ensuring that intercountry adoptions aligned with Article 21 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its aforementioned Optional Protocol, among other international instruments. State Parties should establish cooperation systems to share information and prevent illegal adoptions, and should be able to recognize adoptions carried out in accordance with the HCCH 1993 Adoption Convention.

In Latin America and elsewhere, children had been abducted during their parents' disappearance. Others had been abducted and had their identities changed as small children in preparation for their adoption abroad, or by families close to the political regime. The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance therefore obligated States

to criminalize the abduction of children, and the falsification, concealment and destruction of identity documents. States must establish domestic legal procedures to review and annul adoptions originating from enforced disappearances. However, they must protect adoptees' best interests and ensure they did not lose their nationality or their rights as citizens of the country in which they had been adopted, even if their adoption had been annulled. The Convention also obligated States to assist each other in searching for and identifying victims. Unfortunately, illegal intercountry adoptions often originated from enforced disappearances.

In 2022, the Joint statement on illegal intercountry adoption had been adopted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, the Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the Special Rapporteur on truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence. The Joint statement explained illegal intercountry adoption and its origin in illegal acts or practices. It also underscored that illegal intercountry adoptions often resulted from violence based on moral and religious constructs concerning mothers' social and marital status. Such constructs, alongside discrimination against minorities and indigenous peoples, had driven illegal intercountry adoption in various countries.

Mr. de Frouville recommended that States comply with the following legal and regulatory obligations. First, in accordance with the Joint Declaration, States must recognize that victims – including adoptees and biological families who had been forced to send their children for adoption or whose children had been abducted – had suffered direct or indirect harm from illegal adoption. Second, States must recognize victims' right to reparation and establish a national reparation programme. Third, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, States must recognize adoptees' right to identity, which included recovering their true identity. Fourth, in line with international human rights law, States must search for victims and assist victims in finding their identity, such as by establishing DNA banks and cooperating with States of origin. Fifth, regarding statutes of limitation, illegal intercountry adoption must be recognized as a continuous crime because adoptees often discovered the illegality of their adoption as adults. Sixth, States must shed light on illegal intercountry adoptions, such as through commissions to hear victims' testimonies and investigations into how the practice could exist. Seventh, States must have laws regulating intercountry adoption in accordance with Article 21 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. They could establish such laws through the ratification of the HCCH 1993 Adoption Convention.

*Mr. A. Torosyan (Armenia), Vice-President of the Standing Committee, took the Chair.*

**Ms. C. Fanon** (President, Racines Perdues) emphasized that her case was not isolated. According to Belgian records, her date of birth was 4 November 1986. Her Belgian parents, operating through an adoption agency, had collected her from Guatemala in 1987 and she had become a Belgian citizen in 1988. However, her Guatemalan identity was Mariela Sifontes Rodriguez and, according to Guatemalan records, her date of birth was 5 November 1986. Two days later, she had been separated from her biological mother and declared dead. Her biological parents believed that she had been buried in an unmarked mass grave. In Guatemala, she continued to be registered as living with her biological mother, and as having never been adopted or having a passport issued in her name. In December 2017, she had met her biological family, and had discovered that there were hundreds of cases such as her own in Belgium and thousands worldwide. She had published a book detailing her story and recovered part of her identity by becoming fluent in Spanish. In 2017, the Belgian police had interviewed her as a victim of human trafficking. She had also opened a civil case, which was pending, concerning illegal and arbitrary detention, kidnapping, child abduction, adoption fraud, money laundering and organized crime. Her adoptive and biological parents had also opened civil cases.

Ms. Fanon had created Racines Perdues, a foundation for Guatemalan victims of illegal adoption in Canada, Europe, Israel and the United States of America that received support from members of the Guatemalan Congress of the Republic. It was an observer at the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) and collaborated with the United Nations (UN). In February 2024, the President of Guatemala had met with foundation representatives. In April 2024, at the Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights in Guatemala, the foundation had requested that the President launch a truth commission for children who had been declared disappeared and illegally adopted during the armed conflict. The most recent adoptions had occurred in 2006 and 2007. The foundation, which collected DNA from adoptees and families searching for children and deposited it at the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation, had located dozens of families. Despite the

Trump administration's aid cuts, which impacted Guatemalan efforts to reunite families, the foundation would continue its work. States must create databases and work in a structured manner with victims' organizations to help reunite families.

Despite the official investigations underway, the institutions of Belgium, France and other countries had remained silent. It had taken years of courage and work to draw attention to the issue. In 2021, with the support of Mr. M. De Maegd (Belgium), she had travelled to the UN headquarters in Geneva to provide her testimony, following which Voices Against Illegal Adoptions had been established to bring together 14 national associations from across the world. In 2023, the UN Commission on Human Rights (CHR) had highlighted that impunity had facilitated forced disappearances and had hindered the resolution of crimes. In Guatemala, up to 8,000 of the 45,000 people that had disappeared during the armed conflict had been children. Estimates suggested that State-backed abductions, including from the families of indigenous peoples and political opponents, had prompted the adoption of over 35,000 children over several decades.

In Belgium, consulate and diplomatic archives had been opened but the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had determined that they did not necessarily contain proof of illegal adoptions. However, the victims, who had become experts on the cases, had immediately realized the significance of the documents, demonstrating the importance of working with victims' organizations. Illegal adoption had become a Euro-crime – a serious crime with a cross-border dimension – and Member States of the European Union (EU) had, in theory, two years to adapt their legal frameworks. Ms. Fanon was proud that Belgium had implemented measures through resolutions passed by unanimous votes. In May 2024, the Belgian Government had recognized the illegal adoptions, and work in that regard would continue.

Article 25 of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance enshrined States' obligation to assist one another in searching for and identifying disappeared children, and the right of children to preserve or have reestablished their identity, including their nationality, name and family relations as recognized by law. Upholding that right was a matter of truth, justice and reparation, and a guarantee of non-repetition. Illegal adoption involved government officials, at least indirectly, because forced disappearances occurred with their support and approval. Refusing to reveal a disappeared person's fate or location was unbearable for victims. She drew parliamentarians' attention to families in their respective countries whose children had disappeared and may be living overseas. Bilateral agreements were essential in order to facilitate the work of victims' organizations in both the receiving and the sending countries. Often, adoptees had to relearn their mother tongue as part of that work.

Human trafficking – the last known case of which had involved María José Enciso in Mexico in 2010 – involved a criminal act and criminal intent. Abduction remained key to understanding illegal adoption through the lens of forced disappearance. Based on records from legal archives, alerts, and academic, consular and diplomatic experts, it would have been impossible for States to remain unaware of the illegal and illicit practices surrounding the adoptions. The forced disappearances provided a legal basis to hold officials accountable. It went without saying that States – whether they had signed or ratified the various conventions – must bring forward cases out of humanity and out of respect for the victims. Parliamentarians, institutions and States must continue to recognize adoptees and their biological and adoptive parents, listen to victims with their hearts, and never forget the collective responsibility to deal with victims' pain. Adoptees experienced a social, cultural, linguistic, psychological and ethnic uprooting. They lacked knowledge of their medical history, were at greater risk of suicide and post-traumatic stress, experienced a lack of understanding or belief in memories from before their adoption, and experienced abandonment, attachment and identity issues. Above all, they lacked dignity.

**The Chair** thanked Ms. Fanon for sharing her sad but inspiring story, and for fighting for the victims of illegal adoption.

**Mr. G. Ijumba** (Deputy Country Representative, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Uzbekistan) said that intercountry adoptions that were ethical, transparent and in the children's best interests could provide children with loving and permanent homes. However, through weak legal safeguards, intercountry adoption could deprive children of their identity, their right to know their origins, and their connection to their culture and country of birth. Far too often, economic hardship, disability, migration or lack of social support prompted unnecessary separations, which must be prevented. Strengthening social protection systems, investing in parenting support and ensuring access to essential services were critical to keeping families together. When separation was unavoidable, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children provided clear guidance.

There were five alternative forms of care for children: (1) kinship care, which kept children within their extended family and a familiar environment, culture and community; (2) regulated, professionally supported and safe foster care; (3) institutional care, which should be a last resort and temporary; (4) domestic adoption, which should be prioritized over intercountry adoption; and (5) intercountry adoption with strict legal safeguards.

Although many countries had strengthened oversight of intercountry adoption, gaps persisted. Parliamentarians were vital to ensuring robust frameworks that aligned with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the HCCH 1993 Adoption Convention and prevented demand from driving adoption. They were also vital to independently overseeing adoption processes, facilitating access to identity- and family-tracing services, and investing in family-based alternatives to intercountry adoption. National efforts to strengthen child protection and adoption systems and ensure that international adoptions were held to the highest standards were commendable. The upcoming resolution was critical to acknowledging past challenges and ensuring greater protection for children. UNICEF remained committed to supporting governments in strengthening child protection systems, preventing unnecessary family separation, and ensuring that alternative care was in the child's best interest.

**Mr. M. De Maegd** (Belgium), co-Rapporteur, said that adoption – supposedly an act of love – was often profit-driven. Illegal intercountry adoption had affected thousands of children, shattering lives, hiding identities and denying the rights to know one's origins, grow up in one's culture and have genuine parentage. Alongside other countries, Belgium had confronted the painful truth that for decades it had received illegal intercountry adoptions through fake documentation, lack of parental consent and corruption. The victims were the adoptees, the biological parents and the adoptive parents who were often unaware of the trafficking.

In 2022, the Belgian Federal Parliament had unanimously adopted a resolution to recognize those illegal adoptions. Major reforms had followed: the penal code classified illegal adoption as human trafficking; victims could access State archives to research their origins; victims whose adoptions had been annulled would remain Belgian citizens and retain their civil rights; and the process to change one's name had been simplified. In 2025, the Parliament had adopted a new resolution to extend the statute of limitations, provide free psychological support, carry out a federal investigation and prevent the destruction of archives after 10 years.

In 2022, the UN had recognized that illegal adoption could, in certain circumstances, constitute a crime against humanity. The upcoming resolution should therefore provide a road map for action. It should explicitly recognize illegal intercountry adoption as a serious human rights violation. States should research appropriate measures, open archives and guarantee access for adoptees, introduce psychological, administrative and legal support mechanisms, make clear commitments to prevent illegal adoptions, train authorities, monitor adoption agencies, raise awareness and foster cooperation between legal and diplomatic services to sanction criminal networks. Experts' and parliamentarians' experiences would enhance the upcoming resolution which would impact the future and restore victims' fundamental rights.

**Mr. S. Patra** (India), co-Rapporteur, urged delegates to bear Ms. Fanon's powerful testimony in mind as they worked on the resolution. Delegates should listen to victims with their heads and hearts to ensure that the resolution had a worldwide impact, secured justice for victims and demonstrated that IPU Member Parliaments stood with them and felt their pain.

**The Chair** invited delegates to join the debate.

*Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia), President of the Standing Committee, took the Chair.*

**Ms. A. Nassif Ayyoub Awadallah** (Egypt) said that illegal intercountry adoption was a humanitarian issue that violated international conventions and agreements. The incidence of such adoptions had increased, impacting entire societies. Some cases occurred without the biological family's consent or knowledge and with fake documents which could prevent adoptees from recovering their true identities. Victims must be acknowledged and supported through strong prevention measures. National legislation should be enhanced to tackle loopholes that illegal networks might seek to exploit. It was also important to take legal action against perpetrators and work with civil society and governments to raise awareness of illegal adoption.

In Egypt, the *kafala* system enabled families to foster children, meet their needs and protect their identities. Legislation guaranteed children's and families' rights, and foster families must be socially and financially stable. The Government had raised awareness of the social and religious importance of *kafala*. The current meeting was a call for parliamentarians to create change, provide justice and hope for victims, and guarantee a decent life for every child.

**Ms. M. Bon Klanjscek** (Slovenia) said that illegal intercountry adoptions were dangerous, seriously impacted children and their biological and adoptive parents, and violated the fundamental principles of protecting children's rights and integrity. Adoptees often faced uncertainty about their identity and felt objectified. They could lose contact with their biological parents and be placed in environments that did not support their well-being or development. In Slovenia, the Family Code regulated adoptions and prioritized the child's best interests. International agreements, such as the HCCH 1993 Adoption Convention, were also important, particularly for cross-border cooperation. Despite measures to prevent illegal adoptions in Slovenia, it was necessary to strengthen monitoring, enhance oversight and raise public awareness of the importance of transparent and accountable adoption processes. Parliamentarians were committed to ensuring legal and transparent adoptions, and responsible for protecting ethical principles and children's rights. They were crucial to preventing illegal adoptions, which undermined human dignity and morality.

**Mr. A. Solomon** (Romania) said that Romania had a longstanding commitment to defending children's rights nationally and internationally and had ratified the HCCH 1993 Adoption Convention. In 2001, Romania had introduced a moratorium on international adoptions. In 2004, Romania had passed legislation to protect children's rights in line with European and international regulations, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, uphold the adoption process and ensure the functioning of the National Authority for the Protection of Child's Rights and Adoption. In particular, Law No. 272/2004 had introduced an individualized protection plan for children. From 2005 to 2012, international adoption had only been permitted for first-, second- and third-degree family members. Thereafter, it had been extended to fourth-degree family members, the spouse of a child's biological parent, or Romanian citizens living overseas. Parliamentarians must continue to strengthen laws and practices, including through cooperation with the countries where illegal adoptions originated in order to prevent child trafficking. Romania was committed to supporting international efforts to create a safe and transparent international adoption system.

**Ms. A. Attalides** (Cyprus) said that children were not for sale and did not exist to fulfil childless peoples' needs. Conflict, poverty and lack of social support left them vulnerable. Trafficking networks exploited forced displacements, family separations and orphanhood. The Joint statement on illegal intercountry adoption was crucial to recognizing this issue, which violated human rights. Cyprus was enhancing its legislation, including through a recent bill to reform, update and unify national and intercountry adoption procedures into a single framework. The bill prioritized children's best interests and ensured that domestic care options were exhausted before proceeding to intercountry adoption. It criminalized financial transactions in exchange for adoption, ensured access to information about biological parents, and established committees to assess the suitability of adoptive parents and match children with families. Illegal intercountry adoption required a global response. Victims must be heard and given access to adequate resources and legal aid to rebuild their lives and reunite with their biological families if possible.

**Ms. K. Hajjoubi** (Arab Parliament) said that the victims of illegal adoption, particularly in conflict and war zones, must receive support and were often smuggled using forged documentation. That was the case in the Gaza Strip where Israeli soldiers abducted children from the occupied Palestinian territories. Protecting children was difficult and required work at all levels, particularly because crime groups were involved in illegal intercountry adoptions. Differences in national laws presented further challenges. Therefore, the upcoming resolution should include a definition of illegal intercountry adoption, and descriptions of how countries dealt with illegal intercountry adoption and whether they recognized the phenomenon. It should also highlight the need for an international database for institutions to monitor children adopted in foreign countries and prevent their exploitation.

**Ms. L. Wankhede** (India) said that the victims of illegal intercountry adoption lost their homes, cultures and identities. Often, their families had not consented to the adoption and did not know what had happened to their children. Such adoptions represented a serious human rights issue which parliamentarians must work to prevent. Stronger international laws were necessary to ensure legal,

fair and honest adoptions. In cases of illegal adoption, it was essential to uncover the truth, punish those responsible and help victims trace their identities and biological families. Adoptees must receive legal advice, counselling and support to connect with their roots. Adoptions must include background checks, the biological family's genuine consent and access to open records. Governments must support poor families and ensure that parents never felt forced to give up their children.

**Mr. J.C. Alawathuwala** (Sri Lanka) said that illegal intercountry adoption represented a grave human rights violation, exploited vulnerable children, deprived them of their right to a safe and loving family, and exposed them to human trafficking and lifelong trauma. Protecting children's rights was a moral obligation and fell within the scope of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 10 and 16. Despite the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the HCCH 1993 Adoption Convention, weak enforcement, corruption and poor awareness continued to enable illegal intercountry adoption and the abuse of the emotions of unsuspecting prospective parents.

Although adoption regulations in Sri Lanka had been strengthened, illegal intercountry adoption continued to affect African, Asian, Eastern European and Latin American countries. He therefore proposed the following measures: enhanced international collaboration to close legal loopholes; greater transparency in adoption processes; legal and psychological support for victims; and increased public awareness. There was a collective responsibility to protect children's rights and prevent illegal intercountry adoptions.

**Mr. E. Rezaei** (Islamic Republic of Iran), highlighting the deaths of 20,000 children in Palestine, said that weak adoption procedures – particularly for intercountry adoptions – had resulted in violations of children's and families' rights. Some adoptions, particularly from countries experiencing war or conflict, had been untransparent and in violation of children's rights. Therefore, governments must monitor children after adoption. An information bank to monitor adoptees and a supervisory board to safeguard children's rights should be established. International adoption agencies should be held accountable and should provide reports on children adopted through untransparent procedures. Those children should receive psychological support. States that received illegally adopted children should be punished. The Islamic Republic of Iran considered it a humanitarian responsibility to advocate for children's rights.

**Ms. M.T. Dasilva Gusmão** (Timor-Leste) said that thousands of children were adopted annually. Although most adoptions provided children with a more suitable development environment, illegal intercountry adoption continued to pose a risk. States must recognize and support victims, and prevent such adoptions. Timor-Leste had ratified the HCCH 1993 Adoption Convention and the Protocol To Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Two years earlier, Timor-Leste had approved legislation establishing a mechanism to protect children's rights, including in adoption. However, since there was no other national adoption legislation apart from the Civil Code, further regulation would be necessary. In 2021, an institute to monitor children's rights and report violations was established. It provided a public service to protect at-risk children and reintegrate them into communities, which included a specific unit to assess the economic, social, psychological and other consequences of adoption on children. The Government had launched an online application to manage child protection information and cases, and coordinate support. Adoption professionals should receive training and rigorous monitoring, and there should be an oversight mechanism to ensure the process was transparent and legal.

**Ms. F. Öncü** (Türkiye) said that forced adoptions and child trafficking were widespread, violated fundamental human rights and could cause irrevocable harm. It was important to collaborate and prevent such crimes through international law. States should take responsibility and introduce national policies, provide safeguards for children, investigate illegal adoption effectively, and provide support to other States in court cases. In Türkiye, protecting children's rights – a central part of Turkish civilization – was very important. Türkiye was a State Party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international conventions.

**Ms. J.S. Mananiso** (South Africa) said that illicit intercountry adoption was inhumane and deprived individuals of their identity. The involvement of unscrupulous government officials was particularly distressing. More stringent monitoring, adequate resources to track and prevent illicit adoption, and capacity-building to ensure qualified staff handled cases were necessary. Remedies for intercountry illegal adoption included drafting, implementing and monitoring enforcement of legislation,

allocating resources, and establishing a centralized database to help victims trace their identity. The South African Parliament had amended the Children's Act 38 of 2005 to combat international adoption challenges; also, facilitating illegal intercountry adoptions was considered child trafficking. Under South African law, international adoption could only be considered with the biological parents' consent after all local alternatives had been exhausted. One such alternative, foster care, ensured access to government services, including therapeutic and psychosocial support, education, healthcare and support grants for children. A recent legal amendment ensured access to social assistance, particularly for orphans. South African law prohibited the exchange of cash for adoption, and only permitted reasonable adoption expenses.

**Ms. G. Chakor** (Netherlands) said that Ms. Fanon's story was heart-breaking. Children worldwide must be protected from exploitation, abuse and harm. In February 2021, an investigation had revealed that intercountry adoptions carried out between 1967 and 1998 to the Netherlands had involved child trafficking, corruption and fake documents. In response, the Dutch Government had immediately suspended international adoptions and had later decided to stop them entirely by 2030. Good intentions were not enough. The essence of a mature democracy was admitting and learning from mistakes. Victims must be heard to prevent children from suffering the same fate.

**Ms. Li Yuping** (China) proposed a series of measures to combat illegal intercountry adoption, which represented a global challenge. First, protecting children's dignity through a strong legal system. The Chinese legal framework was robust and continued to be improved, including to protect children. Second, promoting social development to enhance child welfare. Rapid socioeconomic progress in China had helped develop comprehensive support that included education, healthcare, rehabilitation and social services. Orphans increasingly received care through domestic adoption, foster care and institutional support. Third, strengthening international cooperation to eradicate crime. China had always promoted global cooperation on adoption issues, and it had helped improve the efficiency of the international convention system and global governance. China would continue to refine its legal framework, fulfil its obligations according to international conventions, and protect children's rights and well-being.

**Ms. S. Almansoori** (United Arab Emirates) said that illegal intercountry adoptions were dangerous and impacted children's and families' rights, particularly in armed conflicts. Transparent adoption procedures and sanctions for those responsible for illegal adoptions were essential. Despite progress in those areas, illegal adoptions persisted through corruption. Her country had passed a law criminalizing child trafficking and introducing a transparency mechanism that supported national committees and facilities in providing social services. Regional and international cooperation would enhance transparency and compliance with international standards. There should be an updated international legal text establishing sanctions for the perpetrators of illegal adoptions and global standards for adoption agencies. Robust monitoring mechanisms should be established in armed conflicts and implemented by recognized organizations such as the UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). It was important to raise awareness of the negative consequences of illegal adoptions. There should be an international committee to promote transparency and hold perpetrators accountable.

**Ms. V. Techateerawat** (Thailand) highlighted that illegal intercountry adoption was complex, often involving child trafficking, exploitation, greed and serious human rights violations. Parliaments were vital to strengthening adoption systems through legislation that prioritized children's rights and welfare in accordance with the HCCH 1993 Adoption Convention. In Thailand, reforms to the Civil and Commercial Code had streamlined legal procedures, eliminated redundancy and provided support to adoptive families. The amended Child Adoption Act had introduced more serious penalties. Adequate budgets would help develop systems, counselling, research and post-adoption support. However, parliamentary oversight to monitor policy implementation, impacts and alignment with international standards was equally important. Public advocacy and collaboration with civil society could foster social acceptance of adoption. International cooperation and digital technologies would modernize adoption systems and address complexities.

**Mr. C. Ngoy** (Cambodia) said that Cambodia had witnessed the painful reality of illegal intercountry adoption and had responded with legal and institutional measures. The Constitution reinforced Cambodia's commitment to upholding children's fundamental rights in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The law on intercountry

adoption ensured adoptions were regulated, transparent and exploitation-free. It prioritized the child's best interest, designated the Ministry of Social Affairs as the central authority for intercountry adoptions, established the national adoption procedure and demonstrated Cambodia's unwavering commitment to preventing illegal adoptions.

However, illegal intercountry adoption remained a global crisis. Thousands of adoptees discovered that they had been victims of fraud, trafficking and coercion. They faced significant challenges including identity issues, trauma and limited access to justice. It was parliamentarians' collective duty to prevent illegal adoptions, recognize victims, provide legal and psychological support, and help victims reclaim their nationality. Parliaments must strengthen national and international law to enhance cooperation, recognize and support victims, regulate orphanages and adoption agencies, and address risks.

**Mr. F.H. Naek** (Pakistan) said that illegal international adoption, which often exploited legal and economic disparities between countries, should be prevented through the following measures: (1) the strengthening of legal frameworks to ensure adoptions were transparent, ethical and in the child's best interest; (2) the implementation of international conventions and human rights laws; and (3) background checks on adoption agency employees and the monitoring of adoption processes. It was also important to address poverty, lack of social support and weak child protection systems. International cooperation – such as sharing information, intelligence and best practices – was essential and could help create a global child-protection network. UNICEF, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the UN Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), UN resolutions on adoption and child protection, and international social services could support those efforts. It was also important to implement national conventions, establish monitoring authorities, introduce strict accreditation processes for adoption agencies and professionals, screen prospective adoptive parents, standardize adoption documentation, conclude bilateral and multilateral agreements, and ensure cross-border cooperation. Parliamentarians must provide victims with support and justice, prevent illegal adoptions, and reaffirm their commitment to protecting every child.

**Ms. P. Cox** (United Kingdom) said that, as a signatory to the HCCH 1993 Adoption Convention, the United Kingdom was committed to ensuring overseas adoptions were ethical, transparent and in the child's best interest. Only accredited agencies could facilitate adoptions, and payments or inducements that could enable child trafficking were strictly prohibited. To prevent child exploitation, her Government maintained a list of countries from which adoptions were prohibited due to concerns about corruption, trafficking or inadequate safeguards. Recognizing the growing issue of orphanage trafficking, her Government increasingly supported family-based care and discouraged funding residential institutions overseas. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 reinforced her Government's commitment to combating all forms of child exploitation. Adoption must protect children and there must be zero tolerance for exploitation.

**Ms. A.T. Narang** (Indonesia) said that children should never experience abandonment, abuse or trafficking; adoption should be ethical, legal and an opportunity for children to find happiness. Illegal adoption was linked to human rights violations and crime, and presented a transnational challenge. In response, States must provide robust laws, regulations and multilateral cooperation. Although permitted in Indonesia, intercountry adoption was subject to extensive requirements, including a court decision. Her Government had passed laws that regulate intercountry adoptions. Protecting children's rights, establishing and implementing more robust legal frameworks, and collaborating internationally could eradicate exploitation. Children had the right to grow up in safe and loving environments. Prioritizing their welfare and protecting, respecting and honouring children's rights, particularly in intercountry adoptions, was a collective responsibility.

**Ms. T. Tasheva** (Ukraine) said that forcibly separating children from families was a particularly devastating crime. Children deserved special protection and were not political instruments. Their rights to an identity, safety and the truth were universal, inalienable and non-negotiable. Ukraine was facing widespread and systematic illegal intercountry adoption and forced child displacement. Fewer than 1,300 children out of the 19,500 confirmed cases had been returned. It could take decades to return them all. The children were taken deep into Russian territory, adopted through fast-tracked procedures, and issued Russian passports. Many were forced to forget Ukrainian and raised in families that denied their identity. The Russian Federation, which claimed it was providing the children with humanitarian protection, was waging a campaign of forced assimilation and identity erasure in violation of international humanitarian and human rights law. The Joint statement on illegal

intercountry adoptions rightly stated that, in certain cases, illegal intercountry adoption could amount to a crime against humanity. The illegal transfer of children was part of wider occupation-related abuse that had begun in 2014. Only the full de-occupation of Ukrainian territory would prevent such crimes.

**Mr. M. Alshowaikh** (Bahrain) said that illegal intercountry adoptions led to child exploitation, loss of identity and rights violations. Given the growing number of cases, efforts should focus on developing legal frameworks to guarantee children's rights, overseeing adoption processes, drafting laws to regulate adoption processes and carrying out background checks on adoptive parents. Government institutions and relevant authorities should oversee all adoption processes. There should be clear sanctions for those involved in illegal adoptions. Parliamentarians should improve cooperation between international organizations and governments to eliminate criminal networks. Bahrain had passed legislation criminalizing illegal adoption and had ratified international documents. Bahraini parliamentarians systematically and regularly updated legislation. It was important to raise awareness, implement measures, and oversee orphanages and children's institutions.

**Ms. R. Alyahya** (Saudi Arabia) said that guaranteeing children's rights and providing justice and stability to families were international responsibilities. In addition to regional and international efforts to combat human trafficking, Saudi Arabia had passed legislation to tackle human trafficking, established a national anti-trafficking system and committee, and launched anti-trafficking plans. Other systems, such as cybercrime prevention and child protection systems, contributed to that work. There was a national referral mechanism for victims which set out how to deal with human trafficking cases. Communication had also been facilitated between relevant entities.

**Ms. I. Svyatenko** (Russian Federation) said that protecting children, ensuring happy childhoods and preventing orphanhood were major priorities for her country, where adoptive families were carefully vetted and children received care. Since 2024, the Russian Federation had only allowed domestic adoptions, in line with Article 35 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to prevent child abduction. Foreigners could not access surrogacy services. A Russian parliamentary investigation had found cases of orphans being trafficked, and subjected to medical experiments and organ harvesting. It was outrageous that orphans were not receiving care. Ms. Tasheva's claim that thousands of children had been taken to the Russian Federation was unconfirmed. In response to a request from the Russian Federation for a list of the children claimed to have been taken from Ukraine, the IPU Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine had transmitted a list of five names provided by the Ukrainian delegation and, following an investigation, only one of those children allegedly had a biological parent in Ukraine. Every case mattered and parliamentarians must continue to prevent illegal adoptions.

**Ms. F. Ilimi Haddouche** (Algeria) said that illegal adoption and child trafficking were grave cross-border crimes. They had prompted the international community to develop international agreements and conventions. Effective strategies based on international cooperation were needed. Illegal adoption and human trafficking – longstanding issues that had particularly affected women and children – harmed human decency and dignity, and violated international instruments and rules. Action was necessary, particularly in areas experiencing wars and conflicts. She stood against human rights violations, especially in the occupied Palestinian territories. In Algeria, there was the political will to work in accordance with international human rights agreements and conventions. The Constitution protected human rights and children's rights, and legislation prohibited human trafficking, protected victims and provided necessary services.

**Ms. L. Reynolds** (Australia), congratulating Mr. De Maegd on his achievements, asked whether adoption should be an act of love from adoptive parents, or an act of love for children who needed a suitable family. She had started to ask that question in Australia but had encountered resistance from adoptive parents, who considered it a personal attack. They were in denial that their children's paperwork might have been incorrect, and that their children might be harmed if or when they discovered that they had living parents and had lost their language and culture. The question was how countries sending children for adoption could deal with those issues. Learning of the experiences of countries such as Belgium and the Netherlands that had started to deal with those issues would help. In addition to working with sending countries and finding families, it was necessary to consider how to change attitudes and cultures in receiving countries.

**Ms. K. Daugaard** (Denmark) thanked the Republic of Korea and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for their important work on some 400 adoption cases, most of which involved adoptees in Denmark. That work must be completed. In accordance with various conventions, other countries – including in the West – must launch their own investigations and take legal action based on the findings. The focus of adoption had never been children. Article 17(c) of the HCCH 1993 Adoption Convention was not enough to ensure children’s security or prevent the exploitation of mothers worldwide. For decades, Denmark had ignored warnings because of the demand for children, including within Denmark. Her country no longer permitted intercountry adoptions, and the Government had received demands to launch legal and independent investigations into Danish adoption agencies and authorities.

**Mr. I. Wamunyima** (Zambia) said that illegal international adoption threatened socioeconomic development. Zambia had passed the Children’s Code Act, 2022, which established the adoption process and ensured compliance with international conventions such as the HCCH 1993 Adoption Convention and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It had also amended the Anti-Human Trafficking Act, 2008, to link human trafficking to adoption and strengthen legislation against child trafficking. The Penal Code prohibited kidnappings, abductions and illegal adoptions that could subject a person to grievous harm, slavery or the unnatural lust of another person. The parliamentary Caucus on Post-legislative Scrutiny assessed the executive power’s effectiveness in implementing those laws. Zambia prioritized budget reviews to ensure adequate funding for child protection mechanisms and, in 2023, had allocated the equivalent of US\$ 46,000 to adoption services and child welfare. States worldwide should prioritize combatting illegal intercountry adoption, which required strong legal frameworks, international collaboration, education, and capacity-building through diplomacy and other bilateral relations.

**Follow-up on implementation of the 2023 resolution on *Orphanage trafficking: The role of parliaments in reducing harm***

**Ms. L. Reynolds** (Australia), Rapporteur, said that the resolution *Orphanage trafficking: The role of parliaments in reducing harm* represented the best of the IPU. Orphanage trafficking, a form of human trafficking, could be prevented. The natural supply of orphans did not meet the demand from generous, kind-hearted and well-intentioned people who wanted to support orphans. Consequently, a multibillion dollar trade involving up to eight million children had emerged. However, the response to that trade had been slow because donors and volunteers were reluctant to believe that they had inadvertently funded traffickers to separate children from their families. Up to 90% of children in orphanages had living parents or family that could provide care.

Since the adoption of the resolution at the 147th IPU Assembly, the IPU had helped raise awareness of orphanage trafficking and had supported parliamentarians in tackling that issue. Resources available to parliamentarians included a webinar, a podcast, a guide for lawmakers and best practices for legislators. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) had also released a guide on combatting orphanage trafficking.

Since beginning her advocacy in Australia eight years earlier, modern slavery legislation had been passed and work was under way to amend the Criminal Code to prohibit orphanage trafficking. However, the best prevention was stemming the flow of volunteers and donations to orphanages. Donations should be steered towards programmes that kept families together and empowered them economically. She hoped that the issue would receive further attention at the UN General Assembly, and she would seek support from the IPU, OSCE and other organizations to help parliamentarians and governments worldwide tackle orphanage trafficking.

**Mr. M. Karakaya** (Türkiye) said that, following the adoption of the resolution, a cross-party research commission on violence and abuse against children had been established. It invited scientists and representatives of minority groups, public institutions, and public, non-governmental and professional organizations to participate in commission meetings, and it conducted onsite investigations. It was currently preparing its final report. The subcommission on the rights of the child examined the implementation of national and international children’s rights legislation and developed solutions to issues. It also invited representatives from public institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academia to discuss issues and contribute to onsite visits.

**Mr. Nakajima Katsuhito** (Japan) said that the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan promoted a child-first approach which had prompted the cross-party drafting of the Basic Act on Children. In Japan, family-like care and homely environments, such as foster care and small-scale

orphanages, had been expanded. Consequently, the number of children in foster care had increased, while the number in orphanages had decreased. However, child abuse and sexual exploitation persisted. Sharing experiences and best practices, including at the IPU, was essential to creating a child-first society.

**Ms. D.E. Dlakude** (South Africa) said that, to address challenges within the national foster care system, her Parliament had passed the Social Assistance Amendment Act to supplement the existing child support grant. The Children's Amendment Bill expanded the jurisdiction of the Children's Court to include cases concerning guardianship, abandonment, orphaned children, unaccompanied or separated migrant children, asylum seekers and refugees. It also clarified parental responsibilities and unmarried fathers' rights, and prohibited payments in cash or kind for adoptions. Further amendments to the Children's Act were under consideration to address challenges related to foster care, and national and intercountry adoptions. A lack of social workers and resources, court delays, and the absence of social workers in court proceedings posed challenges. The Department of Social Development provided monthly oversight of foster care programmes and allocated extra resources to manage cases across provinces, which addressed challenges including court delays and the absence of social workers in court proceedings. Parliamentary committees were crucial to holding departments accountable for implementing legislation for vulnerable children.

**Ms. S. Nane** (Uruguay) said that there were overlapping themes in both discussions, including the poverty of the societies providing children and the wealth of those receiving them. Equality and good laws were not enough. Instead, she envisioned data-based indicators triggering alerts and guiding efforts to protect children. Data – including on poverty, drug trafficking and child institutionalizations per country – would feed into those alerts which could be displayed on a map of the world and flag trafficking, exploitation or poor orphanage conditions. It was necessary to connect different indicators. Perhaps fewer children in Latin America were in orphanages because States did not provide sufficient care and drug traffickers recruited them. Creating an alert algorithm based on available data could help establish a global child protection observatory.

**The President** said that Ms. Nane's suggestion was very practical.

**Ms. T. Khairani** (Indonesia) said that orphanage trafficking constituted a violent crime, violated human rights, and often involved child labour, sexual exploitation and harsh conditions. It should not exist in the modern world. The Indonesian Parliament had passed the Law on the Eradication of the Crime of Human Trafficking and the Law on Child Protection, although their implementation presented challenges. Indonesia continued to strengthen efforts to combat human trafficking by: (1) enhancing child protection legislation, improving transparency and accountability within adoption procedures, and increasing sanctions against traffickers; (2) providing oversight of adoption agencies through the Ministry of Social Affairs to guarantee adherence to national and international adoption standards; (3) collaborating with NGOs to raise awareness of the dangers of unlawful adoptions and orphan trafficking, and the legal requirements for adoption. Indonesia had partnered with neighbouring countries, UNICEF, INTERPOL and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to combat child trafficking.

**Ms. L. Reynolds** (Australia), Rapporteur, said that progress since the adoption of the resolution was heartening. The British and Kenyan Parliaments were also working on orphanage trafficking legislation. She proposed sharing IPU Member Parliaments' best practices, particularly between sending and receiving countries. She appreciated Ms. Nane's suggestion; information about child exploitation indicators was already available. It was worth considering how to share that information and engage law enforcement. In Australia, charities that had supported overseas residential care facilities were now regulated to ensure that they supported other forms of care. It was also important to consider how to identify exploited children. She hoped that Cambodia, which had been particularly successful in that regard, would share measures that it had implemented.

**The President** said that the work and leadership of Ms. Reynolds, who was due to retire from the Australian Parliament, had been extraordinary.

*The sitting rose at 17:30.*

**SITTING OF TUESDAY, 8 APRIL 2025**

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 09:30 with Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.*

**Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee**

**The President** said that the geopolitical groups had proposed the following candidates to fill the seven vacancies on the Bureau of the Standing Committee. The African Group had nominated Mr. B. Ahiafor (Ghana); the Arab Group had nominated Mr. K. Ait Mik (Morocco) and Ms. S. Al Sheibani (Oman); the Asia-Pacific Group had nominated Mr. A. Singh Thakur (India); the Eurasia Group had nominated Mr. A. Chepa (Russian Federation); and the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) had two vacancies but had only nominated Mr. W. Mc Coy (Guyana). The remaining vacancy would be filled at the next Assembly.

She took it that the Committee wished to elect the candidates as members of its Bureau.

*It was so decided.*

**Follow-up on implementation of the 2024 resolution on *The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law***

**The President** said that the follow-up would take the form of an interactive discussion. Delegates should not prepare their interventions in advance.

**(a) Parliamentary actions on AI since October 2024**

**Ms. N. Lugangira** (United Republic of Tanzania), co-Rapporteur, speaking via video link, said that it was important to follow up on resolutions to ensure implementation and hold parliamentarians accountable. In Africa, efforts were underway to align with the Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy of the African Union. Since the previous year, 17 countries had published artificial intelligence (AI) strategies and a further 11 were developing such strategies. Parliamentarians could not continue to drive AI as a national agenda without a clear policy and legislative framework. The IPU resolution highlighted priority areas.

AI had increased gender-based abuse, including misinformation and misogynistic images, against women politicians. It could also help manipulate election results and provoke unrest. In developing countries, it was increasingly necessary for students to acknowledge whether they had used AI in academic research. There were growing concerns about data governance, particularly concerning health data. AI used considerable amounts of data, and the risk of data monetization within developing countries was increasing.

**The President** invited delegates to share the progress achieved and challenges encountered in their respective countries.

**Ms. R. Alyahya** (Saudi Arabia) said that her country had primarily used by-laws to protect citizens and expatriates, especially women and children, from AI-related harm. Since 2007, the Electronic Transactions Law and the Anti-Cyber Crime Law had been introduced. In 2018, by-laws had been introduced to protect children and prevent harassment. The Family Affairs Council had launched *16 Days to Combat Violence Against Women*, an international campaign that partly focused on protecting women in cyberspace and raising awareness of digital violence against men, women and children.

**Mr. C. Ngy** (Cambodia) said that the IPU resolution had rightly underscored the need for an AI regulatory framework that balanced innovation, the public good and the protection of democratic institutions. Since its adoption, AI had continued to develop at an unprecedented pace, presenting legislators with opportunities and challenges. In Cambodia, legislators were crucial to shaping AI policies and laws that safeguarded the national interest and leveraged digital innovation. They also ensured that the Government remained transparent, inclusive and accountable in the digital age. However, AI development had outpaced the legislative process, requiring adaptive policymaking and

creating a knowledge gap between lawmakers and technology developers. The global nature of AI development demanded international cooperation. Cambodia was introducing a digital governance awareness programme and the Cambodian Parliament would welcome collaboration with the IPU Member Parliaments to ensure AI remained transparent, accountable and inclusive.

**Mr. H. Wijemuni** (Sri Lanka) said that his Government prioritized AI, which was key to enhancing public services, improving governance and meeting citizens' expectations for governmental services. A national AI strategy document had recently been published for public consultation. The Government aimed to create an AI regulatory framework that would ensure responsible use, prevent harm such as deepfake-related crimes, and preserve innovation and creativity. Parliament had passed the Personal Data Protection Act and was amending the Online Safety Act, No. 9 of 2024. Work was also underway on the Cyber Security Act. They would help build a secure digital environment in which AI was used responsibly. Sri Lanka was also focused on establishing digital infrastructure – including a digital health system, social benefit distribution platform and single window systems for logistics – that would use AI to improve automation, service quality and governance.

**Ms. B.K. Medhi** (India) said that AI enhanced democratic governance in India by boosting transparency, expanding citizen participation, improving the efficiency and responsiveness of public administration, and facilitating communication between governments and constituents. It could help the authorities to analyse datasets and swiftly detect discrimination and human rights abuses. In 2018, the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems had been launched to position India as a leader in advanced technologies. The Government funded BharatGen, a project that created generative AI models tailored to Indian languages. By strengthening its data sovereignty, India increased control over its digital resources.

**Mr. A. Burapachaisri** (Thailand) said that the House of Representatives had established an ad hoc committee on AI which recommended developing a comprehensive national AI framework. Such a framework required a centralized agency to set national strategies, promote innovation, enhance public-private cooperation, and increase public awareness and adaptability. Ten priority areas had been identified for regulation and support. In legislative terms, the focus was on building a forward-looking legal framework that safeguarded fundamental rights, supported responsible innovation, adapted to emerging technologies, protected privacy, prevented discrimination, upheld human dignity, and ensured transparency and accountability in AI development and deployment. The private sector, academia and civil society should contribute to the development of that framework. The committee also recommended establishing specialized regulatory units to oversee implementation of the national AI framework, drive research and development, enforce compliance and maintain a secure data system.

**Ms. S. Al Sheibani** (Oman) said that Oman was furthering AI development internationally. AI was a transformative tool that created opportunities but also challenges concerning respect for basic values and human rights. To ensure AI technologies upheld human rights and aligned with constitutional values, Oman had adopted a national AI strategy that highlighted the importance of safeguarding personal data and had introduced cyberprotection measures. One of the first laws passed at the regional level had concerned the protection of personal data. There was a national council for data protection and cybersecurity measures. Measures concerning AI adoption at the governmental and parliamentary levels had also been adopted transparently. Youth and non-governmental organizations had participated in dialogues. In accordance with Oman Vision 2040, Oman continued to focus on technology to ensure progress at all levels.

**The President** invited Mr. Ngy to complete his remarks and asked how Cambodia was accommodating the pace of change.

**Mr. C. Ngy** (Cambodia) said that the digital governance awareness programme would educate senators and parliamentarians on AI, cybersecurity and data protection. Cambodia sought to empower legislators to draft and amend digital law; enhance collaboration between government institutions, the private sector and international partners; and align the national digital policy with international standards and best practices. It was important for parliamentarians to understand digital development because digital governance concerned the policies, regulations and institutional structures that guided the adoption of digital technologies in governance, public administration and national security. Equipping legislators to deal with AI therefore strengthened digital governance, upheld democratic values and protected citizens' rights. If used in the public interest, AI could revolutionize governance.

**Ms. L. Reynolds** (Australia) said that, since the previous IPU Assembly, she had noticed that the Australian Parliament had launched a joint inquiry into AI use in civil society but had not explored AI use across government departments or agencies. She had therefore launched an inquiry into the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit in Australia, which oversaw federal government agencies, and had implemented many of the principles in the IPU resolution. The inquiry had revealed inconsistencies between government agencies in their use of AI, for example when developing and implementing policies in programs that transferred payments to and from citizens. The inquiry had raised concerns regarding accountability, consistency in the development and implementation of algorithms, the use of generative AI in decision-making, transparency and consistency across agencies. The Government had yet to respond to the inquiry. Other parliaments should carry out similar inquiries.

**Ms. N. Lugangira** (United Republic of Tanzania), co-Rapporteur, said that a global AI policy research network had been formed in partnership with the University in Sweden and Mila, a Montreal-based AI research institute. The network bridged the gap between academia and policymaking. The European Union (EU) had passed the EU Artificial Intelligence Act (EU AI Act) and EU Member States – apart from Croatia, Greece and Romania – had national AI policies and strategies. During the AI Action Summit in France, States had committed to tackling some of the capacity-building challenges that the Standing Committee had discussed. The IPU could therefore continue strengthening parliamentarians' AI capacities. Although some schools of thought held that excessive AI regulation hindered creativity within the AI sector, she believed that global minimum AI standards were necessary. There was also an issue of jurisdiction. Currently, States in the Global North – where most AI companies were based – had more advanced AI strategies, policies and regulation. AI companies complied with that regulation, which protected citizens, but were not subject to similar regulation in the Global South. The IPU should explore how to establish global minimum standards for the safe use of AI. Such standards had been implemented in other industries, including the mining industry, demonstrating that it was possible.

**Mr. S. Ouedraogo** (Burkina Faso) said that the adoption of the IPU resolution had sparked a debate within the Burkinabe Parliament and the Minister of Development of the Digital Economy and Posts had provided assurances that AI protected the public and national authorities. A law to develop the digital economy, which would cover AI, would be adopted later in 2025. To ensure personal data protection, a parliamentarian would monitor the work of the Commission for Information Technology and Freedoms. An AI action plan had been developed in line with the national digital economy strategy. The strategy was particularly important as it had been drafted following the adoption of the IPU resolution. He hoped to collaborate with the IPU Member Parliaments to develop strategies to protect parliamentarians and the general public from harmful AI use.

**Ms. F. Öncü** (Türkiye), noting the importance of establishing the necessary legislative AI framework, said that the Turkish Parliament had established an AI research commission. Discussions within that commission had focused on the past, present and future of AI and its potential impact on Türkiye. The commission had received contributions from representatives of national institutions working on AI, and the academic, private and governmental sectors. It was due to publish a report which would play an important role in developing the AI economy. In March 2025, the Cybersecurity Law had been passed, establishing a cybersecurity framework and measures to protect personal data.

**The President** asked Mr. Burapachaisri to elaborate on the specialized regulatory units in Thailand that were overseeing implementation.

**Mr. A. Burapachaisri** (Thailand) said that the Thai Parliament was considering legislation in relation to the work of the ad hoc committee on AI.

**Ms. R. Alyahya** (Saudi Arabia) said that the Saudi Ministry of Communications and Information Technology had programmes and initiatives to track emerging threats that affected individuals, gender groups and the workplace. Saudi Arabia had recently hosted the Internet Governance Forum where discussions had focused on internet-related public policy issues. It brought together the governmental, private and non-profit sectors to foster collaboration on emerging internet-related threats. The decision of Saudi Arabia to host the Forum demonstrated the importance it placed on connecting sectors and collaborating to face digital threats.

**The President** said that the Internet Governance Forum would meet again in Norway in June 2025. Given the speed of AI development, it would be encouraging if States could gather to share information. Multinational corporations were operating swiftly and with less regulation than many governments. Developing global minimum standards could be challenging.

**Ms. B.K. Medhi** (India) said that AI-related challenges should not be overlooked. They included the proliferation of misinformation, algorithmic biases which could exaggerate inequality, and increased surveillance capabilities which could threaten privacy and individuals' freedom.

**Ms. N. Lugangira** (United Republic of Tanzania), co-Rapporteur, said that, given the speed of AI development and the challenges that AI presented, AI should be a permanent agenda item at every IPU Assembly and sitting of the Committee.

### **(b) Recent developments in international cooperation in AI governance**

**Ms. P. Chetty** (Executive Director, Research ICT Africa) speaking via video link, thanked the IPU for placing AI, which was shaping democracies, at the heart of its deliberations. Technological progress was outpacing policymaking and current decisions would determine whether AI strengthened or undermined democratic principles, human rights and the rule of law.

The IPU resolution represented a landmark commitment that acknowledged the transformative potential and risks of AI, particularly in the absence of appropriate governance, oversight and global cooperation. Regional frameworks, such as the EU AI Act and the Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy of the African Union, and global discussions within the United Nations and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) were promising. There was growing recognition that individual States could not govern AI. Instead, AI governance should be cooperative, inclusive and guided by shared values. Although some States, including Kenya, had endeavoured to establish a path towards AI adoption, limited implementation, capacity-related challenges and fragmented regulations undermined efforts. Momentum was increasing for international cooperation. The G20 Maceió Ministerial Declaration on Digital Inclusion For All emphasized the need for transparent, ethical and responsible AI use, and warned of the risk of widening digital divides. It called for inclusive AI-related international collaboration, particularly for developing countries. The Global Digital Compact was an important step towards multilateral AI governance. The recent Africa Declaration on Artificial Intelligence emphasized the need for regional and global cooperation and public-private partnerships, and the importance of investing in domestic AI capabilities and infrastructure to ensure sustainable and inclusive AI growth.

However, it was important to recognize challenges. International cooperation in AI governance was often fragmented, uneven and, at times, dominated by a small group of States and private actors. She asked how parliaments could ensure that AI governance delivered tangible improvements for marginalized communities. True social development and justice went beyond citizen participation and demanded social transformation. There was a risk that universal ethical AI principles could erase the structural inequalities and histories that influenced technological harms. It was important to consider past applications of human rights frameworks to technological governance. Doing so called for a collective commitment to establishing common ground for ethical AI development and data governance in order to uphold the rule of law through transparency, enforceable regulation and robust accountability mechanisms. She hoped that the current session would provide an opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences, and explore pathways towards more cohesive international cooperation. The session should focus on how international cooperation could be strengthened in a manner that respected sovereignty while promoting global standards harmonization, and how parliamentarians could become equity ambassadors in technology outcomes, and advocates and stewards of public trust in the era of AI.

**Mr. A. Saebi** (Policy Group Member at the Centre for AI and Digital Policy (CAIDP)), speaking via video link and accompanying his remarks with a digital slide presentation, said that parliaments must act decisively regarding AI. Technology had ushered in an era of unparalleled advancement and presented significant challenges to democratic institutions, human rights and the rule of law. The CAIDP welcomed the IPU resolution on AI, which presented an opportunity to contribute to a fairer, safer and more inclusive digital future. Parliamentarians must ensure that human rights, dignity and shared values were not sacrificed for technological advancements. He set out four pillars that underpinned the CAIDP's recommendations.

First, clear, universal and non-negotiable red lines should be set for AI systems that posed unacceptable risks, such as predictive policing, social scoring and biometric categorization systems. Such systems lacked empirical validity, violated human dignity and threatened rights through inaccurate, unrepresentative and insecure correlations. Such an approach aligned with established frameworks, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence and the EU AI Act.

Second, States should sign and ratify the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law. It created a global baseline that protected human rights and ensured technological development aligned with democratic values. The IPU resolution built on the foundation that the Framework Convention had established and expanded its scope by addressing global inequities, particularly those affecting the Global South. A common global framework that protected citizens from unregulated AI would bridge digital divides by establishing legal requirements for policies to comply with fundamental human rights. Growing international support from institutions, including the International Bar Association, and governments highlighted that it was time for action.

Third, the Universal Guidelines for AI should be endorsed. They provided a global blueprint to ensuring that AI systems promoted transparency, accountability and fairness. Endorsing the Guidelines demonstrated commitment to a future in which technological innovation did not override human rights; rather, one in which AI was a powerful tool that empowered societies, protected vulnerable groups and fostered responsible innovation. The Guidelines could help draft national legislation and international agreements.

Fourth, the public must participate in AI policymaking. There must be robust independent oversight and public consultation mechanisms to democratize decision-making and build trust between citizens, governments and technology developers. Truly democratic AI governance must protect human dignity, rights and agency. AI should enhance well-being while oversight mechanisms tackled disinformation, deepfakes and digital repression. All voices should be heard equally through transparent and accountable policies. The annual CAIDP AI and Democratic Values (AIDV) Index, which analysed AI policies and practices in 80 countries, could provide a useful reference for parliamentarians' work.

Although AI presented formidable challenges, it could drive profound social progress. Humans must shape the digital future, judge technological advancement on its promotion of well-being and social justice, and use AI to complement human decision-making. The CAIDP recommendations were comprehensive, grounded in science and ethical. Parliamentarians, experts and civic leaders must act now to safeguard democratic institutions. The CAIDP stood ready to support research, provide guidance and share the AIDV Index for 2025 to build a future that promoted accountability, inclusion and respect for human rights.

**Mr. F.H. Naek** (Pakistan) said that AI had become part of daily life, and its benefits and harms were unavoidable. It was therefore essential to control it and ensure human agency, oversight and monitoring. Although its impacts differed between nations, communities and economies, common areas of concern were peace, prosperity and human rights. A comprehensive and international legal response was necessary to fill existing legal gaps and tailor the use of binding and non-binding legal instruments to specific AI risks and opportunities. Although AI could handle tedious and complex tasks, it could reproduce harmful biases and other human fallibilities which adversely impacted society and were harder to identify. AI developers should therefore carefully choose how they built and used AI systems. Appropriate laws and policies must ensure that AI remained a positive force, and efforts should be made nationally and internationally. Parliamentarians must remain aware of and responsive to the impact of AI on transparency, justice, democracy and personal responsibility, all of which were linked to the rule of law and were particularly important to assessing AI-related harm.

**Mr. E. Rezaei** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that it was important to draft laws to regulate AI. Monitoring tools and committees must have legal frameworks enabling them to tackle cybersecurity and AI issues. Cooperation that was based on international standards and respected national sovereignty was important. It could be helpful to establish a committee that provided consultancy on AI and its governance. There was a collective responsibility to coordinate and cooperate on challenges for the benefit of current and future generations, and AI could help in that regard. Parliaments could propose laws that facilitated the use of AI in counter-terrorism operations. Israel was using AI in support of its actions in Gaza.

**Ms. B.K. Medhi** (India) said that India aimed to achieve the goal of *Viksit Bharat 2047* – the Government’s vision to become a developed nation by 2047. AI demanded thoughtful governance to promote the common good and safeguard individual freedoms and democratic values. Regarding the latter, strategic autonomy was critical. India had introduced AI into the G20 narrative, and part of the G20 New Delhi declaration focused on inclusive AI. India had co-chaired the AI Action Summit in February 2025, and would host the upcoming summit. India was a founding member of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) and had hosted the annual summit that had led to the adoption of the GPAI New Delhi declaration. India was also a signatory to the G20 Maceió Ministerial Declaration on Digital Inclusion For All, the Bletchley Declaration and the Seoul Ministerial Statement for advancing AI safety, innovation and inclusivity.

**Ms. J.S. Mananiso** (South Africa) said that her country did not have a policy on the Internet of Things (IoT). She asked which countries South Africa could learn from in order to govern in that area.

**Mr. C. Ngy** (Cambodia) said that it was clear that States had different approaches to understanding AI and digital governance. The Committee should therefore produce a statement calling on the IPU Member Parliaments to recognize the transformative impact of emerging technologies and the urgent need for digital governance. The Committee should also develop a standard digital governance programme to guide States and foster international cooperation.

**The President** asked whether delegates agreed with Mr. Ngy’s proposal to develop a statement calling on the IPU to attend to global AI governance.

*No objections were raised. The President noted the agreement.*

**Ms. A. Bengtsson** (Sweden) said that her Government had introduced its AI strategy in 2018, and had established an AI commission. Sweden adhered to EU legislation but that legislation could not keep pace with AI development. It was important to consider who was developing AI and how AI could be developed to take into account humanitarian considerations.

**The President** proposed that the experts discuss the delay in legislative action on AI.

**Mr. M. Karakaya** (Türkiye) said that the lack of a global text on the ethics of AI was a major shortcoming. Türkiye had contributed to efforts to regulate AI, including the OECD AI Principles, the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI and the work of the Council of Europe Committee on AI. Türkiye had also contributed to the Data and Artificial Intelligence Review Board of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). He asked whether there were global ethical guidelines for AI.

**Ms. P. Chetty** (Executive Director, Research ICT Africa) said that the IoT was such ubiquitous technology that legislation on privacy, cybersecurity, intellectual property and consumer protection would apply to it. In the case of South Africa, the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) model laws on data protection and on computer crime and cybercrime could provide useful references.

Turning to Ms. Bengtsson’s question, the legislative process should focus on data agency as well as representative and inclusive datasets. Participatory governance models were necessary to empower citizens to decide how their data was used. It was also important to remain aware of the data used in technology development to ensure that it remained unbiased.

**Mr. A. Saebi** (Policy Group Member at the CAIDP) said that cooperation in favour of innovation was important. Data agency, human rights and the rule of law should be central to that innovation. States should legislate nationally and keep pace with international regulations. The UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, the EU AI Act, and other international texts kept pace with global developments. Data was biased. To ensure human-centred AI, it was important to endorse and implement international texts alongside national laws.

**The President** highlighted Mr. Karakaya’s question about the availability of high-quality global texts on ethics that would be useful to parliamentarians. She invited the experts to discuss the similarities and differences between the EU AI framework and the Africa Declaration on AI, and how global collaboration could be enhanced given the capacity differences between the Global North and South.

**Ms. P. Chetty** (Executive Director, Research ICT Africa) said that, despite the plethora of guidance documents, accords and principles, translating those texts into implementation frameworks was challenging. Given the economic and social inclusion challenges that AI posed, and the need to strike a balance between safety and innovation, it was critical to apply highly localized regulatory responses to AI. It was essential to protect innovation, and innovation potential, within States and to leverage national and regional frameworks and commitments to undertake regulation that was responsive and relevant.

**Mr. A. Saebi** (Policy Group Member at the CAIDP) said that endorsing and implementing documents accelerated the localization of many principles. For example, the African Union had localized principles from the EU AI Act. AI was developing at a rapid pace and time was of the essence. If the opportunity to implement documents and principles were missed, other forces – such as big tech or big data – might step in. In the words of Professor Lawrence Lessig, code was law.

**Mr. F.H. Naek** (Pakistan) asked whether humans would control AI, or would AI control humans, in the future.

**Mr. A. Saebi** (Policy Group Member at the CAIDP) said that Professors Edward Lee and Stuart Russell had published two articles in which they argued that humans must co-evolve and coexist with AI. AI differed to previous human innovations because it existed alongside humans and attempted to shape them. Humans must accept it while retaining human agency and oversight locally and internationally through regulation and legislation.

**Ms. P. Chetty** (Executive Director, Research ICT Africa) highlighted the importance of human agency throughout the AI design process, which must be reflected in regulation. Transparency and accountability were equally important. In addition to upholding the principles of human agency, human-centeredness and human oversight, it was essential to ensure that regulations adequately enforced the rules framework. The current generation would be accountable to future generations for the decisions and rules frameworks that it implemented.

**Mr. M. Karakaya** (Türkiye) said that AI was shaping human life and would continue to do so. However, it was essential to determine the basic ethical principles that would enable AI governance. If left unregulated, computer code would become law and AI development would fall into the hands of certain groups and individuals. There must be democratic regulation of digital life. At the global level, there must be widely accepted ethical codes to govern AI and guide national legislation.

**The President** said that, given the number of men coding AI, there was a concern that AI would be gender-biased. Human agency and the law would help prevent damage from AI. The Secretariat would distribute the articles to which Mr. Saebi had referred.

### (c) The use of AI in parliaments

*Mr. P. Dalphond (Canada) took the Chair.*

**The Chair** said that, as AI changed societies, it would inevitably become part of parliaments. The discussion would focus on how parliamentarians used AI and how parliaments could use AI to support legislative work. For years, the IPU had worked on the use of technology within parliaments and it was important to share information and experiences.

**Mr. A. Williamson** (Senior Researcher, IPU Centre for Innovation in Parliament) speaking via video link, said that AI was a game changer, including within parliaments, and was no longer a future prospect but a present reality. It could dramatically enhance the effectiveness of legislatures. However, it was important to question how it could best serve the public and uphold democratic institutions. He had recently spoken to a representative of a parliament in which parliamentarians had been asked whether they used AI tools. Most had confidently claimed they did not but an examination of the parliament's web traffic had found otherwise. Parliamentarians simply had not recognized that the tools they were using were AI. It was therefore important to consider how AI could be used intentionally, ethically and effectively.

If used thoughtfully, AI could transform parliamentary work. First, it could enhance legislative work by analysing bills and reports, identifying key points and implications, examining proposed amendments and assessing their impact on a legislative portfolio. It could help parliamentarians save time by drafting speeches and synthesizing information. Second, AI offered powerful research capabilities by analysing large volumes of information, retrieving and synthesizing speeches or debates on similar topics, and gathering comparative data from other jurisdictions. Third, AI could maximize the value of content produced by parliamentarians, such as speeches, analyses or policy positions, for use across multiple channels.

AI was also a powerful tool for engaging with constituents and the wider public. It could help categorize and prioritize correspondence, ensure that urgent matters received attention, and handle routine inquiries more efficiently. It could assist with drafting responses to common queries but required human intervention, review and personalization. It could analyse sentiment in local data, social media and public consultations to identify emerging issues, which saved considerable time. Some parliaments were already exploring the use of AI-powered chatbots for staff members and the public, which freed up time for parliamentarians to deal with more complex issues. AI could therefore potentially lead to more responsive constituent services, better understanding of community concerns and more personal connections.

However, there were significant challenges that required thoughtful and careful navigation. First, AI systems were not necessarily accurate or reliable, and they could hallucinate. AI use in parliamentary work demanded constant vigilance and checking. Second, many commercial AI tools processed data on external services, which raised concerns about the security of sensitive information. He had spoken to some parliamentarians who had been slow to adopt AI because they felt they were ceding proprietary rights to data to someone outside of their jurisdiction. Third, parliamentarians must consider how to be transparent with the public about their use of AI, for example, whether they should disclose they had used AI to reply to constituent emails. Parliamentarians should be wary of the public perception of using AI in their work and proceed with caution, care and transparency.

Therefore, the following principles for using AI should be adopted. AI use should be limited to low-risk settings and expanded as confidence grew. Human oversight should be maintained and significant decisions should be human-centred because human contributions added value, credibility and confidence to the AI process. Security and privacy must be prioritized and only approved tools that were safe and reliable should be used. Parliamentarians must work with their parliamentary digital services to understand which tools were the safest. Investments must be made in learning and training to ensure that all parliamentary staff understood the capabilities and limitations of AI. Developing the skills to engage and interact with AI would pay dividends in terms of effectiveness and efficiency in the future.

AI should enhance, rather than replace, the human element of representation. The most effective approach to AI was to combine its efficiency with human judgement, empathy and personal relationships. It should free parliamentarians to give greater attention to the aspects of their role that AI could not replace. It should not lead to job losses across parliamentary offices; rather, it should refocus work away from administrative tasks and towards areas that required deeper thought.

AI should be approached with clarity of purpose, rather than fear. AI could enhance accessibility, productiveness and responsiveness, but users should remain vigilant of its limitations and preserve human judgement, empathy and wisdom. The future of AI in parliaments would be shaped by current decisions which should be made wisely to strengthen democracy and help serve representees. He encouraged delegates to read the IPU *Guidelines for AI in parliaments* and invited delegates who already used AI to share their experiences, including with members of the IPU Secretariat who were gathering anecdotes about how AI was helping parliamentarians.

**The Chair** opened the floor to delegates.

**Mr. M. Karakaya** (Türkiye) said that most of the parliamentarians that he knew had used AI and reported that data could be outdated and information unchecked. He had also noticed those drawbacks. It was important to consider whether AI hallucinations constituted manipulation. It was pointless to draft national AI legislation without global ethical guidelines for AI. Although he agreed with the recommendations on how to use AI, the real issue was how AI coders could safeguard societies as they trained AI systems. That issue related to ethics and legislation.

**Mr. A. Burapachaisri** (Thailand) said that the Thai Parliament was using AI to make parliamentarians' interactions with the public more efficient, to receive and evaluate feedback in order to assist with policy formulation, and to improve the management and internal organization of the

parliamentary Secretariat. It was important to raise awareness of AI. A member of the Thai Senate had recently released an AI-generated video in which he appeared in a simulated parliamentary debate. The video had raised awareness of the increasing sophistication of AI-generated content, and its potential threats to information integrity and public trust. Thailand remained committed to collaborating with parliamentarians to uphold the principles contained in the IPU resolution. Through collective engagement, informed governance and inclusive language, the transformative potential of AI could be harnessed and democratic values could be protected.

**Ms. A. Bengtsson** (Sweden) said that Swedish society was more digitalized than its Parliament, where e-signatures had only recently been introduced and stenographers were still present in plenary sessions. The Estonian Parliament used an AI tool with a 90% accuracy rate to transcribe parliamentary meetings. Although human intervention remained necessary, the tool expedited the transcription process. AI was deeply connected to digitalization. In Sweden, cashless payments had become the norm and had sparked a political debate about what would happen if the country went into lockdown, as had been the case in Ukraine. The current e-ID system was privately owned but the Swedish Government was exploring how to expand it. In her parliamentary work, she had found AI helpful to structure her ideas and arguments in preparation for debates and articles.

**The Chair** said that he had noticed that the debate interventions of one of his colleagues had become much more structured, prompting him to suspect that his colleague was using AI.

**Ms. B.K. Medhi** (India) said that the Indian Parliament ensured that AI respected human rights, democracy and the rule of law and the parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology was considering the impact of AI. Parliament had enacted the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, and used AI to streamline the legislative workflow and improve the accessibility of parliamentary proceedings. The Lok Sabha used AI to analyse debates in real time and to provide parliamentarians with contextual information during discussions. Machine translation ensured documents, such as agendas, question lists and bulletins, were available in regional languages. Natural language processing and other AI technologies simplified complex legal and political language to help citizens engage with and understand the legislative process. AI-driven platforms, such as the national e-Vidhan application, enabled citizens to access legislative content, track bills and participate in discussions, which fostered greater transparency and public engagement. AI helped to digitalize records; manage historical data generated in debates, speeches and proceedings; and to categorize and index those records to facilitate access for citizens, media and policymakers. By improving the efficiency and accessibility of parliamentary procedures, AI supported legislative processes, enabled citizens to hold elected representatives accountable, and fostered an informed and participatory democracy.

**Mr. E. Rezaei** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that AI tools had facilitated harmonizing legislation and analysing citizens' demands and requirements.

**Ms. S. Al Sheibani** (Oman) said that, although she used AI, she was not sure if it was legal in parliaments, especially when the use was unacknowledged. Given her lack of a legal background, she found AI particularly useful for reviewing laws. AI showed her legal practices from around the world and explained whether an article in a law was logical or how it could be enhanced. AI also analysed the potential implications of implementing a new law. She usually thought for herself and presented her feedback to her Parliament's Legislative and Legal Committee. However, AI – particularly ChatGPT and DeepSeek – was very impressive.

**The Chair** asked whether delegates used AI to reply to emails or letters, or answer calls.

**Ms. J.S. Mananiso** (South Africa) said that her Parliament had begun to use AI and digital platforms, particularly after the COVID-19 pandemic. AI enabled parliamentarians to respond to emails from constituents while carrying out their work on committees. Hybrid working conditions meant that parliamentarians could attend to business outside of Cape Town while carrying out their parliamentary functions, making parliamentary work and services more accessible to rural areas. Digitalization had also made parliamentary work more efficient. However, people without an education could not use AI because it was not available in Indigenous languages. If AI were available in the 12 official languages of South Africa, no one would be left behind. Parliamentarians must have language data on their communities.

**Ms. R. Alyahya** (Saudi Arabia) said that, to tackle concerns about privacy and hacking, the Shura Council had recently established a platform that acted as a one-stop shop for all the resources that parliamentarians could need. It contained parliamentarians' contact details, access to emails and a file database. Parliamentarians could contact the research department to request specific information and interact with other parliamentarians on the platform, and ensure protection for private files. The Saudi Data and AI Authority monitored the platform; parliamentarians could only access the platform using a one-time password. The platform was functional, beneficial, helpful and efficient, and other parliaments should consider introducing a similar platform.

**The Chair** thanked Ms. Alyahya for her important comment about privacy. The free version of ChatGPT stored information abroad and reused it. Privacy assurances were necessary even when using the fee-paying version of ChatGPT.

**Ms. S. Ghoury** (Pakistan) said that AI had revolutionized the world and was transforming lives. AI applications presented challenges and could benefit and damage human lives simultaneously. It was imperative to take control of AI and constantly ensure human agency, oversight and monitoring everywhere. The implications of AI differed between groups, but peace, prosperity and human rights were common areas of concern. The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication was digitalizing life in Pakistan and leveraging AI across industries to transform its economy. AI also enhanced governance, improved public service delivery and promoted sustainable national development. It was important to ensure that AI facilitated lives, solved complex challenges and enabled the achievement of significant goals.

**Mr. A. Williamson** (Senior Researcher, IPU Centre for Innovation in Parliament) said that the interventions had revealed a sense of opportunity mixed with caution. Many interventions had discussed the ways in which AI could potentially facilitate and improve parliamentary work. However, it was important to be aware of information security when using AI systems. Ms. Al Sheibani's intervention was particularly striking and highlighted the tension between opportunity and risk.

Parliaments were not at the cutting edge of technology, nor should they be. It was therefore unsurprising to hear that the Swedish Parliament was technologically behind Swedish society. Parliaments should be confident, safe and comfortable in their adoption of technology, given the importance of their work. However, the transcription capabilities of AI were improving by the day, as evidenced by the 90% accuracy rate of the Estonian Parliament's transcription tool. The transcription capabilities of Zoom were also very powerful. Using machine learning for translation – as was the case in the Indian Parliament – could democratize access to information in South Africa. Parliamentarians clearly understood the opportunities and risks of AI. The main motivation for its use in parliaments was to improve the public service interface, as was the case in Thailand. AI clearly could improve the efficiency and effectiveness of parliamentary oversight, legislative drafting and work with constituents.

**The Chair** said that he had recently read an article in the *New York Times* about a lawyer who had used ChatGPT to search for previous judgments to support the case on which he was working. However, unbeknownst to the lawyer, ChatGPT had invented some of the judgments. The names of the judges existed but those of the parties did not. The opposing party had noticed that the judgments were fake, and the discovery had almost led to the disbarment of the lawyer who had not realized that ChatGPT might produce invented content.

AI was powerful enough to tailor its results to searchers. It was possible for parliamentarians from different political parties within the same parliament to use AI and receive very different results. The facts would be retrieved and organized to confirm the searcher's bias. That was both reassuring and disturbing, and it was parliamentarians' responsibility to manage that bias. It was essential that real people – not AI – elected parliamentarians.

**Ms. P.A. Aguirre** (Ecuador) said that Ecuador was on the verge of electing its first female President in the upcoming elections. However, the election campaign had been the ugliest to date. AI had been used to create sexist deepfakes in which the presidential candidate appeared undressed. The National Electoral Council did not have the financial or technological resources to prevent the spread of such videos, particularly because they were shared on social media and through messaging applications. The phenomenon was also affecting the current Vice-President of Ecuador.

**Ms. M.F. Araujo** (Ecuador) said that she felt a profound sense of responsibility to Ecuadorians and to defend democracy, human rights, gender equality and the rule of law. The Vice-President of Ecuador was facing unprecedented political persecution. Since taking office, she had faced systematic exclusion, isolation and harassment. She had been appointed an ambassador for peace and forcibly sent abroad, including to a war zone in the Middle East, without adequate resources or safety guarantees. Moreover, her eldest son had been detained for over 40 days without trial, and his lawyer had been arrested in January 2025. The legal system was being used to terrify and silence a public servant and those closest to her. In September 2024, an irregular administrative process had been initiated against her for abandoning her office when in fact her absence had been due to an executive order. Those events constituted gender-based political violence, the criminalization of independent thought and the weakening of institutions. International treaties, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the American Convention on Human Rights, and the Constitution of Ecuador, were being violated. A democracy that incarcerated elected officials' children, replaced its vice-presidents by decree, and silenced women was not a full democracy.

**The Chair** agreed that AI could be misused during political campaigns. States must have oversight bodies that could respond immediately to deepfakes and stop their spread or demonstrate that the videos were not real.

**Ms. S. Ghoury** (Pakistan) said that, as AI improved and became more affordable, people were losing their jobs. Legislators must consider how to handle an increase in unemployment within the next five to ten years. That issue could be raised at the next IPU Assembly.

**The Chair** said that that was perhaps a question that the IPU Centre for Innovation in Parliament could explore.

**Mr. M. Karakaya** (Türkiye) said that the conclusion of the session was that parliamentarians should not use AI for matters that could not be checked or controlled.

**Ms. G. Chakor** (Netherlands) said that AI had also created deepfakes of Dutch parliamentarians and actresses. Parliamentarians could not allow women, but also children and men, to be victims of that issue. AI was developing more quickly than expected. Although government officials and parliamentarians were addressing deepfakes and learning about AI and ChatGPT, they could not act alone. An intergovernmental pact could strengthen individual efforts and explore how to learn swiftly about AI, how to use AI and understand its risks.

**The Chair** noted the suggestion, which would be a continuation of the resolution adopted at the previous IPU Assembly. Parliamentarians must outpace technology, which was developing rapidly.

*The sitting rose at 12:20.*

# Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

**SITTING OF MONDAY, 7 APRIL 2025**

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 11:30, with Mr. Aoyagi Hitoshi (Japan), Acting President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.*

**Adoption of the agenda**  
(C-IV/150/A.1)

*The agenda was adopted.*

**Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held at the 149th IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2024)**

*The summary record was approved.*

**The UN field presence in support of national development: The case of Uzbekistan**

**The Chair**, after drawing attention to background information for the item, as contained in the agenda set out in document C-IV/150/A.1, said that he was pleased to welcome guest speakers Ms. S. Machl, United Nations Resident Coordinator (UN RC) in Uzbekistan, and Mr. P. Linnér, Programme Director at the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, whose presentations would be followed by an interactive discussion.

**Ms. S. Machl** (UN RC in Uzbekistan), guest speaker, accompanying her presentation with a number of digital slides, said that she was one of 131 UN RCs covering among them 162 host countries and territories with which the United Nations (UN) worked on the basis of cooperation framework agreements. The RC Office in Tashkent had been established in 1993, since when the UN Country Team (UNCT) had grown to comprise 25 entities, 16 of them with either a project office or a representative on the ground. The UNCT's work in Uzbekistan was geared towards delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and integrated with the country's own plan to that end. With the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) – a centrepiece of UN reform – set to begin its new five-year cycle in January 2026, the UNCT had been engaged in consultations with the Uzbek authorities and all stakeholders countrywide to determine the focus of that cycle.

As to the UNSDCF 2021–2025 for Uzbekistan, it was centred on outcomes in five areas: governance systems and the rule of law; harmonized and integrated implementation of the reform agenda; improved access to livelihoods for all, irrespective of geographical location; better access to quality healthcare, education and social services; and natural resource management, infrastructure, climate action, and environmental governance and protection. In a good sign that the reform was working, the UNCT had launched 12 joint programmes across Uzbekistan, 7 of them worth a total of under US\$ 30 million in 2024 alone, with at least two UN entities working in each case with the Uzbek authorities on a specific priority.

The overarching priority of the UNSDCF 2026–2030 was to harness the demographic dividend in Uzbekistan while possible, as the population was growing fast but ageing faster still. The six intended outcomes were to afford the Uzbek people the benefit of good governance and evidence-based decision-making; enhance rural and urban living standards and resilience to socioeconomic and climate-related shocks; boost public health and well-being; increase access to education and skills training; address climate and environmental issues; and improve living conditions in the Aral Sea region, where desiccation had drastically reduced the size of the sea and created toxic dust emissions affecting the region and beyond.

Key principles and cross-cutting issues identified for attention in supporting Uzbekistan towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) included digitalization and gender equality, especially in education and employment. Data relating to UNCT efforts under the UNSDCF 2021–2025 were provided through UN INFO, an online reporting platform. In addition to showing the proportion of UN funding contributed towards the achievement of each SDG, the data

comprised information on the number of programmatic interventions by SDG, by function and by UN entity. For Uzbekistan, the current funding gap between required and available resources, amounting, respectively, to US\$ 475.4 million and US\$ 352.8 million, stood at just over 25%. The UNCT furthermore received normative support, as required, from the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), which were also engaged in supporting Uzbekistan's development and monitoring the progress of its SDG implementation. She and her office would be pleased to provide any further information requested.

**A delegate** asked whether the UNCT's work was affected by the recent announcement of cuts in programmes run by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

**Ms. S. Machl** (UN RC in Uzbekistan), guest speaker, noting that several countries had also announced cuts in official development assistance (ODA), said that support for UN activities in Uzbekistan from, among others, the European Union, Japan, Qatar and the Republic of Korea, was continuing. The USAID funding cuts would, however, undoubtedly affect the crucial life-saving work of entities such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The hope was that UN Member States would come together to address issues requiring a global approach.

**Mr. A.S. Thakur** (India) asked what percentage of the cost of under US\$ 30 million for the seven joint programmes mentioned was borne by Uzbekistan, what proportion was spent on the establishment of those programmes, and what progress Uzbekistan was making towards SDG target 3.3 aimed at ending communicable diseases such as AIDS and tuberculosis.

**Ms. S. Machl** (UN RC in Uzbekistan), guest speaker, said that the funding for those seven programmes had been used, for example, towards reducing child and maternal mortality and improving energy efficiency, healthcare, information and communication technology (ICT) in education, and the ecological problems associated with the Aral Sea. The funding came from donors and the Joint SDG Fund, and was channelled directly into the programmes undertaken by the UNCT to benefit the people of Uzbekistan.

**Ms. F.M.P. Konseibo/Tiendrebeogo** (Burkina Faso) requested further information about the plans for harnessing the demographic dividend in Uzbekistan.

**Ms. S. Machl** (UN RC in Uzbekistan), guest speaker, said that harnessing that dividend required investment in quality education and healthcare, both areas in which change would be most immediately felt. Employment skills training was also required to help people, and women especially, move from the informal to the formal economy. Through support for its efforts to ensure decent work opportunities for its youth and promote their active participation in society, Uzbekistan would be better equipped to cater for the needs of its over-65s, whose numbers were forecast to rise over the coming five years. The country's traditional system of self-governing neighbourhoods, or mahallas, could furthermore provide valuable outreach through their dedicated teams working on specific issues.

**Ms. H. Al-Sulaiti** (Qatar) asked about the role of civil society in supporting development in Uzbekistan.

**Ms. S. Machl** (UN RC in Uzbekistan), guest speaker, underlining the importance of working with civil society organizations, said that, in the consultations on the UNSDCF 2026–2030, those organizations had contributed ideas around such matters as support for women's groups and for those living with HIV/AIDS. People-centred action that left no one behind was a prerequisite to enabling all individuals to develop their full potential and contribute to society.

**Mr. P. Linnér** (Programme Director, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation), guest speaker, also accompanying his presentation with a number of digital slides, said that financial data showing global trends in UN funding was provided in the latest edition of *Financing the UN Development System: Resourcing the future*, an annual report co-produced by his Foundation and the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office. Created in memory of the second UN Secretary-General, the Foundation worked to promote his legacy in three areas: peace and security; UN financing and effectiveness, on which his presentation would focus; and UN leadership.

A comparison of ODA with global development and humanitarian needs revealed a substantial funding gap that had steadily increased in line with the rising number of people forcibly displaced worldwide between 2014 and 2023. Among the top 10 Member State contributors to the UN system

in 2024, only Norway had not reduced its bilateral aid. Compounded by the cuts announced by USAID and various countries, the projected ODA reduction in 2025 was a heavy blow that would also adversely affect the UN system, whose budget amounted to some 60% of Google's annual revenue, one third that of New York City, and 5% of the continually increasing global military expenditure. Despite consistent growth attributable to earmarked funds, total UN revenue had begun declining in 2022, a trend that was likely to continue in light of the announced cuts. In 2023, real UN system funding was below the nominal value, reflecting the depreciation in the purchasing power of the contributed resources.

In terms of UN-funded humanitarian assistance, the top five contributors accounted for 60% of the total amount now that the chief contributor, the United States of America, had in a lethal setback for many in need declared a freeze on all payments. The domination of earmarked contributions in such assistance was, moreover, problematic in that those resources were inextricably tied to specific countries or activities and could not be diverted towards addressing greater needs in the event of a disaster, for example. A breakdown of UN expenses by function showed that, between 2018 and 2023, humanitarian assistance had increased its share from 36% to 45%, whereas development assistance had remained at around 30% and peace operations had fallen from 19% to 13% owing to more operation closures. The previous upward trend in funding from the private sector and foundations had also decreased in absolute terms.

The United States of America cuts would affect the UN system in varying degrees, with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) hardest hit. In respect of multilateral funding, United States contributions towards development assistance remained in the top spot, despite having fallen, but were now almost matched by those made to the World Bank Group in much more substantial amounts since 2022.

The funding instruments consisted of assessed contributions and voluntary core contributions, both of which were unearmarked, and of contributions earmarked by theme and/or geography. Offering the highest quality and most flexible form of funding, unearmarked contributions could be applied strategically to support the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and enable the reallocation of resources – and hence a more holistic response – in times of crisis. They also allowed for more strategic choices, better long-term planning and greater host country ownership. By contrast, hard earmarked contributions limited UN operational effectiveness in facing compound challenges and reduced the ability to support Member States towards SDG achievement. Soft earmarking, or pooled funding, was more flexible and could go towards a global thematic fund in support of issues such as gender equality.

Funding was distributed by the recipient agency in line with its own strategic plans. In the case of pooled funding, a minimum of two UN agencies contributed towards a specific theme, whether nationally, regionally, globally, or across borders. In addition to enhancing UN effectiveness, coherence and coordination, such funding empowered UN RCs to mobilize a more unified country-level response and increased host country ownership and oversight. It also demanded sincere UN commitment and engagement, with the agencies concerned contributing their own resources and staff. With regard to earmarked multilateral funding, the proportion going towards supporting the UN development system and the World Bank Group had increased considerably between 2011 and 2023, although less so in the latter case. Between 2022 and 2023, the previous steady growth seen in earmarked funding had declined, whereas assessed and voluntary core contributions had both risen.

In 2023, Germany had been the top contributor to inter-agency pooled funds, followed closely by the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, with the majority of deposits going towards humanitarian expenditure. In terms of expenditure covering humanitarian work, development, peace and security, and political and peacebuilding affairs, the largest share went to Afghanistan, followed by, among others, South Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, Ukraine and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Conflict-ridden countries received mostly humanitarian support, which was life-saving but did not address the causes of conflict, generally tackled instead through much less well-funded development and peacebuilding interventions. Uzbekistan ranked eleventh among countries in receipt of resources through inter-agency pooled funds, in its case to the tune of US\$ 44 million for development. According to 2022 figures, China headed the list of non-members of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) contributing to UN operational activities, primarily in the form of core funding.

The Funding Compact for UN support to the SDGs was a partnership established by agreement of all UN Member States to ensure their greater contribution to core resources, pooled and thematic funds and multi-year commitments. It also entailed a commitment by the UN development system to work jointly for common objectives, improve transparency and reporting on resources, results and impact, and increase efficiency. For 2027, ambitious targets of up to more than double the 2022

baseline percentages had been set for voluntary core contributions towards operational activities for development and for voluntary non-core contributions for development activities, whether through single-agency thematic funds or inter-agency pooled funds. As to their reasons for continuing with hard earmarking, Member States commonly cited donor visibility, donor access, and the need for improved UN reporting on pooled and thematic funding. In that regard, parliamentarians had a part to play in arguing for a more efficient United Nations through more high-quality funding.

The key takeaways were that development and humanitarian assistance needs were increasing; funding and total resources for meeting global challenges, including at the United Nations, were drastically decreasing; and quality funding was insufficient to meet the targets set under the Funding Compact. In sum, unearmarked funding was more efficient than earmarked, soft earmarked was more efficient than hard earmarked, and the benefits of pooled funding outweighed those offered by single-agency funding.

Parliamentarians had a key role to play in oversight and awareness and as ambassadors for high-quality funding vis-à-vis their respective ministries and, where applicable, UNCTs. Indeed, Action 55 of the Pact for the Future emphasized in its paragraph 83(d) the need to deepen UN engagement with national parliaments, including through building on the efforts of the United Nations and the IPU.

**Ms. S. Almansoori** (United Arab Emirates) said that the growing partnership between Uzbekistan and the United Nations was a compelling example of effective collaboration, including with parliaments, which, as the voice of the people, should be more actively involved in shaping, overseeing and supporting the vital work of UNCTs. Her country was well placed to facilitate regional dialogue among UNCTs, governments and parliaments and to help enhance the latter's role in national development planning through knowledge-sharing platforms and workshops. The Uzbek experience showed what international cooperation could achieve, especially when some were turning towards isolation from the global community, and how much true measurable progress could be delivered by working together.

Strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments could be accomplished by including parliaments from the outset in UN programme planning to ensure alignment with national priorities and needs. To that same end, regular progress reports should be provided to heighten accountability and enable parliaments to fulfil their oversight role, promote peer learning and share lessons learned. The more inclusive, transparent and impactful development in Uzbekistan was an example to be built upon for a stronger and more connected future for all.

**Ms. F.M.P. Konseibo/Tiendrebeogo** (Burkina Faso), applauding the remarkable efforts of the UN humanitarian system in general and in her country in particular, asked how activities on the ground were effectively coordinated with beneficiary States to ensure an appropriate response to genuine needs, above all in areas affected by terrorism.

**Ms. H. Al-Sulaiti** (Qatar), emphasizing funding as the underpinning of all development programmes, said that her country's sizeable contribution to development assistance had proved fruitless when it came to conflict zones such as Gaza, where education and health projects were now non-existent. She asked what Mr. Linnér's position was on that situation.

**Mr. P. Linnér** (Programme Director, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation), guest speaker, in response to comments, said that he strongly favoured tighter links among the United Nations, parliaments and host governments, and that there was huge potential to do more on that front, including by way of the excellent suggestions made about accountability and peer learning. Concerning Qatar's development assistance to Gaza, he regretted that it had been in vain but, as a representative of a think tank involved in providing support and statistics to the United Nations, he was unqualified to speak on behalf of the UN system.

**Mr. M. Keshiyev** (Partnerships Officer, Resident Coordinator's Office in Turkmenistan), responding on Ms. Machl's behalf in her absence to the question raised by the delegate from Burkina Faso, said that the UNCT in Uzbekistan coordinated its interventions through governing mechanisms, notably the high-level Joint National/UN Steering Committee comprising the heads or deputy heads of national agencies and the heads of UN agencies present in Uzbekistan. The Cooperation Framework Results Groups were another such mechanism. Each group coordinated joint efforts to address development challenges in a specific thematic area determined on the basis of the existing results chain.

**Mr. G. Ijumba** (Deputy Representative, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Uzbekistan) said that the question about development assistance in conflict zones brought home the fact that humanitarian work must be accompanied by peace efforts, with countries encouraged to invest in the related political process. Concerning financial resources in particular, the Uzbek Parliament was to be commended on its role in the huge allocation of public funds for investment towards development of the country's human capital through education. Parliaments must be kept abreast of data and research that built a strong case for such investment, especially in the development and social sectors, and must also be accountable for their decisions on that score. In recent years, progressive development-related legislation had been enacted in Uzbekistan, which was attracting increasing amounts of investment and international finance, including climate finance. A change in mindset was essentially needed to leverage the power of parliaments to allocate resources with a direct impact on their country's development.

**The Chair** asked Mr. Linnér and Mr. Keshiyev for their thoughts on earmarked and unearmarked funding.

**Mr. P. Linnér** (Programme Director, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation), guest speaker, said that unearmarked funding was an important means of honouring the decisions taken by the executive boards of UN agencies, funds and programmes, in conjunction with Member States, concerning the strategic direction to be followed by their respective organizations regionally or within countries. Such funding allowed for flexibility in shifting resources from one programme to another according to need, which was not possible with earmarked funding. Some donors chose earmarked funding to keep track of the resources and monitor the effectiveness of the results, which was equally important to do in respect of thematic and pooled funding. Joint programmes furthermore empowered resident coordinators in their role as the highest in-country UN representatives and allowed host governments to exercise greater oversight of UN operational activities. In the case of single-agency funding, resources could be allocated where most needed if soft earmarked for global thematic funding.

**Mr. M. Keshiyev** (Partnerships Officer, Resident Coordinator's Office in Turkmenistan), echoing those remarks, said that flexible, unearmarked funding was indeed preferable, especially in the face of constantly evolving development challenges as assessed by UNCTs.

**The Chair** thanked all participants for their contributions

*The sitting rose at 12:50.*

## SITTING OF TUESDAY, 8 APRIL 2025

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 09:10 with Mr. D. Laouhingamaye (Chad), member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.*

**The Chair** said that, in addition to the items on the agenda, the morning's proceedings would include a special presentation on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

### **The growing role of the BRICS in international relations: What impact for the UN?**

**The Chair**, after drawing attention to background information concerning the item, as contained in the agenda set out in document C-IV/150/A.1, said that he was pleased to welcome guest speakers Mr. C. Cajado Sampaio, head of the Brazilian parliamentary delegation to the 150th IPU Assembly, and Mr. O. Malginov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Uzbekistan, whose presentations would be followed by an interactive discussion.

**Mr. C. Cajado Sampaio** (Brazil), guest speaker, said that BRICS had been established in 2009 as a partnership among countries united by a common vision based on mutual respect, equality, solidarity, inclusiveness, openness and consensus. It was a platform for political and diplomatic discussions and global cooperation; it was not a forum for geopolitical confrontation and nor did it seek to oppose any multilateral or plurilateral organization. Rather, its goal was to influence multilateralism grounded in the Charter of the United Nations and international law while enhancing cooperation, dialogue and the legitimacy, equity and efficiency of key global institutions.

As proud holder of the 2025 BRICS chairmanship, Brazil's chosen theme of strengthening Global South cooperation for a more inclusive and sustainable governance reflected the country's commitment to the BRICS and echoed the theme championed during the Brazilian G20 presidency in 2024 around building a just world. No such world would be built, however, without global governance reform, especially within the United Nations, to ensure more representative, legitimate and effective multilateral institutions. To that end, the involvement of developing countries in key decision-making bodies must be significantly increased, with the BRICS playing a critical role in catalysing consensus as to the urgency of reform and in driving forward progress.

Multilateral reform, particularly in the sphere of peace and security, was a priority for the Brazilian BRICS chairmanship. In its 80th anniversary year, the United Nations faced emergency threats and challenges that could not be effectively tackled without multilateral cooperation and the elimination of outdated concepts and practices. In a world of polarization and distrust beset by violent conflicts with devastating consequences for one quarter of humanity, multilateral institutions played an essential role in addressing those conflicts, preventing humanitarian catastrophes and new crises, building mutual trust, strengthening diplomacy and promoting peaceful solutions.

At its 2024 summit, the BRICS had reaffirmed its priority objectives, including reform of the international financial architecture to build a fairer and more representative system; strongly supported the addition of a seat for sub-Saharan Africa on the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF); and explored alternative payment systems offering increased safety, resilience and independence. Through a five-member expansion reflective of the shared commitment to a more inclusive, balanced and multipolar world order in the universal interest, the BRICS had significantly increased its economic and geopolitical weight.

The BRICS had long advocated reform for a more representative, legitimate and effective Security Council, whose current permanent membership represented under 8% of UN Member States in an unacceptable reminder of colonial era dominance. The exclusion of representation from Africa, Latin America and developing countries generally was mainly responsible for the body's dysfunction, paralysis and loss of credibility. Without reform, the Security Council would remain unable to engage in effective decision-making and fulfil its primary duty of maintaining international peace and security.

**Mr. O. Malginov** (Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Uzbekistan), special guest, said that, with no statutes, headquarters or secretariat, the 11-member BRICS was not a traditional intergovernmental organization but a strategic partnership based on three pillars: politics and security, economy and finance, and "people-to-people" or civil society. Following the principles of equality, mutual respect, openness, pragmatism and solidarity, it engaged in freely exploring ideas for promoting development and cooperation in the interest of all nations.

His country had hosted and chaired the successful 2024 BRICS Summit on the theme *Strengthening Multilateralism for Fair Global Development and Security*. Four new members had been welcomed, a plenary session had been held in the BRICS+ outreach format including African, Asian, Latin American and Middle Eastern countries, and nine countries had been designated as partner countries, with the addition of a further four still pending. All were highly reputable regional powers favouring the BRICS win-win cooperation approach and were entitled to participate in BRICS meetings.

At the summit, the Russian Federation had proposed the following initiatives: to strengthen the parliamentary dimension of the said cooperation; to increase the sustainability of supply and value chains; to counter protectionism; to develop e-commerce; to boost connectivity among the BRICS special economic zones; to facilitate a cross-border payment system; to conduct a technical feasibility study of a private clearing system; and to establish a reinsurance company and a grain trading platform. Work on those initiatives would continue under the current Brazilian chairmanship. The BRICS emphasis on cultural cooperation had also been epitomized in a Russian-hosted festival, held in late 2024, to showcase the culture of the BRICS countries.

Comprised of like-minded countries, the BRICS platform primarily sought to engage all nations equally and without discrimination in determining the world's future. The United Nations was guardian of those principles, enshrined in its Charter and advocated by BRICS, that for 80 years had underpinned international relations. The UN Secretary-General's participation in BRICS summits signalled the group's potential role as a cornerstone of a new world order based on the sovereign equality of States and their right to follow their own development models. The BRICS supported carrying out United Nations (UN) reform by consensus and was open to dialogue and constructive cooperation with all those willing to engage in its collective endeavour.

**The Chair** invited interventions from the floor.

**Mr. M. Garoyian** (Cyprus) said that the G20 offered a broad and flexible platform for economic coordination whereas the BRICS economic alliance presented itself as an alternative to Western-led institutions promoting a multipolar world order. The BRICS members furthermore challenged traditional Western influence in global governance by coordinating their positions at the United Nations, which nonetheless remained the only truly universal institution and one reliant as such on cooperation rather than division.

The BRICS advocated for UN reform but the long-term impact on UN legitimacy and cohesion remained uncertain, with Cyprus as a stark example of why it was crucial to uphold international law and the principles of multilateral diplomacy within the UN framework. The failure to enforce the numerous UN resolutions relating to the illegal Turkish invasion of Cyprus over 50 years previously had perpetuated the status quo of division and occupation. To protect sovereignty and territorial integrity, global governance must be rules-based, inclusive and focused on peace and security. No shift in global power should be at the expense of smaller countries or the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Whether as a bridge between the Global South and the United Nations or as an amplifier of fragmentation in global governance, the BRICS would undoubtedly shape the future of multilateralism and the role of international institutions in the coming years.

**Ms. H. Al-Sulaiti** (Qatar) said that Security Council reform should be aimed at more equitable representation of developing countries and greater alignment with the global balance of power. With its ability to coordinate common positions around key issues, the BRICS could be a powerful partner for the United Nations, creating new dynamics that would enhance the latter's effectiveness, inclusivity and relevance in the new geopolitical reality. The UN efforts to strengthen multilateralism so as to better address shared challenges would also be facilitated.

A formal forum for economic and financial cooperation, the G20 had a rotating presidency and its decisions were non-binding, whereas the BRICS was a political, economic and security alliance with a more organized structure. It met annually, had its own institutions, and supported the participation of developing countries in decision-making, especially on international peace and security. Parliamentarians had that and other aims in common with the BRICS, which they should support through cooperation that would also have a positive impact towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Mr. A.K. Mittal** (India) said that, since the inception of the United Nations in 1945, its membership had increased fourfold while the number of permanent Security Council members remained the same. Without reform to reflect the realities of an emerging multipolar world, the Security Council would continue to hamper the maintenance of international peace and security.

Concerning the BRICS, the significant expansion of its membership had enhanced its global energy influence and strengthened its geopolitical presence, highlighting its intention to reshape global governance by amplifying voices from the Global South. With its economies accounting for over one third of global gross domestic product (GDP) and its well-capitalized New Development Bank offering an alternative to traditional financial institutions, the BRICS was creating a self-sustaining ecosystem and substantially influencing the global economy. A rebalanced global system must have stronger foundations of equity and representation, with the BRICS playing a consequential role in the multipolar world order.

**Mr. B. Akburak** (Türkiye) said that his country firmly advocated effective multilateralism for addressing global challenges, with the United Nations as the key platform where all Member States had a voice. The BRICS could, however, offer swifter and better cooperation needed in a fast-changing and beleaguered world. Now representing around one half of the global population and some one third of global GDP, it could leverage such cooperation to help strengthen the international system by turning words into action in support of global development and peace. In its commitment to acting across global platforms to that end, Türkiye would continue to stand by multilateralism – not isolation and division. Lastly, the statement of the delegate from Cyprus was incompatible with the discussion and consequently unacceptable.

**Mr. O. Zhmerenetskyi** (Ukraine) said that the goal of fostering growth in developing countries was admirable but the diversity of the BRICS members made for differing priorities, with the Russian Federation attempting to exploit the BRICS community for its own destructive geopolitical game. The Russian aim was to impede global development and stability, spread polarization and conflicts, disrupt the world order, and finance fake news, terrorist organizations and populist groups.

The Russian aggression against Ukraine had elevated global food and fuel prices, weakening the BRICS, sullyng its reputation, undermining its agenda and preventing it from reaching its full potential. In its current form, the UN Security Council was indeed incapable of addressing the world's most urgent crisis, a situation largely attributable to the illegal Russian occupation of the seat of all former Soviet republics and to the Russian Federation's use of the veto power to its own ends while other BRICS members were denied a voice. Ukraine was eager to continue working to mitigate the negative Russian impact on the BRICS and promote the group's shared values.

**Mr. S.S. Hosseini** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the continuing efforts of the BRICS to expand the scope of its global activities and reform global governance on the basis of democratic principles had sparked his country's interest in joining its membership. Given its cumbersome institutional bureaucratic processes and the influence wielded by some over its decision-making, the United Nations was no longer effectively discharging its mandate to support democratic global governance. It had failed to resolve regional and international disputes, end wars or address the unilateralism embodied in the illegal use of coercive measures, the selective imposition of trade barriers and extortion in international relations.

The BRICS sought to reform the political and economic world order in response to undemocratic governance and the domineering interference of certain countries in the global economy. The United States economic sanctions against countries such as his and the use of the United States dollar to exert pressure had been driving factors behind the BRICS efforts to build a new and fairer financial and monetary system employing national currencies and trade exchanges.

**Mr. S. Rachkov** (Belarus) said that, in January 2025, his country had acquired BRICS partner status, viewing the BRICS as a reputable international platform for shaping multipolarity, equality and inclusivity in international relations, for finding effective ways of tackling global problems and establishing a fairer world order. Possessing the potential economic clout to end the domination of the collective will, the BRICS could change the traditional balance of global power in the interest of developing economies. In July 2024, at the 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum, the Belarusian delegation had proposed the organization of a BRICS+ parliamentary summit on security and highlighted the need to strengthen the parliamentary dimension of the BRICS as well as to create conditions conducive to multilateral integration.

**Ms. E. Salkičević-Dizdarević** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that the six Western Balkan countries were more open to European Union (EU) membership but would be interested in further insights as to how the BRICS would contribute to their development. Those six countries saw the BRICS as more of a political than economic movement and were conscious of sometimes being sidelined by Western countries, in particular the EU Member States and the United States. That would likely change in future with the increasing Russian and Chinese influence in her region, which was no bad thing per se but still not a good mix, depending on which Western Balkan politicians were involved.

**A delegate from Egypt** said that the BRICS faced significant challenges but that, if properly leveraged, the available opportunities and potential would make it an influential force in shaping the global order through its focus on the maintenance of international peace and security, and the promotion of global development and prosperity. To that end, the BRICS, the United Nations and the G20 should enhance their cooperation and continue to support the ongoing reform of the international monetary and trading system, and improve the international trade and investment environment.

Egypt firmly believed that the shortcomings of the present international system extended beyond political and security issues to include economic and development matters. Through innovative mechanisms for sustainable debt management, Egypt was providing concessional development financing for developing countries. Reform of the global financial architecture, including international financial institutions and multilateral development banks, was essential, as was the need to leverage the comparative advantages enjoyed by the G20 countries in implementing joint projects to facilitate financial settlement in local currencies. Communication and cultural cooperation among the G20 countries should also be deepened alongside cooperation with the BRICS New Development Bank.

**Ms. S.M.N. Mokoena** (South Africa) said that that the G20 and BRICS+ represented the modern reality and were a formidable force in addressing the world's myriad challenges. The slow implementation of the SDGs underscored the pressing need for collaborative and impactful action,

with the BRICS New Development Bank providing an additional financial support pillar for the United Nations. In light of the BRICS-generated shift towards a more balanced world and regional power-sharing, the United Nations should consider the establishment of joint working groups comprising representatives of the three organizations to focus on collaborative initiatives in specific areas of mutual interest. It could also explore coordinated funding mechanisms for achieving common goals relating to, among others, support for Just Energy Transition Partnerships, the financing of sustainable development projects, and the promotion of inclusive growth through leveraging G20 and BRICS+ resources in line with UN priorities.

The engagement of national parliaments in UN, G20 and BRICS events could ensure accountability, facilitate knowledge-sharing, build relationships and foster a better understanding of shared priorities and challenges. All the measures outlined would promote a more interconnected and harmonized approach to addressing global challenges.

**Mr. H. Fadlulloh** (Indonesia) said that the BRICS could strengthen multilateralism by advocating global governance reforms, fostering economic cooperation, and promoting a more equitable and just international order representing the interests of emerging and developing economies. The BRICS provided market diversification and huge opportunities for strategic partnerships of its members, including in agriculture, technology and manufacturing. Such collaboration would promote technology transfer and innovation, thereby boosting the competitiveness of national products.

**Ms. S. Unnopporn** (Thailand) said that the BRICS played a growing role in shaping a more inclusive international system that differed significantly from the G20 in terms of its structure and relationship with the United Nations. A more cohesive bloc with its own formal institutions to support development in emerging economies, the BRICS operated by consensus, which allowed developing countries to participate in setting the direction of global development. As a new BRICS partner country, Thailand saw the BRICS as a key player in increasing Global South representation within the United Nations, creating a more balanced financial system and pushing for vital reform of global financial governance. The BRICS could also strengthen diplomacy, amplify Global South voices in addressing global challenges, and complement the UN role in conflict resolution, including in the deeply worrying Middle East situation. In the multipolar world, the BRICS was emerging as a strategic force for political and financial change towards a balance of interests among nations.

**Mr. Wang Hong** (China), underlining the unwavering Chinese support for UN activities and reform efforts, said that the BRICS cooperation mechanism was now the pivotal constructive force driving global economic growth, improving global governance and addressing global changes. The enduring vitality of that mechanism stemmed from the BRICS commitment to openness and inclusiveness as a guiding ethos in the pursuit of equity and justice. The BRICS represented a stabilizing and progressive means of global betterment that stood in stark contrast to the exclusionary and competitive mindset of the Cold War era. Its fundamental diversity distinctly identified it as a group dedicated to positive global transformation rather than zero-sum power games. China would continue its close cooperation with fellow BRICS members.

**Ms. L. Nyelele** (Zimbabwe) said that the BRICS advocacy for a more balanced multipolar world directly challenged the historical dominance of Western powers. Initiatives such as the New Development Bank exemplified the BRICS commitment to providing alternatives to global financial institutions often criticized for perpetuating inequalities and to supporting SDG achievement. As well as Security Council reform, the BRICS sought to foster economic equality and environmental sustainability. Its collective strength reinforced efforts to address pressing global issues while the significant contribution of its members to UN peacekeeping missions underscored their dedication to the pursuit of global stability and conflict resolution. Zimbabwe was alive to the potential benefits were it to join the BRICS membership.

**Mr. K. Kosachev** (Russian Federation), stressing that he would remain on topic rather than respond to the Ukrainian statement, said that he saw the BRICS not as an alternative, a complement or a challenge to the existing world order but as a very good substitute for the G7, the EU and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Those entities had invented the so-called rules-based order, which was not provided for in international law or in the Charter of the United Nations and was about unilateralism. The BRICS members invented no new rules and forced no decisions on anyone. It was therefore an excellent initiative, and was fully open to cooperation with countries that favoured international law and the United Nations over a rules-based order.

**Mr. B. Albinmohamed** (Bahrain) said that international institutions such as the BRICS, the G20 and the UN Security Council had all been established on the basis of multilateralism in a globalized open world that no longer existed, which raised questions as to their role. While possibly offering a beacon of hope, the BRICS would need to expand its mandate if it were genuinely to complement the United Nations and help to create a better world. Currently, it was simply an institution for dialogue with no enforcement mechanism for realizing its thoughtful ideas about improving the world.

**A delegate from Italy** asked whether, in addition to economic issues, the BRICS agenda covered such matters as democracy and the rule of law.

**Mr. O. Malginov** (Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Uzbekistan), special guest, thanking all participants for their contributions and for their clear interest in the BRICS, said that the group was not specifically intended as an alternative to the United Nations but the sense from the discussion was one of dissatisfaction with the way in which the latter and other institutions handled challenges. Aimed at shaping a fairer world order, the BRICS was a platform for countries wishing to foster fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, without interference in the internal affairs of States. The BRICS members were also UN Member States, which enabled the group to work in synergy with the United Nations. As to its agenda, it essentially covered the three pillars mentioned earlier, but no subject was taboo.

**Mr. C. Cajado Sampaio** (Brazil), guest speaker, said that, in addition to its political activity, the BRICS had established technical bodies tasked with exchanging information on, among others, energy, health and culture. Brazil was a champion of democracy, international law and multilateralism as well as a proponent of financial and institutional reform. With an expanded, more legitimate and more representative Security Council, the United Nations would be equipped to fulfil its mandate and regulate international relations on the basis of democracy, equality, international law and justice.

**The Chair** thanked the special guests and participants for their insightful interventions.

#### **Special presentation on UNRWA**

**Ms. M. Lorenzo** (Director, UNRWA Representative Office for Europe), giving a special presentation on UNRWA, said that the Pact for the Future adopted in 2024 had reaffirmed the trust in multilateralism and the United Nations, yet UN Security Council resolutions calling for the protection of civilian aid workers and the safe delivery of humanitarian aid were being completely disregarded. UNRWA had been established in 1949 by UN General Assembly resolution 302 (IV) to save lives but, along with other UN organizations, it was now a war target. Thanks to Israeli legislation and funding uncertainty, its mandate was also being challenged. After 18 months of war, those in Gaza remained trapped in a cycle of violence and deprivation, unable to find safety, and some 60 hostages remained in captivity. Albeit that access to humanitarian aid was non-negotiable, no aid was getting in, which had a devastating impact. UNRWA had 10,000 employees in Gaza doing the real work of the United Nations but could not continue unless the crossings were reopened and law and order restored.

Protection of civilian aid workers was also non-negotiable but, two weeks earlier, 15 of her colleagues had been killed in an extremely serious incident that was unfortunately not isolated. Three hundred other UN staff had been killed in the Gazan war and two thirds of UN installations hit. While safeguarding the multilateral system was similarly non-negotiable, Israeli legislation banned UNRWA from operating in what it called the sovereign State of Israel at a time when increased aid was needed. UNRWA nonetheless continued to deliver services, including child education, failing which a dangerous vacuum would be created in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, threatening regional stability.

Without UNRWA or a functioning Palestinian institution, Israel, as an occupying power, would be required to provide assistance and services in that territory. The choices for the international community mirrored those of 75 years earlier: peace and security or letting Palestinians die; a rules-based system or wars without limits; and allowing UNRWA progressively to conclude its mandate or abruptly end its existence, further destabilizing the region.

**Ms. H. Al-Sulaiti** (Qatar), describing the tragic killing and displacement in Gaza as wholly unacceptable, said that parliamentarians must call on the entire international community to support UNRWA's work and defend the human rights of the people in Gaza who were being denied access to the most basic essentials for survival. With over 50,000 already dead, mostly women, children and the elderly, those people were facing a genocide that no right-minded person would ever endorse. Israel nonetheless continued its actions in disregard of numerous UN and other resolutions.

**A delegate from Bahrain**, thanking Ms. Lorenzo and her brave colleagues for their tremendous work in the face of enormous challenges and pressures, said that they should be encouraged to continue their efforts and make the world a better place.

**Mr. S.S. Hosseini** (Islamic Republic of Iran), also thanking Ms. Lorenzo and commending UNRWA on its support for the Palestinian people, said that her excellent presentation showed the reality of the situation in Palestine.

**Ms. M. Lorenzo** (Director, UNRWA Representative Office for Europe), noting the relevance of humanitarian diplomacy in that situation, said that she was grateful for the support, solidarity and understanding expressed. Humanitarian aid was non-negotiable and to kill humanitarian workers and equate them with terrorists was unacceptable. UNRWA, whose mandate was due for renewal in November 2025, needed both political and financial support. Indeed, it was reliant on voluntary contributions to continue its work. Its ultimate hope, however, was to become finally redundant with the advent of a just and lasting political solution in the Middle East.

**The Chair**, thanking Ms. Lorenzo for her informative presentation, said that UNRWA's defence of human rights and of those who were suffering was indeed truly commendable.

#### **Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee**

**Ms. P. Torsney** (Head of the Office of the Permanent Observer of the IPU to the United Nations) said that the candidates nominated to fill the vacancies on the Bureau of the Standing Committee were: for the African Group, Ms. F.M.P. Konseibo Tiendrebeogo (Burkina Faso); for the Arab Group, Mr. A.B.I. Al-Malki (Qatar); for the Asia-Pacific Group, Mr. B. Suwondo (Indonesia) and Mr. S.S. Hosseini (Islamic Republic of Iran); and for the Twelve Plus Group, Ms. S. Atallahjan (Canada), Ms. E. Winkelmeier-Becker (Germany) and Mr. O. Zhmerenetskyi (Ukraine).

She took it that the Standing Committee wished to agree to the election of those candidates.

*It was so decided.*

*The sitting rose at 10:55.*

# Forum of Women Parliamentarians

## SITTING OF SATURDAY, 5 APRIL 2025

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 10:00 with Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, in the Chair.*

### Opening ceremony

*As recommended by the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Ms. T. Narbaeva, Chairperson of the Senate of Uzbekistan, was, by acclamation, elected President of the 39th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.*

*Ms. T. Narbaeva (Uzbekistan), President of the 39th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, took the Chair.*

**The President**, highlighting the global importance of the Forum, said that gender equality and women's rights were a priority for Uzbekistan both at the State policy and constitutional level. Several strategic documents and institutional mechanisms had been introduced, including to promote the socioeconomic empowerment of women. She pointed out that over half of university students in Uzbekistan were women and that the number of businesswomen in the country had doubled in recent years with plans underway to further develop women's entrepreneurship. In addition, the percentage of women in the Uzbek Parliament was as high as 38% – the highest in the Asian region.

Emphasizing the need to intensify global efforts on gender equality and women's rights, she highlighted Uzbekistan's contribution both internationally and within the region, particularly in promoting women's participation in parliament. The country had been a key proponent of the Women Leaders' Dialogue in Central Asia, a regional platform to address urgent issues affecting women, and encouraged other regional groups to adopt similar initiatives. To advance gender equality, it was important to assess progress against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) using specific indicators and respond accordingly with any necessary measures. Women parliamentarians should take the lead in efforts on gender equality.

**Dr. T. Ackson** (IPU President), congratulating the Forum on its 40th anniversary, said that the Forum had been a powerful catalyst for political, parliamentary and personal strategies that had opened doors for women, including women in leadership. While acknowledging that more progress was needed, she highlighted the Forum's contribution to increasing the global representation of women in parliaments from 11.5% to 27.2% over the past 30 years and in more than doubling the share of female Speakers worldwide. More women in decision-making roles meant better representation for citizens, making it important to aim high.

During the first IPU Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians held in Mexico in March 2025, participants had crafted a plan of action to support parliaments in advancing gender parity. The plan would be a game changer for all and must be implemented to ensure progress did not relapse. It was particularly important to work towards the shared goal of 50-50 gender representation in parliaments and to address violence against women in parliament – a political weapon used to deter women from entering the field.

The Forum had provided a safe space for women to speak out against gender-based violence and harassment while also defending human rights as a whole and campaigning against discrimination. Thanks to the work of the Forum, 104 countries had passed comprehensive domestic violence legislation, with those countries recording lower rates of such violence as a result. In addition, the Forum had consistently championed the role of women in peacebuilding and conflict prevention – efforts that must be further stepped up – and had promoted ongoing dialogue between men and women as the foundation for equality. She drew attention to the progress made in her own country, attributing the recent adoption of laws to protect women from electoral violence to the collaborative efforts of both men and women.

She thanked the Forum for 40 years of impactful work and urged parliamentarians to use IPU Assemblies as a platform for sharing ideas on gender equality and offering encouragement, especially to those facing challenges.

**Mr. M. Chungong** (IPU Secretary General) acknowledged the Forum's role in transforming the IPU into a champion of gender equality despite historical resistance. In the early days of the IPU, women's political rights had not been widely supported and progress had been slow. It had taken until 1921 for the first women to attend an IPU Assembly and until 1922 for a woman to speak at one. Furthermore, the first female member of the Executive Committee had been elected only in 1987 and it had not been until 1999 that the IPU had elected its first woman President.

The fight, however, had never died out and in 1985 a group of 22 women parliamentarians had laid the foundations for the Forum, which would grow into a powerful force for gender equality advocating for the presence and influence of women at all levels of the IPU. At the Forum's initiative, mixed delegations had become compulsory in 2003, with sanctions in place for non-compliance, resulting in a rise in women's representation at IPU Assemblies from 7% in 1985 to 37% in 2025. The Forum had also been instrumental in mainstreaming gender equality throughout IPU outcomes, including key resolutions, policies and strategies. In particular, it had been a key contributor to the policy to prevent and address harassment, including sexual harassment, at IPU Assemblies and other IPU events as well as to the ground-breaking 2016 IPU resolution entitled *The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective* – the first international resolution to set gender parity in politics as a goal and to address violence against women in politics with concrete recommendations for parliaments. Additionally, the Forum had positioned the IPU as a global example, inspiring other organizations to follow its lead in adopting measures such as quotas for women in delegations. The concept of "gender sensitive parliaments", which called upon parliaments to transform fundamentally from within, had also been developed under the impetus of the Forum. He noted the importance of international partnerships, including with UN Women, in the Forum's work, urging parliamentarians to build on the progress and unite in response to resistance.

**Ms. C. López Castro** (Mexico), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, expressed her pride and gratitude for the opportunity to host the first IPU Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians in her home country of Mexico in March 2025. It was a monumental achievement that would be remembered for generations to come. She thanked those who had made the effort to attend despite budget constraints and was encouraged by the participation of 37 male members of parliament. There was a need for even greater participation from men, without whom gender equality would not be possible.

The year 2025 was a particularly important year, as it marked the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. A great deal of progress had been made over the past 30 years with eight parliaments achieving gender parity and women's representation in parliament increasing to over 27% worldwide. Women, who made up half the population, should rightfully hold half the seats in parliament – not as a favour but as a matter of representation.

She commended the IPU for its continued efforts, including the launch of the "Women in Politics: 2025" map and a new study on sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in the Asia-Pacific region. Until 2022, some parliaments had never had any women members at all, which underscored the importance of continued advocacy. Parliamentarians were encouraged to keep speaking out, organizing conferences and fighting for parity. The 40th anniversary should not just be a celebration of past achievements but a powerful reminder of the work ahead.

**Ms. Z. Hilal** (Secretary of the Forum), providing a brief overview of the history of the Forum, said that the Forum had been established in 1985 in Lomé, Togo, by 22 pioneering women parliamentarians who had come together to amplify women's voices, advance gender equality and increase women's participation in the IPU and beyond.

The cause of gender equality had faced significant resistance at the IPU in its early days, including from one of the Organization's co-founders, Sir William Randal Cremer, who had been firmly opposed to women's suffrage. Nonetheless, progress had gradually unfolded, with the first two women participating in an IPU conference in 1921, and the first woman taking the floor to speak in 1922. Other significant milestones included adherence to the principle of equal civil and political rights in 1958, the publication of the first IPU report on the role of parliaments in achieving gender equality in 1975 followed by a resolution on the same topic, and the adoption of a plan of action to correct present imbalances in the participation of men and women in political life in 1994. Those had all been milestones that had come before the Beijing Declaration.

The first meeting of women parliamentarians had taken place informally, over tea, and had gradually evolved into a structured body. In 1985, the first session had been held, offering interpretation services and a formal agenda, and in 1999, the Forum had become an official IPU body

incorporated into the Statutes and Rules. It had since served as a global platform for solidarity where women were able to share experiences, advice and strategies, and make decisions on gender equality. Through its work, the Forum had facilitated gender mainstreaming both within the IPU and in national parliaments and had become a structure for monitoring progress towards women's representation in parliament.

She drew attention to the wide range of issues tackled by the Forum over the years – from political participation and gender-based violence to women in media, labour and economic development – and praised the body for being a courageous, visionary and transformative space for advancing women's rights. She thanked all those who had contributed to the Forum's journey, including the IPU Secretariat staff, and expressed hope for continued transformation and reform in the decades ahead.

*A video on the history of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was announced at that time but had to be played a few minutes later for technical reasons.*

### **Adoption of the agenda** (FEM/39/A.1-rev)

*The agenda was adopted.*

### **Recent activities to advance gender equality**

**Ms. V. Riotton** (France), briefing the Forum on the work of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians at the sessions held in Geneva on 13 October 2024 and in Tashkent on 5 April 2025, welcomed the IPU's gender campaign for 2025 *Achieving gender equality, action by action* and its ongoing work to combat violence against women – including the recent publication of a study on sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in the Asia-Pacific region, which followed two previous studies conducted in Europe (2018) and Africa (2021).

The said study had found that 76% of the women parliamentarians surveyed had experienced psychological violence and 25% had been sexually harassed during their term. Online gender-based violence was notably higher in the Asia-Pacific region than in others, with 60% of participants reporting experiences of hate speech, disinformation, image-based abuse or the unauthorized disclosure of personal data. Women under 40, women from minority groups and unmarried women were found to be at a higher risk. More than half of sexual harassment cases had occurred on parliamentary premises, often perpetrated by male colleagues, while members of the public were responsible for 85% of online abuse, 59% of threats and 45% of cases of psychological harassment.

She expressed serious concern over the findings of the study, noting their impact not only on the personal well-being and safety of women parliamentarians but also on the health of democracy itself. While some parliaments had taken important steps, such as establishing confidential reporting and complaint-handling mechanisms, more action was needed. To that end, the Bureau would pilot a new online safety training programme for women in politics, which would equip participants with tools and knowledge to protect themselves online. The aim was to eventually make the training widely available.

*A video on the history of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was played.*

**Ms. S. Mikayilova** (Azerbaijan), speaking in her capacity as member of the Gender Partnership Group, said that the Group, composed of two men and two women from the IPU Executive Committee, had met the previous day. As of that day, women made up 37.3% of delegates expected at the Tashkent Assembly – an improvement over recent assemblies but still below the record 39% seen in Nusa Dua (2022) and Madrid (2021). Only 7 of the 121 announced delegations of two or more delegates were all-male, which was a record-low, while 3 were all-female, and 36% of delegations were gender-balanced with at least 40% representation from each gender. The ultimate goal remained full gender parity and zero single-gender delegations.

The Group welcomed the amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules proposed by the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians to advance gender parity that were expected to be adopted in Tashkent. Other amendments were still due to be considered. Acknowledging progress in implementing the policy to prevent and address harassment, including sexual harassment, at IPU Assemblies and other IPU events, she welcomed, in particular, efforts to raise awareness of the policy and noted that anti-harassment training would be introduced at the 151st IPU Assembly in Geneva in October 2025. It was recommended that future agreements with countries hosting IPU meetings should include a commitment to upholding the anti-harassment policy.

The Group had also reviewed global data on women's representation in parliaments, especially for countries where women made up less than 10% of parliamentarians, and would continue engaging with those delegations to support their progress. She stressed that inclusiveness was a pillar of democracy, which called for parity in numbers and a parity culture.

### **Contribution to the work of the 150th Assembly from a gender perspective**

**Ms. C. López Castro** (Mexico), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, said that the Assembly would be considering two draft resolutions: one entitled *The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine*, put forward by the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, and another entitled *Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development*, put forward by the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development. As decided by the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, participants would divide into two groups to examine the resolutions from a gender perspective and propose amendments to make them more inclusive and responsive to women's needs. The Bureau had nominated Ms. Reynolds (Australia) and Ms. Techateerawat (Thailand) to act as Chair and Rapporteur respectively for the discussion on the first resolution, and Ms. Mashaba (Eswatini) and Ms. Kitwa Godalena (Democratic Republic of the Congo) to act as Chair and Rapporteur respectively for the discussion on the second.

*The nominations were approved.*

**Ms. T. Vardanyan** (Armenia), co-Rapporteur of the resolution entitled *The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine*, said that the text of the said resolution was the product of extensive collaboration between six co-Rapporteurs from Algeria, Armenia, Ireland, Lesotho, Mexico and New Zealand, with input from Member Parliaments. The text was substantive, practical and deeply sensitive to the human cost of the long-standing conflict in Palestine.

The preamble of the resolution provided important context, reaffirming global principles and highlighting the escalating humanitarian crisis in Gaza, particularly its disproportionate impact on women, children and persons with disabilities. It called attention to the devastating human toll and the illegal occupation and settlement activities, condemning violence against civilians and the use of starvation as a weapon of war, which were serious breaches of international humanitarian and human rights law. The resolution also proposed concrete actions, including an immediate ceasefire, unimpeded humanitarian access, greater parliamentary oversight of foreign policy, recognition of both Israeli and Palestinian statehood, support for democratic governance and inclusive peace processes, and the adoption of gender-responsive legislation. Acknowledging that women and girls bore a disproportionate burden in conflicts, the resolution also emphasized the need to implement the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (WPSA) to ensure that women were not only protected but also empowered as peacebuilders.

Parliamentarians were encouraged to lead not only through legislation but with empathy, courage and vision, ensuring that women's voices were central to peacebuilding efforts in the region and globally.

*The Forum split into two working groups.*

*The sitting was adjourned at 12:50 and resumed at 14:00 with Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, in the Chair.*

### **Keynote speeches**

**Ms. G. Khashimovna Rakhimova** (Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance, Uzbekistan), keynote speaker, said that gender equality was of paramount importance for the Government of Uzbekistan. Women in Uzbekistan had broad access to education, including opportunities to develop modern skills in fields such as technology and innovation, and were eligible for zero-interest concessional loans to support their studies. There was also a programme aiming to train one million software developers, with women accounting for 50% of participants. Moreover, a robust social protection system had been established, which had provided 20,000 subsidies to 11,000 beneficiaries in 2024, 59% of whom were women. In 2025, the number of subsidies was expected to increase to 30,000, with 11,000 specifically allocated to women. A decree had also been issued to improve access to housing.

Uzbekistan was establishing a system to promote the continuous engagement of women in economic life and to support their entrepreneurship. It had begun distributing business loans to women, with a total of US\$ 156 million in credit lines having been allocated in 2024 and plans in place to distribute an additional 70,000 loans in 2025. Women were receiving support in developing business plans and carrying out marketing campaigns while also being encouraged to submit climate-related business proposals under the country's green economy initiative. In addition, the Government was currently developing a programme to collect disaggregated data on male and female participation in different economic sectors alongside gender equality indicators. Funds were also available for other types of projects incorporating a gender equality component.

Uzbekistan had made progress in promoting gender equality, ranking 56th in the Gender Data Compass 2023 report, which assessed the availability and transparency of gender-related data across different countries. However, some gaps remained, particularly in advancing digitalization among women and in ensuring sufficient budgets.

**Ms. R. Eshovna Turdiboeva** (Deputy Minister of Employment and Poverty Reduction, Uzbekistan), keynote speaker, said that although traditional stereotypes about women's equal participation in daily life persisted, Uzbekistan had made significant progress in recent years, including by promoting women's entrepreneurship and employment. With a population of around 37 million, of which approximately 49% were women, the Government viewed women's participation in the economy as a strategic priority. Recent amendments to the Constitution and Labour Code had improved women's rights, including their right to decent work, leading to better international rankings in global gender-related indices. Efforts to support women included the appointment of female deputy governors across all regions. Those governors were responsible for women's issues, including for the creation of targeted programmes to help unemployed women find jobs or receive professional training. Special education centres had also been established where over 450,000 unemployed women and girls were receiving training in areas such as design, digital marketing, mobile application development and videography, with the help of government vouchers and subsidies. To combat unemployment in rural areas, over 100,000 hectares of land had been allocated to women for agricultural production.

The Government also supported home-based work, recognizing its convenience and flexibility for women. Over the past three years, the number of home-based enterprises in Uzbekistan had grown from 3,300 to 13,000, employing 188,000 people. A special fund created in 2023 had provided US\$ 23 million to further reduce unemployment, with part of it supporting home-based work and traditional crafts such as beekeeping, pottery and embroidery. As a result, products made by women were now recognized as artworks and were attracting interest from international tourists. Women were also learning other skills such as foreign languages to further improve their competitiveness.

The Government would continue providing employment and entrepreneurship opportunities to women. It was clear that women in Uzbekistan were no longer seen solely as daughters, wives or mothers but as a powerful force driving new achievements.

### **Panel discussion *Women shaping politics – Women's global networking***

**The Chair** said that the discussion entitled *Women shaping politics – Women's global networking* would be divided into three segments: (1) celebrating 40 years of the Forum's impact on women's political leadership; (2) learning from the achievements and impact of global and regional networks of women parliamentarians; and (3) working together to navigate today's changing global landscape.

She opened the first segment entitled "Let's celebrate! 40 years of action, 40 years of impact", which would highlight how the Forum had influenced political participation, legislative progress and gender equality advocacy over the decades.

**Ms. H.R. Fayez** (Bahrain), panellist, representing the Arab Group, said that the Forum was a vital global platform for promoting the role of women in politics globally. Not only did it help in advancing gender equality in governance but also in empowering women to assume leadership roles. In that regard, the Forum had been a consistent advocate for greater representation of women in parliaments and inclusive political participation.

Through its annual surveys, the Forum had provided data on women parliamentarians across the world, inspiring Arab countries to strive for greater representation. It also served as an indispensable space to exchange ideas, address pressing issues and learn from the experiences of peers. The insight gained from Assemblies, including from the sharing of best practices, had equipped Arab parliamentarians with the tools to strengthen democratic institutions and advance women's rights

in their own countries. The Forum's online and in-person meetings were both equally crucial, providing capacity-building opportunities in areas such as legislative drafting, political strategy, gender-sensitive policymaking and leadership skills. Such meetings equipped Arab women leaders with practical toolkits, expert guidance and evidence-based resources, which enabled them to become more effective lawmakers and advocates for gender equality.

Her personal involvement in the Forum had allowed her to participate in high-level discussions, contribute to policy recommendations and collaborate with women leaders from different regions. That experience had deepened her understanding of key issues and allowed her to bring back innovative ideas to her national parliament. The Forum had also improved her debating and critical thinking skills, particularly in the area of women's rights, making her a more effective parliamentarian. Lastly, she acknowledged that the Forum's initiatives, such as the promotion of quotas, had contributed to the growing number of women parliamentarians elected or appointed to office in the Arab region.

**Ms. A. Vidot** (Seychelles), panellist, representing the Asia-Pacific Group, said that the Forum had helped strengthen her oral communication skills and boosted her confidence to speak more openly within the IPU and at other parliamentary platforms. Through the Forum, she had expanded her network and broadened the reach of her advocacy work, thus enabling her to engage more women and girls in politics.

**Ms. F. Öncü** (Türkiye), panellist, representing the Twelve Plus Group, said that the Forum had helped to strengthen the position of women and girls in society, providing a space for parliamentarians to share experiences and work together on women's rights. Promoting diversity and inclusion in such ways increased public trust and led to more responsive policies that benefitted entire societies. She called on male colleagues to participate in advancing gender equality, expressing hope that through joint efforts, a more just and equal world could be built. Türkiye was proud to have introduced a mobile application aimed at providing emergency support in cases of violence against women.

**Ms. R. Alyahya** (Saudi Arabia) said that women in her country had witnessed a significant transformation in terms of rights and empowerment across all aspects of life, from the home and workplace to how they were perceived globally. They were now present in every sector, including the government, private and non-profit sectors, and their perspectives were proving crucial in shaping better decisions and outcomes. With progress, however, came a responsibility to share experiences, challenges and successes with other women, particularly those less privileged or aspiring to lead, both regionally and globally. The Forum had helped her, and others, realize that women, no matter where they were in life, faced similar struggles and that setbacks were not individual failures but shared experiences. Solidarity and mutual support among women, for instance, through networking and the exchange of best practices, were therefore vital. It was also important to involve men in the fight for women's rights as the success of one gender contributed to the success of the other.

**Ms. Li Yuping** (China) said that women, as creators of civilization and drivers of social progress, were key to the development of healthy societies. China prioritized women's participation in governance and decision-making, with legal provisions in place ensuring adequate representation of women in the National People's Congress and Local People's Congresses. Currently, a record number of women (790) were members of the National People's Congress. Furthermore, over 100 laws and regulations had been enacted to protect women's rights, which included laws promoting women leaders, especially from ethnic minorities, and requiring government institutions, businesses and associations to ensure gender equality among their staff. There were also training programmes in place to enhance the capacities of women in politics, including specific programmes for newly elected female leaders at the community level as well as awareness-raising campaigns mobilizing women to actively participate in politics.

**Ms. K. Slassi** (Morocco) said that women had consistently excelled in fields such as science, creativity and education but that success was not mirrored in politics. She questioned whether there were obstacles unique to politics that women could not overcome. Although many laws had been enacted to guarantee gender equality, including the right to run for office, they often proved ineffective, as deeply rooted patriarchal attitudes persisted across cultures and religions, leaving political power largely monopolized by men. True democracy must be championed for women to have a real presence in politics.

**Ms. S. Atallahjan** (Canada) said that events such as the recent IPU-UN Women parliamentary meeting entitled *Parliaments and Beijing +30: Resisting backlash and shifting paradigms towards gender equality*, the first IPU Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians and the sessions of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians themselves provided invaluable opportunities for women parliamentarians to share experiences, inspire and support one another in narrowing the gender gap in parliaments, and to promote broader gender equality. In her role as co-Rapporteur for the IPU resolution entitled *Access to health as a basic right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children* adopted in 2012, she had drawn on existing networks to build consensus which had resulted in contentious issues being resolved without resorting to a vote. It had shown that continued collaboration was key in the face of global uncertainty. Through global and regional networks and regular meetings, women parliamentarians could gain strength and inspire future generations.

**Ms. M.M. Chinomona** (Zimbabwe) said that the Forum had had a profound impact on the rights and empowerment of women and girls, including in Zimbabwe. It had provided a platform for women leaders from diverse backgrounds to exchange ideas, build solidarity and advocate for systemic change, which had had a global ripple effect, influencing both parliamentary practices and societal norms. She praised the Forum's efforts to increase women's representation in parliaments worldwide through gender quotas, capacity-building programmes and mentorship initiatives, noting that countries embracing those initiatives had become beacons of progress. Another notable achievement of the Forum had been its role in creating pathways for women's participation and leadership, particularly in decision-making roles, thereby breaking barriers in that area. Overall, the Forum stood as a symbol of hope, action and progress.

The Parliament of Zimbabwe had made significant strides in increasing women's representation, driven by a commitment to the principles of the Forum and a dedication to implementing gender quotas through its Constitution. Women now made up approximately 35% of the Zimbabwean Parliament.

**Ms. M. Alshehhi** (United Arab Emirates) noting that women's empowerment, particularly in politics, was essential to building strong and inclusive societies, said that the United Arab Emirates had achieved 50% women's representation in the Federal National Council. Emirati women served as ministers, ambassadors and parliamentary leaders actively shaping domestic and foreign policy. She called on parliamentarians to invest in systems, mentorship and policies that supported women's participation in politics.

**The Chair**, moving on to the second segment of the discussion entitled "Let's learn from each other! Achievements and impact of global and regional networks of women parliamentarians", said that the Forum would now hear from representatives of global and regional women's parliamentary networks who would share their achievements and upcoming priorities.

**Ms. D. Kirkpatrick** (New Zealand), representative of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP), panellist, explained that the CWP was a network of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) representing over 6,000 women parliamentarians across 180 Commonwealth countries from both national and subnational parliaments. Its mission was to promote women's representation and full, equal participation in political and parliamentary leadership at all levels, recognizing this as a basic human right vital for sustainable development.

The CWP offered gender-sensitive parliamentary audits to help parliaments assess and improve their structures, operations and work environments to better support women's participation; it was currently assisting a Pacific region parliament with a gender audit. She highlighted the importance of peer learning, exchange of best practices and collaboration with international organizations to advance gender equality as they encouraged innovation and parliamentary capacity.

The CWP would soon be hosting a workshop in collaboration with the Parliament of the Bahamas focused on women's economic empowerment, offering parliamentarians the chance to learn from experts and identify actionable policy options. Additionally, its annual conference would be held in October 2025 in the margins of the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Barbados, where parliamentarians and global experts would gather to discuss key issues such as violence against women parliamentarians and the gendered impacts of artificial intelligence (AI). The conference would also unveil the CWP's 2026 workplan which would prioritize activities to gender-sensitize parliaments.

The CWP was committed to building on the work done in collaboration with the IPU and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to address sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in the Asia-Pacific region.

**Ms. S. Kheng** (Cambodia), representative of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF), panellist, said that the Network, established in 2002, aimed to strengthen the role of women within the APF and its Member Parliaments by encouraging solidarity and exchange of experiences. The Network met twice a year and regularly organized seminars and workshops to promote women's rights and leadership and thereby build capacities. Noting that women made up only 27.2% of parliamentarians worldwide, the Network was taking steps to strengthen the presence of women in parliaments. In response to the widespread harassment of women parliamentarians, it had adopted a policy to prevent sexual and psychological harassment at APF meetings, which had since led to similar policies being adopted in APF Member Parliaments. Additionally, the Network was drafting a report to deepen understanding of key issues affecting women, such as their security in conflict zones and their property rights, while also developing a tool on gender-sensitive budgeting in public policies. She emphasized the importance of maintaining strong connections with other networks of women parliamentarians regionally and globally, reaffirming the power of solidarity in driving societal change towards a fairer and more equal world.

**Ms. L. Gumerova** (Russian Federation), representative of the Council of the Eurasian Women's Forum, panellist, said that the Eurasian Women's Forum had shown that artificial barriers could not stand in the way of fruitful cooperation between women. The Fourth Eurasian Women's Forum, held recently, had been attended by representatives from 126 countries and over 20 international organizations who had gathered to discuss contemporary challenges, such as humanitarian cooperation, which could only be overcome by working together. She also highlighted the recent establishment of a presidential council on demographic and family policy in the Russian Federation, which would help create conditions that allowed women to balance both motherhood and professional success. Overall, women had an important role to play in promoting traditional and humanitarian values.

**Ms. S.C. Anding** (Malaysia), representative of the Women of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (WAIPA), panellist, said that, since its establishment in 1998, WAIPA had played a leading role in advancing gender equality and ensuring women's perspectives were integrated into decision-making processes. Over the years, it had adopted more than 70 resolutions addressing a broad spectrum of women's issues, with women's political participation consistently among the top three priorities alongside gender-based violence and women's economic empowerment.

Women's representation in ASEAN parliaments had increased from 9.5% in 1998 to 21.6% in 2024, although the figure remained below the global average of 27.2% and the 30% minimal target for representation of women. In response, WAIPA had adopted the resolution on fostering gender-responsive parliaments for a resilient, connected, and inclusive ASEAN community in 2024. The resolution introduced the WAIPA Plan of Action and Implementation Framework (2024–2030) on promoting women's political participation and leadership which aimed to accelerate women's political participation through three main pillars: creating enabling environments and safe spaces for women in politics; empowering women leaders through capacity-building initiatives; and promoting gender-responsive parliaments and decision-making processes.

Under the leadership of Malaysia, which held the current presidency of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, the 4th Meeting of the WAIPA Coordinating Committee in April 2025 on the theme *Steering innovation, inclusivity and diversity through gender-balanced parliaments for a future-ready ASEAN* would serve as a platform for women parliamentarians across ASEAN to strengthen strategies, share best practices and reinforce commitments to inclusive, gender-balanced parliaments. Beyond resolutions and frameworks, WAIPA continued to serve as a dynamic platform for dialogue, collaboration and engagement with global partners. In addition to its regular Coordinating Committee and General Assembly meetings, WAIPA fostered engagement with external stakeholders, including observers, parliaments and development partners.

A unified and empowered network of women parliamentarians was key to transforming political environments into truly inclusive spaces, ensuring women's voices and leadership were not only recognized but fully integrated into decision-making at all levels.

**Ms. Y. Netesova** (Chief, Democratic Governance and Gender Unit, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)), panellist, said that ODIHR, while not a network of women parliamentarians itself, had collaborated, over the past two decades, with field offices and national parliaments in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro and Kosovo to build a regional platform for women parliamentarians in the Western Balkans. The platform aimed to support women beyond elections, recognizing that the real work began only once elected, and placed its focus on two areas in particular: (1) capacity-building tailored to meet the needs of women parliamentarians; and (2) cross-border collaboration to foster shared learning and collective action on gender-responsive policies.

Three key achievements of the platform were highlighted. First, it had helped to institutionalize women's caucuses and gender equality committees within participating parliaments – bodies that had been key to advancing critical legislative reforms on issues such as domestic violence, gender quotas and parental leave. Second, it had promoted gender-sensitive parliaments through the implementation of audits, gender action plans and internal reforms. Third, it had fostered regional solidarity by facilitating cross-border cooperation.

Looking forward, it was important to engage male politicians as allies in gender equality – an approach reinforced by the launch of the ODIHR's new Sarajevo Tool. Equally vital was the need to strengthen gender-responsive governance and legislation ensuring the needs of men and women in all their diversity were well and truly met. She underlined the importance of women's networks in amplifying women's voices and driving meaningful change.

**Ms. S. Khasayeva** (Azerbaijan) said that gender equality was a fundamental human right and a key indicator of democratic societies, noting, in particular, the need for equal representation of women and men in parliaments. The full and effective participation of women in political life, however, remained largely unrealized despite its important role in promoting sustainable development and peace, unlocking human potential, inspiring women and challenging harmful stereotypes. To address the problem, it was vital to share best practices, learn from successful experiences and highlight inspirational stories. Regional and global networks of women parliamentarians were essential in that regard. Their collective influence would undoubtedly promote gender-sensitive policymaking, strengthen democratic institutions and ensure women's voices were included at the highest levels of political decision-making. Equipping parliamentarians with knowledge of international legal frameworks was key to effective gender mainstreaming.

**Ms. C.D. Cudjoe-Ghansah** (Ghana) said that her country was making significant progress on women's issues, having recently appointed its first female Vice-President and, thanks to the efforts of the women's caucus, passed an affirmative action law. The caucus was committed to ensuring the law's implementation across all ministries. Other key achievements included government approval of free sanitary pads for schoolgirls and funding for women's banking initiatives. Ghana was working diligently to ensure women's participation at all levels, including in local government and assemblies, and pledged continued advocacy and reporting on women's issues.

**Ms. S. Ghoury** (Pakistan) highlighted key achievements in promoting women's empowerment in her country. She noted significant female representation in both parliamentary houses and drew attention to initiatives such as the Benazir Income Support Programme which aimed to alleviate poverty, including among women. Legal reforms were also underway, including proposed amendments to the Protection of Women Act (2006) to more effectively address injustice against women. Pakistan had launched two mobile applications that provided women with access to police and medical support in the case of emergencies and allowed for real-time incident reporting. It was also the first Islamic country to have a female Prime Minister and now had its first female Chief Minister of Punjab.

**Ms. F. Mahamat Seid** (Chad) said that after the brutal killing of its President in April 2021, Chad had embarked on a constitutional transition underpinned by an inclusive national dialogue that laid the foundation for progress. The Transitional Military Council, established in October 2021, had functioned as a de facto parliament over the following three years playing a key role in adopting essential texts, such as a new constitution, an organic electoral law and governance reforms. It had been a historic period for Chad, during which six elections had been organized, including a constitutional referendum as well as presidential, legislative and local elections. The country had since established a bicameral parliament consisting of a National Assembly and Senate, with efforts having been made to make it

diverse, representative and inclusive. Women had played a significant role throughout the process, actively participating in debates and contributing to the drafting and review of legal texts. Gender quotas had also been introduced to encourage women's participation in elections.

**Ms. S. Rafiei** (Islamic Republic of Iran) highlighted her country's progress in advancing women's empowerment in areas such as education and health, and noted the appointment of a female power plant director. She proposed establishing a regional network of women parliamentarians with expertise in climate change, specifically for the Persian Gulf and Middle East regions, to foster collaboration and solutions on the issue.

**Ms. B. Myradova** (Turkmenistan) said that Turkmenistan had prioritized the establishment of permanent mechanisms for women's dialogue to advance the WPSA, with support from the UN Peacebuilding Commission, UN Women and other international and regional organizations. Such mechanisms were vital for enhancing women's empowerment and participation in political, socioeconomic, cultural and humanitarian life while also fostering positive cooperation and progress towards the SDGs.

Recognizing that women were essential for sustainable development, Turkmenistan had been actively implementing State policies to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women, in alignment with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and other international frameworks to which it had acceded. The country had passed national legislation on gender equality which was rooted in the country's Constitution and guided by international law.

**Ms. M.B. Mophuting** (Botswana) said that the 40th session of the Forum was not only a celebration of progress but also a call to action and an opportunity to reflect on the critical role of global partnerships and good governance in making women's leadership the norm rather than the exception. Women's leadership was not a privilege but a necessity driving more inclusive societies, effective governance and stronger economies. As an example, she cited Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the first democratically elected female President of Liberia, whose leadership had helped stabilize a war-torn nation, serving as a beacon of hope for women across Africa and the world.

Her own election and appointment to the role of Assistant Minister for State President was testament to the significant progress made in Botswana in promoting women to high-level leadership roles. Leadership should not be based on gender but on merit, dedication and service.

While it was critical for national governments to advance women's leadership, global partnerships were equally important. Through platforms such as the IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians, countries could share successes and implement effective policies that ensured sustainable gender equality globally.

**The Chair** introduced the final segment, *Let's connect and lead together!* where the Forum would explore how to further enhance dialogue, collaboration and collective action.

**Mr. M. Chungong** (IPU Secretary General), Chair of the Global Board of the International Gender Champions, panellist, shared how his upbringing, where boys and girls had been treated equally, had deeply shaped his commitment to gender equality today. He emphasized the importance of networking and collaboration, noting that much could be achieved when men and women in leadership united to advance gender equality.

Gender equality should not be framed as a battle of the sexes but as a shared responsibility – a principle at the heart of the International Gender Champions (IGC) network. It was vital to create environments that engaged more men. The way to do that was to dismantle patriarchal structures and promote empathy, inclusion and justice.

He highlighted the global reach of the IGC network, whose membership consisted of leaders from across all continents, and underscored its commitment to transforming organizations into advocates for gender equality. The IPU was a trailblazer in gender inclusivity, and he was always proud to cite examples of IPU measures at meetings of the IGC network, such as gender quotas and sanctions against single-sex delegations. Those measures had inspired other organizations to promote similar practices.

Calling for a shift from aspiration to action, he urged the development of a concrete road map on gender equality. He warned against complacency in the face of global pushback on women's rights and stressed the need to continue challenging inequality, for instance, by supporting existing initiatives and mentoring the next generation of gender champions, adding that silence always equated to complicity. His commitment to support the ongoing fight for gender equality, both as IPU Secretary General and as Chair of the Global Board of the IGC, remained steadfast.

**Ms. N. Lugangira** (United Republic of Tanzania), Women Political Leaders (WPL) Special Envoy for Africa, panellist, underscored the critical importance of solidarity, partnership and coordinated action in advancing women's political leadership, adding that progress was never achieved in isolation.

She proposed three key strategies to strengthen networks and expand their collective impact. First, partnerships between women's networks must be institutionalized, not only for the purposes of knowledge-sharing but also to enable more effective coordination of advocacy efforts and joint actions. She urged a shift from conversation to practical collaboration, where networks supported each other's initiatives and built bridges across regions, sectors and generations of women leaders. In that spirit, a formal partnership should be established between the IPU and WPL to facilitate cross-regional exchange of experiences, tools and strategies, and to promote impactful advocacy, particularly around laws to combat violence against women in politics. Second, parliamentarians must resist the growing global pushback on gender equality and ensure that hard-won gains were not reversed. In particular, the IPU and WPL should work together to shed light on issues faced by women in politics, develop solutions and launch a global campaign to promote their adoption. Third, she reiterated the critical importance of mobilizing the support of men, noting that gender equality was not just a women's issue but a matter of democratic legitimacy, inclusive governance and effective leadership, and encouraged collaboration between the IPU and WPL in that area as well. Men should be involved in tangible actions such as co-sponsoring gender equality legislation and promoting party-level parity measures, and must be encouraged to hold each other accountable as partners in the effort. She noted that her country's milestone achievement in recognizing gender-based violence in elections as an electoral offence had been made possible through strong engagement and support from male colleagues.

The WPL's research clearly demonstrated that increased women's political participation correlated with better societal outcomes in areas such as health, education, economic growth and social cohesion. The road to equal representation required solidarity, strategies and shared responsibilities. Parliamentarians must commit to intentionally connecting their networks, taking coordinated action and meaningfully mobilizing male allies.

**Ms. A.J. Mohammed** (Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations), Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, speaking in a pre-recorded video message, said that, in the face of backlash against gender equality, which threatened hard-won progress on women's rights and freedoms, women's leadership was more critical than ever. For that reason, in 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, she had launched the *Women Rise for All* initiative which united women leaders across different regions and sectors to speak out and act against adversity.

The *We the Women* campaign had also been launched, which included a global survey and report on the priorities of women around the world. Reaching 25,000 women in 185 countries, the campaign revealed powerful findings: 85% of respondents identified as advocates for women's rights while 60% believed women's leadership would grow in the next decade. Despite barriers such as mental health struggles, unpaid care responsibilities, insecurity and exclusion from power, women across regions had expressed determination to shape the future and called for a multilateral system that truly listened and responded to their needs.

The findings had shown that women were not passive beneficiaries of change but active drivers of it. Parliamentarians must champion policies that elevated women's voices and work collectively towards gender equality by connecting movements, sharing strategies and involving men as true partners. It was equally important to unlock financial resources, particularly to support women in least developed and low-income countries.

The UN was intensifying efforts through the Gender Acceleration Plan and Clarion Call For Gender Equality, providing a clear road map to dismantle barriers and drive lasting change. As the 30-year anniversary of the Beijing Declaration approached, it was time to broaden alliances, amplify voices and protect hard-won gains.

**Ms. F. Osler** (Canada) said that parliamentarians had an essential role to play in fighting pushback on gender rights and in shifting the paradigm back towards gender equality, including in politics, and urged them to learn from and support each other.

In 2019, Canada's House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women had completed a study on the representation of women in Canadian politics which revealed several barriers to female participation, including gender stereotypes and discrimination, gender-biased media treatment, insufficient efforts to recruit female candidates and the prevalence of gender-based violence and harassment. Research also showed that women in politics, especially racialized women, were disproportionately targeted by violence and harassment at every level of government and in every political party. The issue, however, was not unique to Canada.

Parliamentarians must name the problem and share tools and strategies to combat the verbal, psychological and physical violence that prevented women from fully exercising their power. In addition to getting women elected, it was vital to ensure that parliaments were spaces where both men and women could thrive. The Parliament of Canada had implemented measures such as new parental leave policies, updated sexual harassment protocols and adapted facilities to support parliamentarians with children. She underscored the value of global networking and knowledge-sharing to empower future generations to realize their potential.

**Ms. S. Nyirahabimana** (Rwanda), reflecting on the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, emphasized the high cost of exclusion and discrimination, which had driven Rwanda's commitment to gender inclusion in governance and economic development. Rwanda was the first country in the world to achieve a female majority in Parliament, with 64% women in the Chamber of Deputies and 54% in the Senate.

Rwanda's approach to gender equality was a combination of political will, legal and institutional frameworks and accountability. In 2008, its Parliament had established the Rwanda Women Parliamentary Forum to promote gender equality, advocate for women's rights and support the implementation of gender-sensitive laws. Rwanda also actively shared its experience of advancing gender equality with national parliaments and international women's networks around the world. She underscored the importance of collaboration between parliaments.

**Ms. S. Mikayilova** (Azerbaijan) said that gender parity in political participation remained a key challenge requiring common strategies, such as policy reforms, institutional support and capacity-building initiatives. It was vital to engage men in the process, including through mentorship programmes, inclusive policies and awareness-raising campaigns.

In Azerbaijan, systematic measures were being implemented at both the State and parliamentary levels to ensure gender equality, improve legal frameworks and adopt progressive laws safeguarding women's rights. As of 2023, women's economic participation in Azerbaijan stood at 62%, with women making up the majority of the workforce in the financial sector. The Law on State Guarantees of Equal Rights for Women and Men played a crucial role in combating gender-based violence, dismantling stereotypes and ensuring equal opportunities. In addition, initiatives such as the employment strategy, women's resource centres and the Digital Girls project aimed to increase women's participation in economic and social spheres by reducing unemployment and wage disparities, promoting female entrepreneurship and improving women's access to digital finance. Women had also played an important role in Azerbaijan's post-conflict period, contributing actively to demining operations, reintegration of displaced persons and reconstruction projects in liberated territories. Recent labour reforms had improved women's access to previously restricted professions.

Fostering strong networks among women leaders was essential for advancing gender equality. By working together and expanding collective influence, a more inclusive and equitable future could be built. It was a shared responsibility to ensure that women had equal opportunities to lead, contribute and shape the political discourse at all levels.

**Ms. S. Imasheva** (Kazakhstan) emphasized her country's commitment to the well-being of women and girls by providing access to healthcare, education, justice and economic opportunities, and noted efforts to introduce gender perspectives into legislation and budgeting processes. While Kazakhstan had criminalized gender-based violence, further progress was needed – a challenge shared by many countries. Regarding political participation, gender quotas were in place in her country but remained insufficient, prompting political parties to establish dedicated departments to train and support young women leaders. More men must be involved in discussions on gender equality and violence prevention.

*Ms. S. Mikayilova (Azerbaijan) took the Chair.*

**Ms. V. Techateerawat** (Thailand) said that, by actively engaging with regional and international communities, women parliamentarians from Thailand had consistently contributed to key policy decisions and legislative advancements. She drew attention to the Thai Women Parliamentarian Caucus which aimed to advance gender-responsive policies, mentor aspiring women leaders and drive legislative change. Through the caucus, Thailand had strengthened protections against domestic violence and workplace discrimination, demonstrating that real progress was possible when women united. Efforts had also been made to advance laws on equal pay, social protection and other key areas.

In ASEAN, women parliamentarians collaborated closely through WAIPA, advocating for stronger legal protections for women's rights. Their efforts had influenced the ASEAN Declaration on Gender Equality and Family Development and its policy on gender-based violence. At the global level, women parliamentarians from Thailand had actively engaged in the IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians and other IPU-organized meetings, pushing for more inclusive decision-making processes.

Regional and global networks were vital to drive meaningful change, have a tangible impact and ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment remained priorities in policymaking and governance.

**Ms. S. Codina** (Andorra) said that her Parliament had achieved gender parity for the second time in its history and was actively working to bridge political divides and promote gender equality. It had recently established a network of women parliamentarians – a formal and inclusive forum open to current and former women parliamentarians as well as male parliamentarians. Financial and human resources had been allocated to ensure its effective functioning. During the network's first executive committee meeting, 30 actions had been identified, including the development of a guide to eliminate sexist language in legislative and administrative texts and the introduction of a gender-sensitive evaluation process in the drafting of laws.

**Ms. J. Sabao** (Zambia) described how Zambia had benefitted from the initiatives and support of the Forum. Despite women making up only 15% of Parliament, women had been appointed to key strategic positions, including the first female Speaker of Parliament, the second female Vice-President and a female Head of Elections. To increase women's representation, efforts were under way to introduce a quota system through a constitutional amendment while the women parliamentarians' caucus had been upgraded to a formal committee, effective in 2026. There was also a parliamentary crèche to support parliamentarians and staff with young children, enhancing women's ability to participate fully in politics. She noted her own personal growth since joining the IPU in 2021, sharing that she was the first female to have been named Commonwealth Parliamentarian of the Year in a process inspired by IPU policies. The speaker emphasized that female leadership was vital and thanked the IPU for empowering Zambian women to claim their space in society.

**Ms. F.M.P. Konseibo/Tiendrebeogo** (Burkina Faso) said that women parliamentarians in Burkina Faso had been recognized as ambassadors for peace and security, enabling them to actively promote stability in the country. Measures were also being taken to strengthen gender-sensitive budgeting across all sectors, ensuring resources were allocated to support gender equality. Legal reforms to promote parity had also been introduced, alongside initiatives to engage male leaders as allies in the gender equality movement. She stressed the importance of promoting women's leadership, particularly among young women, through awareness-raising initiatives, adding that women leaders would help build trust, combat violence against women and support stronger penalties for harassment.

*Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, resumed the Chair.*

**Ms. P. Glover Rolle** (Bahamas) said that women held 18% of seats in the Parliament of the Bahamas, holding offices from Governor General to Speaker of the House of Assembly, President of the Senate, and most recently, the first female Commissioner of Police. Those milestones were cause for celebration, but much work remained to be done.

The advancement of women was a national imperative that must transcend political divisions and both major parties in the Bahamas had a shared responsibility for advancing gender equality. True empowerment could only come through bipartisan collaboration – supporting not only women and girls, but also men and boys. Her recent participation in the 69th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) as part of a bipartisan delegation and her presence, as a woman, at the 150th IPU Assembly were testament to unified national commitment to gender equality. By setting aside party politics in favour of cooperation and shared vision, the Bahamas was shaping a more inclusive and resilient Commonwealth.

**Mr. N. Kurtuluş** (Türkiye) emphasized that true democracy could only be achieved through the equal participation of women in all areas of life, adding that women's involvement in politics led to more equitable and diverse policies. Turkish women had gained the right to vote and stand in local

and national elections as early as 1930 and 1934, respectively – ahead of many other countries. While acknowledging the progress made, he underscored that significant challenges remained. Türkiye reaffirmed its strong commitment to women’s empowerment as essential pillars of sustainable development, implementing national policies specifically designed to advance SDG 5 on gender equality and ensure the full participation of women and girls in social, economic and political life. Removing barriers to gender equality depended on greater participation of women in political decision-making.

**Ms. N. Boulhan Houssein** (Djibouti) said that her Parliament had set up a women’s caucus two months previously over which she presided. The caucus would focus on defining its objectives advocating for gender equality and developing an action plan. She requested support from other countries to advance the caucus’ mission.

**Ms. K. Hajjoubi** (Arab Parliament) said that women’s political participation required genuine political will supported by strategies, legislation and action plans to dismantle stereotypes that portrayed women as unfit for leadership. The Arab Parliament had prioritized women’s participation in political life, having recently put together a paper addressing the challenges faced by women in politics and proposing solutions to overcome them. Significant progress had been made across the Arab region in recent years, including in Morocco, where a 10-million-dirham fund had been established to support women’s empowerment.

**Ms. F. Bustreo** (Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH)) paid tribute to the Forum on its 40th anniversary, highlighting its unique influence within the multilateral system, particularly its role in shaping IPU resolutions, including those on maternal and child health, and gender-sensitive universal health coverage. With World Health Day 2025 focused on maternal and child mortality, she urged the Forum to continue fighting against the injustice of preventable maternal deaths and to resist the growing global backlash against women’s rights.

#### Reports of the discussion group rapporteurs

**Ms. V. Techateerawat** (Thailand), Rapporteur, reporting on the debate on the draft resolution entitled *The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine*, said that 20 delegates had contributed to the discussion which had examined the resolution from a gender perspective. Participants had expressed deep concern over the disproportionate impact of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on women and children, noting that large numbers of civilians, mostly women and children, had been killed as a result of violence, hunger and disease. Women also faced gender-based and sexual violence, displacement, imprisonment, economic hardship and restricted access to education and health services, with pregnant women suffering acutely from inadequate care. There was a strong call for the dignified release of women prisoners and hostages.

The debate underscored the urgent need for parliaments to amplify the voices of women affected by war and displacement, and to ensure that their rights, needs and interests, including their access to humanitarian assistance, were prioritized. Participants had called for women’s full participation in peacebuilding, conflict resolution and post-conflict efforts in line with the WPS Agenda, noting with regret that women were often excluded from peace negotiations despite their vital contributions. Women must be included in peace talks to achieve sustainable peace. The two-State solution was affirmed as vital to addressing the suffering of women, alongside an immediate ceasefire and full respect for international law.

**Ms. I. Kitwa Godalena** (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Rapporteur, reporting on the debate on the draft resolution entitled *Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development*, said that a total of 18 delegates had taken the floor, including 17 women and 1 man, with all participants agreeing that sustainable peace was not possible without sustainable development.

Participants had underscored that inequality, often exacerbated by crises such as climate change and economic instability, fuelled conflict and instability. They emphasized that women and girls were disproportionately affected in such contexts and called for gender-responsive strategies in conflict prevention and resolution, civilian protection and resilience-building. The debate highlighted the critical role of women in peacebuilding, noting that peace agreements involving women tended to be more durable.

Several parliamentary actions were proposed: (1) strengthening the rights of women and girls in law and in practice; (2) ensuring full implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000); (3) adopting and monitoring national action plans on women, peace and security with clear frameworks and budgeting; (4) empowering women and girls at the community level by involving them in peace and reconstruction efforts and by responding to their most pressing needs, such as access to healthcare and financial resources; and (5) prioritizing gender equality through gender-sensitive budgeting and quotas.

*The reports were adopted.*

**The Chair** said that the points raised would be translated into amendments and presented to the relevant Standing Committees.

### **Venue and date of the 40th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians**

**The Chair** said that the 40th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians would take place at the 151st IPU Assembly in Geneva in October 2025.

*The sitting was adjourned at 17:00 and resumed on Tuesday, 8 March at 14:30 with Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, in the Chair.*

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

**The Chair** said the Forum was tasked with renewing half the membership of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians. In line with the Rules of the Forum, two representatives from each of the six geopolitical groups would be elected for four-year terms, with retiring members ineligible for re-election for two years. The Bureau, which met twice yearly at IPU Assemblies, played a central role in coordinating the Forum and promoting gender equality. Following the election of Bureau members, the newly formed Bureau would meet in camera to nominate candidates for President, first Vice-President and second Vice-President, whose mandates would be for two years. The Forum would then reconvene to confirm those nominations.

**Ms. Z. Hilal** (Secretary of the Forum), announcing the nominations for the Bureau, said that: the Arab Group had nominated Ms. H.I.N. Naffa (Jordan) and Ms. R. Abunayan (Saudi Arabia); the Asia-Pacific Group had nominated Ms. Shambhavi (India) and Ms. A. Naeem (Maldives); the Eurasia Group had nominated Ms. R. Chemeris (Russian Federation) and Ms. I. Svyatenko (Russian Federation); the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean had nominated Ms. M.M. Ortiz (Dominican Republic) and Ms. P.A. Aguirre (Ecuador); the Twelve Plus Group had nominated Ms. F. Öncü (Türkiye) and Ms. O. Rudenko (Ukraine).

*The nominations were approved.*

**Ms. Z. Hilal** (Secretary of the Forum) said that, in light of difficulties in the nomination process, the African Group had requested that their two vacancies remained open until the following Assembly.

**Ms. N. Boulhan Houssein** (Djibouti) said that she did not understand why the election had been postponed given that the African Group had selected its candidates during a previous meeting. She expressed her willingness to nominate herself.

**Ms. Z. Hilal** (Secretary of the Forum) said that the rules required members to submit their candidatures through their respective geopolitical groups, which would then forward the nominations to the Secretariat. Members could not nominate themselves directly.

**Ms. M. Coulibaly Dao** (Côte d'Ivoire) recalled that, following discussions, the African Group had agreed to nominate her for the post. She requested clarification as to why that decision no longer stood.

**The Chair** asked whether an alternative solution could be found, noting that it would be unfair for the African Group to remain without representation.

**Ms. Z. Hilal** (Secretary of the Forum) said that the rules were extremely clear and did not allow for any other way forward but to receive nominations from the geopolitical groups.

**Ms. S.N. Sonjica** (Secretary of the delegation of South Africa), explained that the Chair of the African Group had asked her to join the Forum to confirm that the African Group had submitted a letter requesting that the election of their representatives be deferred to the next Assembly.

**Ms. K. Slassi** (Morocco) asked whether the candidatures had been withdrawn or if there was a procedural issue preventing their consideration.

**Ms. Z. Hilal** (Secretary of the Forum) said that, according to the information received from the African Group, issues had arisen in connection to the candidatures and the Group required additional time to consider.

**Ms. Z.N. Mashaba** (Eswatini) said that, while she appreciated the rules, it was unfair that the African Group would not have a representative for a further 6 months. She called on all geopolitical groups to be more efficient in the future.

**Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka** (Poland) asked whether the rules permitted for the current candidate to remain in the post until a new candidate was elected.

**Ms. Z. Hilal** (Secretary of the Forum) said that the rules were extremely clear and that the four-year term must end and that the previous member could not be re-elected.

**Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka** (Poland), acknowledging the unfairness of the situation, suggested that a proposal for an amendment to the rules be submitted to the Executive Committee.

**Ms. Z. Hilal** (Secretary of the Forum), acknowledging the possibility of amending the rules in the future, clarified that, while two vacancies remained to be filled, two of the four representatives from the African Group remained on the Bureau until 2027.

**Ms. M.B. Mophuting** (Botswana) supported the position articulated by the representative from South Africa to postpone the election of representatives from the African Group.

**The Chair** asked the Secretariat to confirm that nothing further could be done.

**Ms. Z. Hilal** (Secretary of the Forum) reiterated that it was the responsibility of the geopolitical groups to submit nominations and confirmed that, under the current rules, no further action could be taken following the African Group's request to postpone the election to fill the two vacant seats of regional representatives from Africa.

**The Chair** expressed concern and disappointment that, despite many women from Africa submitting their candidacies, the African Group had been unable to nominate two members for the Bureau. The matter must be brought before the Executive Committee.

**Ms. E.N. Matiko** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the African Group was expected to nominate two candidates, one from Western and one from Southern Africa, and confirmed that both regions had submitted their candidates. There was therefore no reason for postponement.

**The Chair** suggested that a letter from the Forum be drafted expressing the unfairness of the situation.

**Ms. Z. Hilal** (Secretary of the Forum) took note of the said request and proposed that the matter be noted in the report of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians to the Governing Council. Members should consult with their colleagues from the African Group should they require further information.

**Ms. Z.N. Mashaba** (Eswatini) said that, in the name of transparency, the Chairperson of the African Group should clarify the situation and refrain from withholding information.

**The Chair** invited the newly elected members to introduce themselves.

**Ms. H.I.N. Naffa** (Jordan) introduced herself as a parliamentarian from Jordan and assistant to the Speaker of the Jordanian Parliament, with 14 years of experience as a consultant. She worked in commerce and business and had studied politics and commerce. She was actively involved in social causes, particularly in supporting women, and had received a charity prize in Jordan for her work.

**Ms. R. Abunayan** (Saudi Arabia) said that she was a financial expert with 25 years of experience in academia and had been serving on the Shura Council of Saudi Arabia for eight years with four years remaining.

**Ms. I. Svyatenko** (Russian Federation) said that she was Deputy Chair of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation, overseeing social and family policies.

**Ms. R. Chemeris** (Russian Federation), introducing herself as a Member of the Russian Parliament and diplomat, expressed gratitude for the support she had received and emphasized the importance of mutual collaborative work.

**Ms. P.A. Aguirre** (Ecuador) said that she was a Member of the National Assembly of Ecuador and president of the committee on tax and political oversight. She had also served as a member of the Andean Parliament where she had chaired the women's committee.

**Ms. F. Öncü** (Türkiye) introduced herself as a lawyer and parliamentarian, noting that she had previously served as the Deputy Minister of Family and Social Services.

**Ms. O. Rudenko** (Ukraine) said that, as a Member of the Ukrainian Parliament, she served on the foreign affairs committee. She had been part of the Ukrainian IPU delegation since 2019 and had previously served on the Bureau of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians.

**Ms. A. Naeem** (Maldives), now serving her second term in Parliament, said that she had consistently campaigned to increase the number of women parliamentarians in the Maldives and beyond, and hoped to continue that work on the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians.

**Ms. B.K. Medhi** (India), speaking on behalf of Ms. Shambhavi, described her as a talented and active Member of the Lok Sabha who, at only 25 years old, was very committed to women's issues. She expressed confidence that she would make a valuable contribution to the Forum.

**The Chair** invited the retiring members of the Bureau to speak.

**Ms. Z.N. Mashaba** (Eswatini) thanked colleagues for their trust and support and reaffirmed her commitment to empowering women and building their confidence.

**Ms. A. Nassif Ayyoub Awadallah** (Egypt) reflected on her two terms of service to the Bureau – first as a member and then as Vice-President – and expressed how honoured she felt at having contributed to global efforts on advancing women's rights and empowerment, including by participating in numerous international conferences. She described her experience as enriching and unique, and wished the Forum continued success in promoting justice for women in parliaments worldwide.

**Ms. Z.D. Mohamud** (Somalia) said that the Forum should be doing more during national elections to support the election of women.

**Ms. L. Reynolds** (Australia) said that, while her mandate was not officially ending, she was retiring as a parliamentarian and would no longer be attending IPU Assemblies. She expressed that it had been a privilege to serve on the Bureau, thanking the Secretariat for its professionalism and Ms. López Castro for her extraordinary contribution as President.

**The Chair** said that the newly elected Bureau would now meet in camera to nominate candidates for President and two Vice-Presidents.

*The sitting was adjourned at 15:20 and resumed at 16:30 with Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, in the Chair.*

**Elections to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians (continued):  
Presiding officers of the Bureau**

**Ms. Z. Hilal** (Secretary of the Forum) said that, after meeting in camera, the newly elected Bureau wished to nominate Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico) for President, Ms. T. Vardanyan (Armenia) for First Vice-President and Ms. F. Öncü (Türkiye) for Second Vice-President.

*The nominations were approved.*

**The Chair**, speaking in her capacity as newly elected President of the Bureau, thanked members for their trust and support, pledging to work hard during her term to advance the goals of the Forum.

**Ms. Z. Hilal** (Secretary of the Forum) said that the African Group had formally informed the Secretariat that it had decided on the two candidates it wished to nominate for the Bureau. She took it that the Forum wished to consider those nominations.

*It was so decided.*

**Ms. Z. Hilal** (Secretary of the Forum) said that the nominations were as follows: Ms. M. Coulibaly Dao (Côte d'Ivoire) and Ms. M.B. Mophuting (Botswana).

*The nominations were approved.*

**Ms. F. Öncü** (Türkiye) and **Ms. T. Vardanyan** (Armenia) thanked the Forum for their votes.

**The Chair** said that the newly elected Bureau would meet the following day to begin preparations for the 151st IPU Assembly.

*The sitting rose at 16:40.*

## Forum of Young Parliamentarians

SITTING OF SUNDAY, 6 APRIL 2025

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 14:45 with Mr. D. Carden (United Kingdom), President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians, in the Chair.*

**The President** said that he wished to acknowledge the outgoing members of the Bureau for their two years of service representing young parliamentarians and thanked them for their hard work.

He drew attention to the IPU *Policy to prevent and address harassment, including sexual harassment, at IPU Assemblies and other IPU events*, which was intended to ensure an inclusive, respectful and safe working environment for all.

### Adoption of the agenda (FYP/150/A.1-rev)

*The agenda was adopted.*

### Opening remarks

**The President** said that substantial progress had been made over the past two years in fostering closer engagement between young MPs, young people and youth leaders. Initiatives such as the Shout Out to Youth Changemakers event in 2023, held in the context of the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign, and the first Open Session of the Forum at the 149th Assembly, were key milestones in strengthening youth engagement.

His vision as President to promote human rights and focus on employment and education opportunities for young people had been reflected in the programme of the most recent Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Armenia. Measurable progress in gender equality had also been made, and it was essential that efforts to ensure equal representation continue to be at the core of the Forum's mandate. He expressed confidence in the incoming Bureau and encouraged delegates to continue to champion youth empowerment, gender equality and inclusive leadership.

**Mr. M. Chungong** (IPU Secretary General) commended the Forum, the Bureau and its President on their achievements, noting the rapid growth and increasing influence of the youth movement within the Organization. He welcomed the Forum's active role in shaping IPU policy and contributing to institutional reform, including its advocacy for gender parity in leadership and the reduction of the age threshold defining young MPs from under 45 to under 40 years. The participation of young MPs in key IPU bodies, such as the Executive Committee and the Bureaux of the Standing Committees, demonstrated their leadership and substantive contributions. The Secretariat would continue to support their work, both in strengthening the IPU and in serving their constituents.

**The President** recalled that the Forum and its Bureau were established during the Secretary General's tenure and expressed appreciation for his support in empowering young MPs at the IPU.

**Dr. T. Ackson** (IPU President) congratulated the President of the Bureau for his successful efforts to lower the age threshold for young MPs, noting that the change had not come easily. She was confident that the new age limit would further rejuvenate the participation of young parliamentarians in the Organization. Leaders like the young parliamentarians in the Forum were a reminder that progress must be inclusive, with equal opportunities for women and men to shape society. She thanked the outgoing Bureau for its contributions, particularly its engagement with grassroots youth movements, including a landmark roundtable at COP28 and the Forum's first Open Session at the 149th Assembly. The Bureau's election was an opportunity for reflection. Recalling the IPU's 2024 priority theme on peace and security, she underscored the importance of involving more young people in those discussions. As current leaders, young MPs brought unique perspectives and innovative approaches to addressing long-standing conflicts and challenges.

True progress could not be achieved without gender parity and breaking down the barriers that held women back. Young leaders should continue to push for progress, and she looked forward to seeing how young MPs and the new Bureau would contribute to the IPU's 2025 priority theme of gender equality.

She urged young MPs to embrace the responsibility of leadership, remain steadfast and keep fighting. Senior colleagues would continue to support the Forum, and members of the Forum should envision themselves in future leadership roles at the IPU, including the role of Secretary General.

### Updates on youth participation

**The President** provided an overview of activities since the 149th Assembly. Two sessions of the Empowerment Series for young MPs had been held: one in December 2024, *Zero tolerance for violence against women in politics*, and another in March 2025, *Beijing +30: Young MPs leading the next chapter for inclusive democracy*.

National activities to promote youth participation and empower young MPs had also been held, including a capacity-building activity in Burkina Faso on youth, peace and security, and a training session on leadership and communication with young MPs in Thailand. An intergenerational dialogue on women's political participation had taken place in February 2025, in parallel to the IPU Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations in New York.

Efforts to promote and implement the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign had continued, with over 2,000 pledges received as of March 2025, including pledges from more than 70 Speakers and nearly 900 MPs from more than 150 countries. He encouraged further engagement with the campaign during the Assembly and urged Member Parliaments to sign the pledge and promote the initiative among colleagues.

**Mr. P. Baró** (Andorra) said that in his country, those under 35 were considered young. Over one third of MPs were under 40, and the average age of parliamentarians was 47, well below the global average. Young MPs in Andorra held significant responsibilities, including leadership roles in commissions and political parties. Nevertheless, additional efforts were needed and an agreement had been passed unanimously by Parliament to address key challenges facing youth.

**Ms. S. Gautam** (Nepal) said that Nepal's political landscape had been dominated by the same leaders and systems for decades, leaving little room for young people to participate. The 2022 general elections had marked a turning point, with a notable increase in young parliamentary representation in the newly established Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP): of the 33 MPs under 40 in Parliament, 29 were from the RSP. However, that progress had been met with resistance and the party's chairman was currently facing politically motivated charges. A similar trend could be seen in other countries, where the law was being weaponized to silence young voices, intimidate reformers and paralyze movements for change, preventing young people from entering parliament and politics.

**Ms. D.P.O. Putri** (Indonesia) said that in her country, 60% of the population was of working age, which represented both an opportunity and a responsibility to empower youth participation in political decision-making. There was a growing interest among youth in political processes. Initiatives like the Open Government Partnership (OGP) provided a platform for youth engagement and governance, fostered a culture of open and accountable government, and encouraged young people to contribute to policymaking processes and governance reforms. However, challenges remained and young people were still underrepresented in parliaments worldwide. She appreciated the efforts of the IPU to empower young politicians and encouraged the Forum to continue advocating for policies that fostered youth leadership and participation.

**Mr. A. Tongjaisod** (Thailand) welcomed the IPU's decision to lower the age threshold for defining young MPs to 40 years. Even under the new criteria, Thailand still had a considerable share of young MPs (29.2%) in the House of Representatives. However, as the minimum age to run for Senate was 40, there were no longer any Thai senators who qualified as young MPs under the IPU rules. In Thailand, young MPs were defined as those under the age of 45, which allowed a number of senators to continue participating in the Young Parliamentarians Caucus. The Thai Parliament also promoted mentorship from its senior members to advance its youth agenda.

**Mr. A. Abderamane Koko** (Chad) said there was a strong representation of young MPs in both chambers of Parliament, thanks to legislative measures to support young people. The minimum age to stand for election to the National Assembly was 25, and for the Senate it had been lowered to 35. In the case of equivalent candidacies in political parties, priority was given to young people. With regard to social development and justice from a youth perspective, a number of measures were in place, including free healthcare, basic education, protection of persons with disabilities and support for youth entrepreneurship. His Government would continue to strengthen efforts for equity, justice and social development, with the priorities of young people at the centre. The large population of young people in Chad should be adequately reflected in representative institutions, the justice system and other sectors.

**Mr. K. Khelifati** (Algeria) said that the participation of young people in parliament was essential for ensuring the sustainability of the democratic process. In Algeria, constitutional and legislative provisions had institutionalized youth engagement in government through bodies such as the Higher Council for Youth. The significant share of young MPs in Parliament had enhanced parliamentary work and was a source of pride. He voiced concern over the continuing violence and loss of life in Gaza, particularly of children and youth, and called for urgent action to bring the Israeli occupation of Palestine to an end.

**Ms. S. Al Sheibani** (Oman) said that young people under 30 comprised over half of Oman's population and there were designated seats in the Shura Council for young people. The establishment of the National Committee for Youth further underscored the Government's commitment to addressing youth issues. Young people constituted 65% of the national labour force, and played a leading role in entrepreneurship, education, and innovation. Young Omanis regularly participated in global forums and held leadership roles in international organizations. They had also played an active role in shaping the Oman Vision 2040 development strategy. Oman remained committed to initiatives aimed at empowering youth in parliament and beyond.

**Ms. N. Abu Ghosh** (Jordan) said that recent reforms had resulted in legislative measures to empower young people in political life, including mandatory representation of youth in political parties and quotas for young candidates within parties and parliament. Jordan had a young population and its youth were a national asset. In a world of wars and conflicts, young people represented a common way forward. She underscored their responsibility in working to immediately halt the violence in Gaza.

**Mr. R.S. Ramadhan** (United Republic of Tanzania) expressed the hope that the number of young members of Parliament would increase after the country's general elections in October 2025. Initiatives to promote youth participation included the national implementation of the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign. The IPU President had worked to ensure the campaign's broad reach within the United Republic of Tanzania, with efforts focused on youth political participation capacity and on raising awareness of their potential to succeed in politics. The enactment of youth-focused legislation and amendments to internal party rules and bylaws would also allow more young people to participate in politics going forward.

**Mr. W. Soto Palacios** (Peru) said that every political party should include young people within its ranks and that it was important to create a space for young people to participate in politics. Young people should actively contribute to efforts in support of social development and justice, and should practice parliamentary diplomacy. Highlighting Peru's rich cultural heritage, he invited delegates to the 11th IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, taking place in Peru in September 2025.

**Mr. I. Wamunyima** (Zambia) welcomed the IPU's decision to lower the age to be considered a young parliamentarian to under 40. In his country, a young person was defined as below the age of 35, and he was currently the only parliamentarian who met that criterion. The representation of young people in Zambia's Parliament remained low, but a heated debate was underway regarding constitutional amendments to promote the inclusion of youth and women in Parliament through affirmative action measures. The President of Zambia was in favour of the proposed amendments, which could enter into force before the 2026 elections. Retaining seats was also a challenge that disproportionately affected young MPs. The Bureau and Forum should hold candid discussions on how young MPs could sustain their mandates through a mature and competent approach to their duties.

**Mr. M. Yousefi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that parliamentarians must work hard to prevent conflicts. They must do so by engaging in constructive action and through appropriate cooperation. Conflicts were a threat to regional and global security and the humanitarian consequences were a burden for all. The young people of Africa and West Asia, which were regions of conflict, were a huge potential for development which was why actions should be taken to increase the visibility and involvement of young people in politics. Young people were the largest demographic globally and their full potential should be harnessed; they should be empowered to assume greater responsibilities within political institutions.

**Mr. S.A.A. Ndiaye** (Senegal) said that young people in his country were increasingly asserting themselves as a driving force in politics. The President of Senegal was 45 years old, and the President of the National Assembly was 42. In Senegal, young people had taken to the streets to confront injustice, enduring arrests, sacrifices and even loss of life. Their persistence had yielded results demonstrating that their voices and actions could influence the future. The challenges facing young people, such as education, employment and the fight against injustice, transcended borders. He urged delegates to let their respective struggles inspire collective progress toward a more just and inclusive world.

**Mr. G.K. Almeland** (Norway) said that young candidates were placed high on electoral lists. The current Norwegian Parliament was the youngest in history, and he hoped that the upcoming elections would bring the participation of youth in Parliament to an even higher level. Additional efforts were still needed as only 10% of MPs were under 30, in contrast to 18% of the population. Although young people continued to stand for and be elected to office in Norway, the political engagement of young men was a cause for concern. In the last elections, the number of young men who voted declined significantly, an issue that was not only present in Norway but was shared by many other countries. The Forum would be a good place to discuss the issue, as it was essential that the entire population, especially the young population, had confidence in political institutions and participated in democratic processes.

**Mr. B. Griffin** (Bahamas) said that in response to the waning interest of young people in political participation, his Government had implemented policies to promote youth involvement both in Parliament and across the Government, including the appointment of ambassadors and senators under the age of 40. The Prime Minister had likewise appointed a number of young people to head government agencies and bureaux. As a result, the population had grown accustomed to seeing young people in leadership positions and was now calling for more young parliamentarians to come forward. Having young people at the forefront was critical to finding innovative solutions for issues facing the country, such as climate change and global trade upheavals. He suggested that, just as his Government prioritized integrating youth not only in elected roles but also through appointments across the entire government, the Forum could likewise encourage countries to make full use of their appointive powers to advance young people into positions of leadership.

**Ms. E.T. Muteka** (Namibia) said that after the recent elections, the number of young parliamentarians in the National Assembly had increased; its youngest MP was 21 years old. The country had elected its first female President and Vice-President, and young people were at the helm of several key ministries.

The Namibian Children's Parliament was very active, and two of its members were attending the IPU Assembly. Their participation had underscored the need to do more for youth involvement. The *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign had been successfully launched in Namibia, and had created a platform for open discussions between young people and their elders to share ideas and craft strategies. When sharing political experiences with young people, it was important not to scare them. A shift in mindset was needed to find strategies to motivate young people to participate in politics.

**Ms. M. Kademaunga** (Zimbabwe) said that the Forum had made a significant impact on youth political engagement in her country. Following the Forum's establishment, young Zimbabwean MPs began efforts to increase youth representation in Parliament, resulting in a quota system of ten parliamentary seats reserved for young parliamentarians. The measure had a ripple effect and the current Parliament had 20 MPs under the age of 35. With regard to the nexus between Parliament and the Government, young people were being appointed to government positions and several ministers were under the age of 35.

A youth model parliament had also been launched to allow young people under the age of 25 to attend sessions and engage in debate, thereby preparing them for future roles as MPs. These advancements were a testament to the impact of the Forum and the strength of its leadership.

**Mr. O. Sobitov** (Member of the Youth Parliament, Legislative Chamber of Uzbekistan) said that Uzbekistan's Youth Parliament was both a platform to increase youth participation in political processes and an institution to prepare young leaders. It played a key role in enhancing the political and legal knowledge and skills of young people, involving them in the legislative process and strengthening their engagement in public life. The Youth Parliament had submitted proposals to the Government on issues such as climate change, educational reforms, health and gender equality. Another significant development was the strengthening of cooperation between youth parliaments at the international level, creating opportunities to share experiences, work on joint projects and provide mutual support. He proposed the establishment of an International Forum of Youth Parliaments aimed at further amplifying youth voices, involving them in decision-making processes, and supporting their initiatives.

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

**The President** recalled that the term of office of the current members of the Bureau would expire at the end of the current Assembly and that new members, consisting of one woman and one man from each geopolitical group, were therefore to be elected to serve for a two-year term.

It had been an honour to champion the IPU youth movement over the previous two years, and he thanked the outgoing Bureau members for their work.

**Ms. Z. Hilal** (Secretary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians) said that the candidates nominated by their respective geopolitical groups for election as members of the Bureau were, for the African Group, Mr. A. Abderamane Koko (Chad) and the remaining position would stay vacant; for the Arab Group, Mr. H. Ebrahim (Bahrain) and Ms. N. Abu Ghosh (Jordan); for the Asia-Pacific Group, Ms. H. Singh (India) and Mr. S. Durrani (Pakistan); for the Eurasia Group, Ms. H. Hakobyan (Armenia) and Mr. S. Ismayilov (Azerbaijan); for the Latin America and the Caribbean Group, Mr. W. Soto Palacios (Peru) and Ms. J. Sierra (Uruguay); and for the Twelve Plus Group, Ms. I. Stamatović (Serbia) and Mr. D. Carden (United Kingdom).

**The President** took it that the Forum wished to elect those candidates to serve as members of the Bureau for the period 2025–2027.

*It was so decided.*

*The Bureau members left to meet in camera to elect their new President.*

### **Contribution to the work of the 150th Assembly**

*Ms. E.T. Muteka (Namibia) took the Chair.*

**The Chair** said that the discussion would focus on providing a youth perspective on the General Debate theme *Parliamentary action for social development and justice*.

**Mr. A. Elbanna** (Egypt) said that a number of obstacles continued to impede development and growth, and that the Egyptian Parliament had taken measures to bridge gaps and disparities within the country. Cooperation and partnerships at the international level had also been strengthened to promote development and economic growth. Increased expenditures on social development programmes had benefited 22 million people. The Egyptian Parliament placed great importance on social development to ensure social cohesion. Young parliamentarians were particularly well placed to echo the needs of communities and contribute to improving social equality.

**Mr. I. Wamunyima** (Zambia) said that his country recognized the importance of young people in promoting social development and justice. Its youth initiatives and Youth Empowerment Fund aimed to increase employability and entrepreneurship among young people. Reform efforts were under way on a youth bill to oversee youth activities and support peer-to-peer learning and decision-making skills. Substantial progress on the youth agenda had been made at the policy level and was now being advanced to the legislative level.

**Ms. M. Ulenge** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that social development and justice meant that youth, regardless of their background, gender or socioeconomic status, could achieve their full potential and contribute to national development. Despite the potential of young people to drive innovation, economic growth and social transformation, they often faced systematic barriers to education, employment, political participation and fundamental human rights. That exclusion not only hindered individual progress, but also undermined sustainable development and social cohesion.

The Tanzanian Parliament had taken action on social development for young people, who were defined as individuals between the ages of 15 and 35 years. The country's youthful demographic represented both an opportunity and a challenge for the nation's development. Its Parliament played a pivotal role in supporting social development and justice policies, such as a national youth development policy, a youth development fund, allocations for youth and women empowerment, and education reforms.

**Mr. P. Rice** (Ireland) said that to achieve social development and justice, less should be spent on weapons and more on welfare. People in Ireland, particularly young people, were concerned about the ongoing conflicts in the world, such as in Gaza, as well as the economic crisis of tariffs and the invasion of Ukraine. Minority rights, women's rights, the rights of young people with disabilities, LGBT people, Indigenous people and ethnic minorities were also issues of concern for Irish young people. Those issues should be at the centre of the General Debate.

The Deputy Prime Minister and the Ministers of Finance and Education were young persons. Ireland had elected its first parliamentarian born in the twenty-first century. Despite such progress, more needed to be done. In Ireland, 16- and 17-year-olds could pre-register to vote before the official age of eligibility. That initiative, which fostered early civic engagement through schools, could serve as a model for adoption in other countries.

**Ms. M. Kademaunga** (Zimbabwe) suggested that the Forum start an initiative to draft model laws on social development that would benefit young people, empower the voices of young MPs and support lobbying efforts to encourage parliaments to strengthen their legislation.

**Ms. L. Aslonova** (Member of the Youth Parliament, Senate of Uzbekistan) said that social development and justice were impossible without youth inclusion. The Government had launched a comprehensive youth policy that focused on rights, services, dignity, potential and responsibility. Several reforms were under way to build a more just, inclusive and people-centric society, and Parliament was actively involved in the process. The percentage of young MPs was lower than the percentage of young people in the general population. The reforms would empower youth to play leading roles in public life.

The internet and artificial intelligence (AI) were having a profound impact on young people and it was critical that they be informed, active participants in shaping the digital future. Strong youth engagement at national and international levels was the key to sustainable peace, inclusive growth and resilient democracy. Platforms like the Forum were vital in providing a space to share experiences, support one another and shape global agency together.

**The Chair** encouraged the young MPs to actively participate in the plenary discussion of the General Debate on the theme *Parliamentary action for social development and justice*.

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security would consider the draft resolution entitled *The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine* and the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development would consider the draft resolution entitled *Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development*. Mr. Soto and Mr. Carden had been appointed as co-Rapporteurs of the Forum to provide a youth overview report on the draft resolutions. The Chair shared highlights from the report on a two-State solution in Palestine.

The youth overview report had affirmed the view that the conflict in Israel and Palestine demanded a renewed and urgent commitment to peace, with young leaders playing a crucial role in shaping the path forward. It had highlighted deep concerns about the conflict's impact on civilians and presented specific proposals for supporting young people in building a future in which an independent Palestine could coexist alongside a secure Israel. It had expressed concern over high civilian casualties and violence that deepened divisions and undermined prospects for peace, and had called for a cease to hostilities and the return of hostages. The report had also called on all parties to ensure that vital humanitarian aid reached Gaza with immediate effect. Finally, it had called for support of

initiatives to empower young people in Gaza and the West Bank to take active roles in their communities. Young people were uniquely positioned to lead a new dialogue of peace, and the international community had a moral responsibility to uplift young voices in Palestine and Israel. Governments should provide material and public support to youth-led organizations in the region to ensure that the horrors of conflict would not bleed into the next generation.

**Mr. A. Elbanna** (Egypt) said that the pathway toward a two-State solution needed the strength and efforts of young people. Young people had used social media to debunk the lies of the Israeli narrative by publishing videos and images exposing Israeli violations, which had helped raise awareness. Their efforts had also served to highlight Palestinian culture and the real, human face of Palestinians. Young people had also played a large role in international organizations, protesting and lobbying to push leaders to take action. Parliaments should play a role in advancing negotiations and building peace to lead to a two-State solution, in particular through youth forums that allowed young people to express their views. He supported the draft resolution, which granted parliaments a key role in settling the conflict.

It was important to underscore the categorical rejection of the transfer of Palestinians from their territories. Peace and security would not be attained in the region without the two-State solution, the implementation of Egypt's reconstruction plan, and political and diplomatic support from the international community. He asked for support for the humanitarian initiatives to provide Palestinians with aid.

**Mr. H. Aden Guedi** (Djibouti) said that young people had the responsibility to commit to finding a just and lasting solution for Palestine. It was essential to urge parliaments around the world to officially recognize the State of Palestine and support its full membership in the United Nations. Such recognition was a crucial step in establishing a framework conducive to peace negotiations. As legislators, they had the responsibility to urge their governments to actively support United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), which called for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and the establishment of secure and recognized borders. Practices of illegal occupation, colonization and violation of Palestinian rights must be firmly opposed, and strict international sanctions imposed. As parliamentarians, they must denounce those rights violations and call for concrete measures to end them. Exchanges between Israeli and Palestinian parliamentarians must be encouraged and supported, and young elected representatives had a responsibility to be facilitators. It was imperative for parliaments to actively intervene to create a climate conducive to peace.

**Mr. M.H. Fadlulloh** (Indonesia) said that the majority of Indonesian youth, regardless of their religious or political views, strongly supported a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through international law. The humanitarian crisis in a conflict zone had severe impacts on children's health, education and mental well-being. He called upon young parliamentarians to advocate for sustainable and just measures to prioritize the rights and future of those affected.

**Ms. C. Akca Cupolo** (Türkiye) expressed concern regarding the recurrent narrative that described youth as the future; young people should feel entitled to act as leaders in the present moment. Those who were suffering, including Palestinians, Yemenis, Ukrainians, Syrian Kurds and Alawites, and women in Iran, deserved dignity and peace today, not merely in the future. Discussions on a two-State solution must address the urgent need to ensure the delivery of aid and prevent starvation. Parliamentarians should leverage their roles to ensure that priority was given to allow aid into Gaza. She hoped that her fellow delegates would keep pushing for peace in Palestine, in the region and in the world.

**Ms. S. Unnopporn** (Thailand), expressing support for the draft resolution, called for all parties to stop attacks and implement a ceasefire agreement. She urged all sides to adhere to United Nations resolutions and resolve the conflict through diplomatic negotiations based on international law and the two-State solution, including through direct engagement with international parliamentary institutions, multilateral parliamentary forums and relevant United Nations agencies.

Parliaments could play an oversight role to ensure compliance with international laws, including the transparent export and transfer of arms and military equipment to countries in conflict, the protection of human rights and delivery of humanitarian assistance in conflict zones. Young MPs should urge all parties to ensure the protection of civilians, especially women, young people, and marginalized and vulnerable groups. They should prevent actions that exacerbated tensions, and refrain from illegal actions against civilians and non-military personnel, including humanitarian officers.

**Mr. B.B. Nodada** (South Africa) said that young people were playing a crucial role in advocating for and shaping a two-State solution. Youth activists were often at the forefront of grassroots movements, organizing protests, campaigns and dialogue to promote peace, and using social media to mobilize support for a two-State solution. Israeli and Palestinian youth constituted a large portion of both societies: Israel's median age was 30, while the median age in the Palestinian territories was 21. A 2020 study had revealed that among young people in Israel and Palestine, approximately 50% on each side believed that a political resolution could bring peace.

It was important for the draft resolution to acknowledge that peace, education and conflict resolution training could equip young people with the knowledge and skills needed to become advocates for peaceful coexistence. Such education should be accessible to all, including within formal academic settings and through extracurricular programmes organized by the Governments of Palestine and Israel in partnership with civil society organizations and nongovernmental institutions.

**The Chair** said that the discussion would shift to the draft resolution entitled *Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development*. The youth overview report had been prepared by Mr. Soto, and highlighted how armed conflict severely affected young people, impacting their access to education, health, employment and social stability. The report argued that peace and sustainable development were interconnected, and it proposed concrete actions to empower youth in building a resilient and peaceful society. Among the proposals were the strengthening of youth participation, conflict prevention and resolution, leadership training, and regular consultations with parliamentarians. It also proposed to promote technical education and youth empowerment in affected areas with financial support for educational reconstruction. The report stressed the importance of providing mental health support to young people in the context of violence through accessible services and awareness campaigns. It also proposed promoting a culture of peace from childhood through school education, intercultural dialogue and activities such as arts and sports. Integrating the youth vision into parliamentary decisions was essential to overcome the effects of conflict and move towards sustainable development and lasting peace.

**Mr. A. Elbanna** (Egypt) said that Arab young people were facing an increasing number of challenges, including wars, conflicts, and instability. More than 600 million young people lived in conflict zones, which was contributing to rising levels of poverty and unemployment. Such conditions hindered the government's capacity to provide basic assistance, services and healthcare.

In Egypt, young people were being included in political processes; parliamentary strategies were in place to mitigate the long-lasting impacts of conflict on sustainable development, with a focus on young people. Assistance to young people was needed in deradicalization efforts and in combating terrorism using information and communications technologies (ICTs) and digital tools. Reconstruction efforts should be supported while focusing on investing in youth potential, especially in the field of ICTs.

Assistance should be provided to countries burdened by financial problems to help them achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the Forum, delegates had a responsibility to uphold peace and security, as sustainable development could not be achieved without them.

**Mr. H. Aden Guedi** (Djibouti) said that the SDGs should have a central place in development strategy following a conflict. Parliaments must assume the responsibility of advancing national policies aligned with the SDGs, with an emphasis on poverty reduction, gender equality, social justice and environmental protection. Integrated technologies and innovative solutions were essential in the reconstruction process to make post-conflict societies more resilient. Parliaments must also play a key role in mobilizing international funds, coordinating cooperation efforts and ensuring the transparent use of resources. International partnerships were essential to restoring economic and social stability.

**Ms. C. Akca Cupolo** (Türkiye) expressed concern regarding the wording of the draft resolution, which risked conveying a contradictory message by appearing to accept the continuation of conflicts alongside efforts to promote sustainable development. She proposed that the draft resolution be reworded to refer to ending conflicts for improved sustainable development and urged young people to focus on those goals.

**Mr. M.H. Fadlulloh** (Indonesia) said that conflicts posed long-term challenges to economic recovery, institutional trust and political stability. Post-conflict youth faced high unemployment rates, disrupted education and social alienation, leading to cycles of instability and extremism. He urged the Forum to prioritize actionable strategies to ensure that youth were not just passive recipients of aid, but active agents of reconstruction and resilience-building. Young parliamentarians had a duty to reshape the narrative from victims of war to leaders of peace by harnessing the potential of young people in post-conflict settings. The concept of “just” was key.

**Mr. N. Ruengpanyawut** (Thailand) said that the draft resolution emphasized the role of parliament in upholding human rights during crises, and was consistent with Thailand’s commitment to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a basis for peace and sustainable development. His country fully supported humanitarian efforts to help those affected by conflicts, including the delivery of basic services, infrastructure, education and healthcare. Young parliamentarians should exercise their representative function to facilitate political consensus on security issues through dialogue and should ensure that a wide range of citizens were represented in decision-making processes, including women, ethnic and religious minorities and other marginalized or vulnerable groups.

**Mr. B.B. Nodada** (South Africa) said that according to a 2024 United Nations report entitled *Youth and peace and security*, threats faced by young people ranged from physical and psychological to social, cultural, financial, legal and digital, and included armed conflicts, gender-based violence and online harassment.

The draft resolution had the potential to bring about impactful changes for young individuals in conflict zones, and should underscore the need for consistent, predictable and substantial financing to empower youth-led peace-building initiatives. Legislative measures as part of the draft resolution should be introduced to enhance the active involvement of young people in decision-making and electoral activities, including empowering them as candidates, voters, observers and human rights monitors. It was essential to uphold and promote the rights of young individuals to freedom of assembly. The draft resolution should emphasize the establishment of national mechanisms dedicated to investigating and addressing reported human rights abuses targeting young people. It should specifically address threats, attacks, intimidation, hate, incitement and various forms of rights abuses. By prioritizing those measures, the draft resolution could have a significant impact on the protection, inclusion and advancement of young people in conflict and post-conflict settings.

**Mr. M. Yousefi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the intensification of social and economic crises, the deepening of social divisions and the destruction of the environment were a threat to society as a whole. He underscored the detrimental effects of conflict on youth and the broader development landscape. Peace, security, and sustainable development were interdependent and required a comprehensive, global approach. Economic support should be provided to communities affected by conflict. Parliaments played an important role in the provision of resources allocated for reconstruction and should play a more effective role in preventing tensions and the emergence of war throughout the world.

**Mr. B. Balbone** (Burkina Faso) requested that countries that were victims of terrorism be taken into account in the draft resolution. In his country, thousands of people had been internally displaced, and the loss of agricultural land to terrorist control had left many young people unemployed. If countries that were victims of terrorism were not taken into account, many young people would be left without an education and without employment.

#### **Presentation of the new President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians**

*Mr. D. Carden (United Kingdom) took the Chair.*

**The Chair** said that the Bureau had met in camera, where Ms. N. Abu Ghosh (Jordan) was elected President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians.

**Ms. N. Abu Ghosh** (Jordan) said that young people had the will and determination to continue moving forward, despite the many challenges they faced. She looked forward to working with the Forum over the next two years to empower young people and advance the youth movement, harnessing new tools to improve the situation of young people all over the world.

*Ms. N. Abu Ghosh (Jordan), President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians, took the Chair.*

### Preparations for the 151st Assembly (October 2025)

**The President**, based on the proposal made by the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians, proposed the nomination of M. K. Ait Mik (Morocco) as Rapporteur for the youth overview report on the draft resolution to be discussed by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the upcoming IPU Assembly entitled *Recognizing and supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent this practice*. The nomination was confirmed by the Forum.

An amendment to the IPU Statutes was being considered at the current Assembly to allow the Forum to submit amendments to resolutions at any time prior to the closure of the first sitting of the respective Standing Committee. That would align the Forum's procedure with that of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, and if passed, would take effect at the next Assembly.

**Ms. I. Stamatović** (Serbia) said that it was important to address how AI was affecting young people, and how it was being used in government bodies and parliaments. She suggested considering a resolution on how AI affected modern politics, government jobs and media, including social media, and how that in turn affected young people, their education and involvement in politics.

**Mr. G.K. Almeland** (Norway) said that supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent it was an important topic in his country. A public investigation into Norway's adoption system was under way; as a country on the receiving end of international adoption, it needed to recognize the human rights violations that had taken place. He requested that the Rapporteur note that many of the young people who had been put up for adoption did not feel that their voices were being heard during investigations. The Rapporteur should strive to balance the challenging tasks of identifying violations, upholding victims' rights, and combating stigma.

**Ms. L. Aslonova** (Member of the Youth Parliament, Senate of Uzbekistan) said that social networks and the internet were affecting the mental health of young people, and had led to an increase in depression and suicide. Discussing the topic of young people's mental health was a high-priority issue.

#### Any other business

**Ms. M. Ulenge** (United Republic of Tanzania), agreeing with the statements made by Ms. Stamatović and Ms. Aslonova, said that it was important to not only consider AI, but all emerging technologies, including biotechnologies, to prepare ethical guidelines and prevent misuse.

**Mr. A. Elbanna** (Egypt) said that he looked forward to working with the President of the Bureau and hoped that she would contribute to youth efforts concerning the situation in Palestine.

*The sitting rose at 17:25.*

# Open Session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

## *The role of parliaments in tackling the effects of armed conflict on children*

TUESDAY, 8 APRIL 2025

(Morning)

*The session was called to order at 11:00 with Mr. A. Farrugia (Malta), President of the Committee, in the Chair.*

*A video entitled Children and conflict in a changing world was shown.*

**The President** said that children continued to be the main victims of armed conflict. Alarming, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), over 473 million children were living in conflict zones. In 2024 alone, the United Nations had verified 32,990 grave violations against children in 26 conflict zones and, by the end of 2023, over 47 million children had been displaced as a result of conflict. During armed conflict, children were at risk of being killed, maimed, abducted, displaced, separated from their families, sexually abused or recruited by armed groups, and they continued to experience physical and psychological effects long after the conflict had ended.

The 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols and the Convention on the Rights of the Child were essential to protecting children affected by armed conflict and to advancing their rights. Parliamentarians must lead efforts towards the accession or ratification of those instruments, champion the adoption of national laws criminalizing violence against children, allocate budgets to child rehabilitation programmes, engage constituents in efforts to address the issue of conflict-related stigma and take action to fill gaps in education caused by armed conflict.

He invited the panel to share their experience in addressing the effects of armed conflict on children. To launch the debate, he introduced the first panellist, Mr. F. Ahmed, Legal Adviser at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), who would provide an overview of the current situation of children affected by armed conflict, outline the main protection risks and humanitarian challenges they faced, and explain how those risks and challenges might be addressed using international humanitarian law (IHL).

**Mr. F. Ahmed** (Legal Adviser, ICRC), panellist, said that having been on the frontline of conflicts for over 160 years, ICRC personnel had witnessed first-hand the devastating consequences of armed conflict, which disproportionately affected women, people with disabilities and children. The latter were particularly vulnerable to the effects of armed conflict, especially urban warfare, and were more likely to experience psychological and physical harm, disruption to their education, forced displacement and separation from their family.

The protection of children was a norm of customary IHL that must be guaranteed by all parties to an armed conflict, both State and non-State actors alike. Primary responsibility for its implementation lay with States. Parliamentarians had a key role to play in holding their respective national governments, and the States they supported, accountable in that regard, leveraging their legislative, budgetary and oversight functions to ensure the effective implementation of IHL.

The main way for States to safeguard the protection of children during armed conflict was to strengthen their legal and policy frameworks. Beyond the Geneva Conventions and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, States should make efforts to ratify and universalize key instruments such as the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Paris Principles and the Paris Commitments, and the Safe Schools Declaration, as well as regional instruments such as the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the Ibero-American Convention on the Rights of Youth. Children were disproportionately affected by cluster munitions, accounting for 71% of casualties of cluster munition remnants in 2022. Thus, the ratification and implementation of instruments governing explosive weapons – such as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Political Declaration on the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas – was vital.

Parliamentarians must prioritize policies that catered to the specific healthcare needs of children, facilitating the stockpiling of paediatric medical supplies, the training of healthcare workers in paediatric emergency care, the provision of remote medical support for doctors in conflict zones, the ability to reach vulnerable children such as orphans, street children and children with disabilities, and investments in mental health professionals. Likewise, it was important to uphold children's right to education, particularly in conflict zones. States must develop remote learning options, provide temporary learning spaces in safer areas, and raise awareness on the risks of unexploded ordnance and urban warfare. Parliamentarians had a key role to play in strengthening national laws, ensuring allocation of resources and developing frameworks to hold the perpetrators of violations against children to account.

**The President** invited the next speaker Ms. S. Kiladze, Vice-Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), to share some remarks about the protection of children's rights during armed conflict and its aftermath. Ms. Kiladze should explain how the Convention on the Rights of the Child ensured the protection of children's rights during armed conflict and its aftermath, and describe the actions that could be undertaken by parliamentarians to guarantee that those rights were respected and fulfilled nationally, thereby mitigating the long-term effects of armed conflict on children.

**Ms. S. Kiladze** (Vice-Chair, CRC), panellist, said that armed conflict infringed on each of the rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols and had devastating, lifelong consequences for children. She had witnessed first-hand the terrible effects of armed conflict, which exposed children to all forms of violence, including sexual violence. Children fleeing conflict, many of whom were orphans, experienced unimaginable trauma on their journey to a safe country.

Under the Convention, States Parties were required to submit periodic reports to the Committee and to send a delegation to meet in person with the Committee to engage in constructive dialogue. Mothers whose children had been killed or injured in armed conflict in their countries also sometimes appeared before the Committee.

As political decision-makers, parliamentarians had enormous power to effect change by exercising their legislative, budgetary and oversight functions within their own countries and by leveraging parliamentary diplomacy to advocate for the rights of children affected by armed conflict in other countries. Above all, parliamentarians should work together to prevent the outbreak of conflict, as that was the best way to guarantee the protection of children.

**The President** asked the next panellist, Ms. R. Dervišević, a Member of the House of Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of the parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights, to provide her personal account as a parliamentarian who had assisted children affected by armed conflict. She should describe the situation in her country, explain how the conflict there had affected children in the long run and detail the steps that had been taken in response, including the adoption of the Law on the Protection of Civilian Victims of War in 2023.

**Ms. R. Dervišević** (Bosnia and Herzegovina), panellist, said that 30 years on from the end of the Bosnian war, accurate data on the number of children killed or missing were still lacking. According to the Research and Documentation Centre Sarajevo, 3,372 children had been killed. Thousands more had been injured, sexually abused, separated from their families or displaced. The trauma to which they had been exposed had had a profound impact on their education, physical and mental health, and family life.

Transitional justice must be implemented in the aftermath of any conflict situation in order to address human rights violations and atrocities, ensure accountability, promote reconciliation and build a more just and peaceful future. The role of parliament was crucial in establishing transitional justice. Under IHL, States were obliged to provide reparations and support to victims of conflict, yet, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, no State-level provision of reparations had been established. The absence of a transitional justice strategy was the main reason why victims of armed conflict, including children, were not adequately supported by the legislation of the country.

Solutions had been implemented at lower levels of government. In August 2023, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, one of the country's two autonomous entities, had adopted the Law on the Protection of Civilian Victims of War, granting both survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and children born of wartime rape official recognition as civilian victims of war. According to the Forgotten Children of War Association, between three and five thousand children had been born of wartime rape in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Of those children, 12% suffered from PTSD, 22% showed symptoms of

severe depression and 42% experienced symptoms of somatoform disorder. Official recognition granted civilians victims of war priority access to healthcare services, education, and employment and housing support. The new law represented an important step forward in achieving the goals of transitional justice. It was expected that similar legislation would also be adopted in Republika Srpska, the country's other autonomous entity.

**The President** said that the adoption of the Law on the Protection of Civilian Victims of War was a milestone and an example to parliamentarians from other conflict-affected countries. The final panellist was Ms. G. Marufova, a Member of the Senate of the Parliament of Uzbekistan. She was also a member of the Senate Committee on Health and Education and the former chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, a role in which she had served as the focal point on the repatriation and reintegration of children from armed conflict zones. She would provide more information on the efforts undertaken by the National Agency for Social Protection to repatriate children from conflict zones in the Middle East and to provide them with medical, psychological, educational and social support.

**Ms. G. Marufova** (Uzbekistan), panellist, said that her Government had adopted an interministerial action plan in 2019 to facilitate the repatriation and reintegration of Uzbek children affected by armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq. It had launched five "Mehr" (Mercy) operations, under which over 530 citizens had returned to Uzbekistan, the majority of them children. The Government was making intense efforts to reintegrate those children into Uzbek society, notably through the provision of psychological, legal and educational support, and by facilitating their integration in local schools. Psychological support was also being provided to repatriated mothers.

Uzbekistan had ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and was working to bring its national legislation into line with the Convention and the norms of IHL. A number of steps had been taken in that direction. The amended Constitution of Uzbekistan, adopted in 2023, incorporated provisions prohibiting child labour. Moreover, in November 2024, Uzbekistan had adopted a law on the protection of children from all forms of violence. Uzbekistan had established a Children's Ombudsperson's Office in 2020, and a special commission on child rights had been created to monitor the implementation of Uzbekistan's international commitments. Its findings would inform future proposals to advance the protection of children's rights in the country.

**The President** said he wished to acknowledge the participation of Mr. G. Ijumba, Deputy Representative of UNICEF in Uzbekistan, and invited him to give his views on the information presented by the panel and to raise any other issues he considered relevant.

**Mr. G. Ijumba** (Deputy Representative of UNICEF in Uzbekistan) said that, with regard to the list of instruments mentioned by Mr. Ahmed, he wished to add that the UN Security Council had seriously considered the effects of armed conflict on children and had issued around 10 resolutions on that subject. He drew particular attention to Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), which had established a monitoring and reporting mechanism (MRM) to gather information on six grave violations committed against children in situations of armed conflict, namely, the killing and maiming of children; recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups; sexual violence against children; attacks against schools or hospitals; abduction of children; and denial of humanitarian access for children. The United Nations and UNICEF were part of the country task forces for monitoring adherence to the resolution.

He appreciated the vital work being carried out by ICRC colleagues on the frontlines of conflicts. He thanked Ms. Kiladze for her intervention and emphasized the importance of the CRC in ensuring compliance with the Convention and its Optional Protocols. The case of Bosnia and Herzegovina highlighted the importance of giving due consideration to the psychological health of children in the aftermath of conflict, since the damage caused was often invisible. He commended Uzbekistan on its work to repatriate children trapped in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq. Unlike other countries, Uzbekistan had recognized those children as the victims of armed conflict. It had made strong efforts to advocate for their rights, reintegrate them into the community and offer programmes to address their psychosocial needs.

Parliamentarians played a critical role in ensuring legal protection for children, holding the perpetrators of violations against children to account and mobilizing resources for child protection and reintegration programmes. They had the power to ensure that children caught up in conflict were treated as children first and foremost, provided with access to education and psychosocial support and given the opportunity to rebuild their lives. UNICEF stood ready to support parliamentarians in those efforts.

**The President** opened up the discussion for questions and comments from the floor.

**Ms. D. Alzayed** (Bahrain) said that the statistics on the numbers of children affected by armed conflict were indeed alarming. Parliaments must establish monitoring mechanisms to follow up on children who had been affected by armed conflict and review and document their experiences. That process must also involve trained lawyers. Parliaments must exert pressure on their governments in order to dissuade them from supporting wars and supplying weapons to States engaging in armed conflict. Existing legislative frameworks must be strengthened to ensure that child victims of conflict, especially girls, were adequately protected.

**Mr. K. Suebsang** (Thailand) said that Thailand had withdrawn its reservation on Article 22 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 30 August 2024, extending rights thereunder to refugee and stateless children. The country also had its own national regulations in the area of child protection; nevertheless, it faced challenges related to the provision of inclusive education. The provinces in the Muslim-majority south had their own system of religious *Pondok* schools, which operated separately from the national education system. Without a more inclusive national education system that respected local needs, the risk was that Muslim children would be pushed towards extremist groups.

**Ms. S. Abdulrahim** (Libya) said that discussions on international legislation and resolutions were in vain without effective mechanisms to hold States to account. Deploring the inhumane acts being perpetrated against children in Gaza, which included decapitation, she said that it was totally unacceptable that certain countries continued to violate international instruments, conventions and protocols without being held accountable for their actions. That situation weakened the credibility of those frameworks and was a threat to humanity.

The period from 2012 to 2017, during which the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) had been present in the country, had been the direst in Libya's history. During that time, Libya had been unable to benefit from the robust child protection legislation adopted by the country. Many violations against children had gone unpunished. Moreover, children born to Libyan mothers who had been married to non-Libyan members of ISIL were now facing statelessness.

**Mr. O. Merezhko** (Ukraine) said that, as a parent living in Kyiv, he had witnessed first-hand the terrible effects of armed conflict on children, for whom bombings and air raid sirens were a nightly occurrence. Just days earlier, nine Ukrainian children had been killed when a Russian ballistic missile hit a playground in Kryvyi Rih. He often wondered how many more Ukrainian children would be killed by the Russian Federation before the world – and the IPU – woke up. Countries which supplied the Russian Federation with weapons, and which purchased Russian oil and gas, were enabling the war. Since those countries had the power to end the war and chose not to, they should be held morally responsible for the deaths of Ukrainian children killed in the conflict. He appealed to all countries to do everything within their power to stop the war, noting that history would judge political leaders based on how they acted.

**Mr. W.M. Aye** (Myanmar) said that the grave situation in his country following the 2021 military coup had been exacerbated by the 7.7-magnitude earthquake that had struck Myanmar on 28 March 2025. The illegal coup had created a human rights and humanitarian disaster, with children being one of the most vulnerable groups affected. Of the 3.6 million people internally displaced since the military takeover, 40% were children. Moreover, at least six million children were in need of critical assistance. Violence, displacement and the collapse of essential services such as healthcare and education had put children's survival and well-being at great risk. Many children faced extreme risks such as child labour, early and forced marriage and even execution. The country's MPs were working on the ground together with local communities and civil society organizations and they endeavoured to uphold international humanitarian and human rights law as well as national legislation such as the 2019 Child Rights Law. Faced with a deepening humanitarian crisis, his country needed the help of the international community more than ever and he urged all countries to intensify their support to Myanmar.

**Ms. R.C. Baltazar Yucailla** (Ecuador) said that the violation of children's rights was very common in all countries, especially developing countries. The current Open Session should therefore lay the groundwork for future actions and commitments in the area of child protection. Parliamentarians should seek the active participation of the United Nations and UNICEF in those

efforts. Meetings on the topic of children's rights should be held more frequently, and an annual report should be produced on States' implementation and fulfilment of policies guaranteeing children's rights in the areas of education, health and safety.

In Ecuador, the State's response to the situation of internal armed conflict had led to the deaths of four boys, who had been the victims of discrimination on the basis of socioeconomic status, race and ethnicity. Acknowledging the State's failure to uphold national and international norms for the protection of children's rights, she called for the establishment of monitoring mechanisms to guarantee the respect of those rights, as well as the respect of Indigenous, Black and mixed-race (*Montubio*) identities.

**Ms. S. Nane** (Uruguay) said that while Uruguay had been free of armed conflict for well over a century, drug trafficking was increasingly making inroads in the country. It had a particularly adverse effect on children living in poverty, with boys being recruited by criminal gangs as watchmen or messengers and girls being taken as the girlfriends of gang members. Many Latin American countries were fighting drug trafficking, and their approach was similar to the one adopted in situations of armed conflict between two States. The militarization of the language of national anti-drug trafficking policies – often referred to as a “war on drugs” – was accompanied by a militarization of the budgets allocated and of the actions undertaken to combat drug trafficking. Moreover, as in situations of armed conflict between two countries, parliaments approved defence and security budgets without analysing the potential impact on child victims. She called on parliamentarians to come together to make a commitment on how to better handle budgets for national security policies that affected children, whether related to drug trafficking or armed conflicts between States.

**Ms. L.A. Posso Naranjo** (Ecuador), echoing the statement made by the delegate from Uruguay, called on parliamentarians to consider not only the impact of armed conflict between two States but also the impact of internal conflict, since in her region, children were often victims of conflict in the context of drug trafficking.

**Ms. K. Gajewska** (Poland) said that at least 16 children were killed or injured in Ukraine every week as a result of the war and one in five had lost a close family member. Yet there was another dimension to the tragedy of Ukrainian children and their families: forced adoption. Approximately 20,000 Ukrainian children had been kidnapped by Russian forces and taken deep into Russian territory, where they were subject to forced adoption. Moreover, the conflict had resulted in a large number of child refugees. Around one in three Ukrainian children had left the country over the previous three years. Many of them were living in Poland, where they could benefit from the State child benefits programme, which granted families US\$ 200 per month per child. She concluded by urging parliamentarians to keep the plight of kidnapped Ukrainian children at the forefront of their minds.

**Ms. F. Mahamat Seid** (Chad) said that children in her country were at risk of being recruited by Boko Haram. The terrorist group preyed on children living in poverty, offering them 150,000 Central African francs (CFAF) and a motorbike to join. For children who lacked access to basic essentials such as food and education, the promise of a better future was impossible to resist. As a parliamentarian, she supported the establishment and financing of specific programmes dedicated to children – particularly those associated with armed groups – to provide temporary reception centres, educational support and professional training, and to facilitate their reintegration into the community, as well as the creation of laws guaranteeing them free access to specialized physical and mental healthcare services.

**Ms. G. Mukabalisa** (Rwanda) said that, as a child survivor of the Rwandan genocide, she was well placed to outline the ways in which parliamentarians might support child survivors of genocide or other conflict situations. In the aftermath of the genocide, her country had prioritized the establishment of transitional justice with the aim of establishing the truth, promoting reconciliation and unity between Rwandans, and ensuring justice. Moreover, a genocide survivors' fund had been established to provide survivors with the economic and psychosocial support they needed to live a dignified life. That fund had had a profound impact on children such as herself, who could receive scholarships and counselling. Parliamentarians were responsible for overseeing the implementation of projects under the fund and ensuring that adequate support was provided to beneficiaries. Parliamentarians had a great deal of power to ensure that children in post-conflict situations received enough support; they must hold their governments to account.

**The President** thanked the delegates for their contributions and invited the panellists to comment on the interventions.

**Ms. S. Kiladze** (Vice-Chair, CRC), panellist, said that it was clear that parliamentarians had a great deal of power to improve the lives of children caught up in armed conflict and in its aftermath. She expressed hope that they would strengthen their efforts in that direction. The CRC remained at their disposal and would continue to support them with its recommendations.

**Mr. F. Ahmed** (Legal Adviser, ICRC), panellist, said that while the discussion had focused on international conflict situations, many of the instruments he had mentioned – such as the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on the Rights of the Child – could also be availed in peacetime and in situations of internal armed conflict, such as those faced by many Latin American countries. Recalling the statement by the delegate from Libya on the importance of accountability, he said that parliamentarians must work towards the adoption of legislation enabling international crimes, such as war crimes and crimes against humanity, to be prosecuted domestically.

**Ms. R. Dervišević** (Bosnia and Herzegovina), panellist, said that she wished to conclude by emphasizing that, beyond acute humanitarian needs such as food and shelter, children in conflict zones required long-term community and family support, mental health support, social services, stable living conditions and medical care in order to rebuild their lives. Most importantly, parliamentarians must do their utmost to prevent armed conflict from happening in the first place.

**The President**, thanking all participants for the very fruitful discussion, said that, by taking action within their own parliaments, they could collectively make a real difference to the lives of children affected by armed conflict.

*The session rose at 13:00.*

## Adoption of resolutions, final documents and reports

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 9 APRIL 2025

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 16:05, with Ms. T. Narbaeva (Uzbekistan), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.*

Item 3 of the agenda  
(continued)

### **General Debate on the theme *Parliamentary action for social development and justice*** (A/150/3-Inf.1 and DR)

**The President** said that, over the preceding four days of the Assembly, productive and robust deliberations on a series of highly relevant issues had taken place, including in the General Debate on the theme *Parliamentary action for social development and justice*, which had been enriched by 160 interventions from over 120 national parliaments and 12 partner organizations. The President of Uzbekistan, Mr. S. Mirziyoyev, had also given a special address with content that had fed into the draft Tashkent Declaration set out in document A/150/3-DR, which addressed issues that she invited two young parliamentarians to outline.

The President invited Mr. A. Sadullaev (Uzbekistan) and Ms. N. Abu Ghosh (Jordan) to introduce the draft Declaration on the theme of the General Debate.

**Mr. A. Sadullaev** (Uzbekistan) said that, 30 years after the first World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen, many goals remained unfulfilled, with new challenges threatening progress and social cohesion. Parliamentarians must prioritize social development in law and policy and seize the fresh opportunity offered by the upcoming Second World Social Summit in Qatar to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Collective action taken now would shape a fairer, more just future for all.

**Ms. N. Abu Ghosh** (Jordan) said that current concerns encompassed growing social division; declining trust in governments and institutions; pressure on social protections; job insecurity; poor housing; inadequate services; inequality and discrimination; hunger and homelessness; widening income gaps; and social isolation. A new social contract founded on human rights, solidarity and inclusion was urgently needed, with an emphasis on women's empowerment. The three priorities for guiding action were to invest in people, democratize the economy, and strengthen institutions.

**Mr. A. Sadullaev** (Uzbekistan) said in regard to investing in people that the pledge in the Tashkent Declaration was to work for improvements in the realms of universal health coverage; lifelong education; environment; climate change; biodiversity; social protection; public assets; housing; digital divides; racism, xenophobia and violence; family-friendly policies; and work-life balance.

**Ms. N. Abu Ghosh** (Jordan), in respect of democratizing the economy, said that the pledge was to work in support of fair and progressive taxation; increased spending on education, healthcare and social programmes; small businesses and cooperatives; accessible finance and training; workers' rights; gender pay equality and equal economic opportunities for women and minorities; financial regulation to protect consumers; productive investment in place of harmful speculation; and meaningful assistance for workers displaced by technology or transitioning from informal to formal work. The economic future must include all voices to promote social dialogue and shared prosperity.

**Mr. A. Sadullaev** (Uzbekistan) said, with reference to strengthening institutions, that the pledge was to focus on action in the areas of accountability and effectiveness; women's and youth representation in decision-making bodies; citizen participation in public institutions; public service delivery; access to information; anti-corruption; transparent budgeting; gender-responsive budgeting; regulation of digital and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies; ethical AI use; misinformation; judicial strengthening; the international financial architecture; and multilateral reform.

All IPU Member Parliaments were urged to take ownership of the long-term vision provided for in the Tashkent Declaration and develop national plans to which all could contribute. In preparation for the Second World Summit on Social Development, they should commit to holding parliamentary debates and engaging with their respective negotiators at the United Nations (UN).

**Ms. N. Abu Ghosh** (Jordan), expressing thanks to the Parliament of Uzbekistan for having brought participants together in an important debate, said that the country's recent progress towards social development and democratic reform was truly inspiring. Building a strong, new and modern-day global agreement on social development would secure justice and peace for all.

**The President** said she took it that the Assembly wished to endorse the draft Tashkent Declaration set out in document A/150/3-DR.

*It was so decided.*

#### Item 6 of the agenda

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

(Standing Committee on Sustainable Development)

(A/150/6-DR)

**Ms. M. Al Suwaidi** (United Arab Emirates), Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, presenting a consolidated draft resolution entitled *Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development*, as prepared by the Committee and set out, along with an explanatory note, in document A/150/6-DR, said that, thanks to the dedication of the three co-Rapporteurs and the constructive team spirit of the Committee members throughout the drafting process, the text had been finalized within the allocated time period. The Committee had considered and approved the final version by acclamation, with reservations expressed by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran on preambular paragraphs 2, 10 and 21, and on operative paragraph 21, and by the delegation of the Russian Federation on preambular paragraphs 13 and 20, and operative paragraphs 14, 21 and 26.

Underscoring the vital parliamentary role in mitigating the long-lasting impact of conflict on sustainable development, the draft called for stronger international cooperation, legal accountability for environmental damage, and robust parliamentary oversight to safeguard civilian infrastructure, uphold humanitarian principles and support post-conflict reconstruction. It also urged the integration of climate resilience, gender equality and transparent resource distribution into recovery strategies.

In addition, the Committee had approved its workplan for the 151st Assembly, including a debate on the theme of its next resolution, a panel debate on global warming, and a segment to prepare for the Parliamentary Meeting at the 30th session of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 30) to be held in Brazil in November 2025.

**The President** said she took it that the Assembly wished to adopt the draft resolution.

*It was so decided.*

**A delegate from India**, while welcoming the resolution, expressed a reservation on its operative paragraph 18.

#### Item 7 of the agenda

#### **Reports of the Standing Committees**

**Ms. D. O'Neill** (Australia), President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, reporting on the Committee's work during the Assembly, said that, in a preparatory debate on its next resolution on illegal international adoption, members had heard the moving personal testimony of a woman separated from her mother as a newborn, which had underlined the human dimensions of a story resembling thousands of others worldwide. Highlighting among other things the need for stronger international cooperation to ensure the right of such victims to identity, nationality and family connections, the views expressed in the debate would feed into an action-oriented resolution to be drafted by the co-Rapporteurs for consideration in October 2025.

In the Committee's follow-up on the implementation of its 2023 resolution on orphanage trafficking, the significant progress reported by several participants demonstrated how parliamentary action directly benefited vulnerable children. In the similar follow-up on its 2024 resolution on AI, the Committee had learned that numerous parliaments were establishing committees specializing in data protection. Participants had emphasized the need for enhanced international and regional cooperation as well as for parliamentary action aligned with international human rights standards and emerging governance frameworks. Among challenges cited were the differing paces of technology and legislation and, in developing countries especially, access to the transformative power of AI. While recognizing that the increasing use of AI in parliamentary settings offered efficiency gains, concerns were raised around its implications for transparency and the digital divide. In conclusion, the only way to fulfilment of the mandate to protect democracy and human rights was to translate IPU resolutions into determined, legislative action.

**The President** said she took it that the Assembly wished to take note of the report.

*It was so decided.*

**Mr. D. Laouingamaye** (Chad), member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, reporting on the Committee's work during the Assembly, said that, at its first sitting, the Committee had learned from two guest speakers about the UN field presence in support of development in Uzbekistan and about financing of the UN development system. The main takeaway was that parliaments should engage in the design and funding of UN country programmes, including by advocating for quality funding from relevant government institutions and multilateral organizations.

At its second sitting, the Committee had heard from another two guest speakers about the growing role of the BRICS in international relations and the impact on the United Nations. Similarities and differences between the BRICS and the G20 had been highlighted, with participants concluding that the United Nations had everything to gain by working with both and that parliaments had an important oversight role to play vis-à-vis all three. The Committee had also heard a presentation by a representative of the main UN humanitarian agency in Gaza about its work and the worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Lastly, the Committee had elected five new members to its Bureau. In addition, with thanks to the Uzbek authorities, its members had taken part in an informative field trip to a local health centre in Tashkent.

**The President** said she took it that the Assembly wished to take note of the report.

*It was so decided.*

#### Item 8 of the agenda

### **Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and for the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development for the 152nd Assembly and appointment of the co-Rapporteurs** (A/150/8-R.1)

**The President**, drawing attention to the information set out in document A/150/8-R.1, said that the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security had proposed *The role of parliaments in establishing robust post-conflict management mechanisms and restoring a just and lasting peace* as its subject item for the next one-year cycle, with Mr. A. Al-Zu'bi (Jordan), Ms. F. Belhirsch (Netherlands) and Mr. B. Kalu (Nigeria) as co-Rapporteurs.

She took it that the Assembly wished to agree to that subject item and to the appointment of the designated co-Rapporteurs.

*It was so decided.*

**The President** said that the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development had proposed *Building a fair and sustainable global economy: The role of parliaments in combating protectionism, reducing tariffs and preventing corporate tax evasion* as its subject item for the next one-year cycle, with Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia), Mr. J.M.R. Edwards (Chile) and Ms. J. Sabao (Zambia) as co-Rapporteurs.

She took it that the Assembly wished to agree to that subject item and to the appointment of the designated co-Rapporteurs.

*It was so decided.*

Item 9 of the agenda

**Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules**

(A/150/9-P.1-rev and Am)

**The President**, recalling that the consultation begun in 2023 on possible amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules had led to the adoption of a first set of amendments at the 149th Assembly in October 2024, said that the Working Group established by the Executive Committee in March 2024 had subsequently resumed its work to study several remaining proposed amendments. In December 2024, the Executive Committee had agreed on a second set of such amendments, as originally set out in document A/150/9-P.1, for submission to the membership three months before the 150th Assembly in accordance with Article 30 of the IPU Statutes.

By the deadlines of 22 February 2025 for amendments to the Statutes and 8 March 2025 for amendments to the Rules, several IPU Member Parliaments had provided feedback and proposed sub-amendments. The admissible sub-amendments and clarifications from the Secretariat, set out in document A/150/9-P.1-Am, had been shared with the membership on 18 March 2025.

At its meeting of 3 April 2025, the Executive Committee had invited the Working Group to continue its reflections on the emergency item process.

The Assembly was invited to consider and adopt the final proposed amendments to the Statutes and Rules of the Assembly, as contained in document A/150/9-P.1-rev.

Earlier that day, the Governing Council had approved the proposed 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 of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, all of which could be found in document CL/215/7-P.1-rev.

**The Secretary General**, remarking on the final proposed amendments to the Statutes and Rules of the Assembly, said that, as certified by the Executive Committee at its meeting of 3 April 2025, the requisite procedures had been strictly observed throughout the amendment process. In light of the Assembly's decision not to endorse the proposal presented to it at an earlier sitting to trial two emergency items, it should be noted that the reference to that possibility in the third introductory paragraph of document A/150/9-P.1-rev was now obsolete.

The amendments presently before the Assembly were intended to promote inclusivity by mainstreaming gender considerations in all IPU processes and structures with a view to gender parity, gender balance and the engagement of other stakeholder groups in IPU deliberations. They were also aimed at streamlining deadlines for the submission of amendments to facilitate processing. With the Working Group continuing its work, the amendment process was still in progress but was expected to culminate in a complete set of reforms that would allow the Organization to move forward.

Replying to a question from **a delegate from Belgium**, he confirmed that, in the event of a future scenario involving two emergency items, decisions would be based on a two-thirds majority of votes cast.

**The President** said she took it that the Assembly wished to approve the amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules.

*It was so decided.*

Item 5 of the agenda

***The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine***

(Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)

(A/150/5-DR)

**Ms. A. Kuspan** (Kazakhstan), President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, presenting the draft resolution entitled *The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine*, as prepared by the Committee and set out in document A/150/5-DR, said that, following lengthy, lively and sometimes difficult discussions in which dialogue and the common will to achieve tangible results had prevailed, the Committee had agreed to retain the original text as first

presented, without incorporating any of the many proposed amendments. Unusually, the text had been drafted by six co-Rapporteurs, one from each geopolitical group, so as to gather the views of all those groups on what was a sensitive topic.

Approved by acclamation, the text reaffirmed the IPU's support for a two-State solution in accordance with international law and its condemnation of all terrorist attacks; called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza to protect civilians and facilitate access to humanitarian aid; advocated universal recognition of Palestinian and Israeli statehood; and urged parliamentary action in favour of peace, diplomacy, and human rights, safety and security.

**The President** said she took it that the Assembly wished to adopt the draft resolution.

*It was so decided.*

**A delegate from the Islamic Republic of Iran** said that, in line with the principled Iranian position on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, his delegation rejected the resolution on the grounds that it legitimized the usurper and occupier that was the Zionist regime. It also rejected the two-State solution; the only lasting solution to the Palestinian question was the return of all Palestinian refugees and their descendants to their homeland, following a referendum among them on the matter, and the establishment of a Palestinian State, with Al-Quds as its capital.

**A delegate from Germany** said that her delegation favoured a two-State solution but wished to enter a reservation on the entire resolution, as it omitted to highlight either the responsibility of Hamas for its terrorist attacks or the unconditional release of all hostages as a prerequisite for negotiations. The text also failed to emphasize that all acts of violence were unacceptable, irrespective of the perpetrator; that Israel had a right to self-defence; and that youth stakeholders and neighbours should be more involved in addressing the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. A people-centred perspective was urgently needed, which included the adoption and implementation of gender-responsive legislation as encouraged in operative paragraph 13 of the resolution. The terrorist Hamas organization having declared its intention to repeat its attacks, the IPU could surely find better ways of standing together to address the issue with a view to peace in Gaza.

**Mr. J.F.N. Mudenda** (Zimbabwe) said that the first preambular paragraph of the resolution acknowledged the role of the UN Security Council and General Assembly in working for a permanent solution to the question of Palestine but failed to acknowledge the continuing efforts by Qatar and Egypt to negotiate a ceasefire in Gaza, which equally deserved recognition. Those two countries had furthermore played a tremendous role in ensuring the delivery of humanitarian aid to the people in Gaza.

On another note, he was at a loss to understand the rationale behind the recommendation in paragraph 17 of the resolution to transform the Committee on Middle East Questions into a Strategic Task Force on the Middle East, which implied a shift from a permanent to an ad hoc body.

**The President** said that the Executive Committee would look into the modalities for handling that question in respect of paragraph 17.

**A delegate from Palestine** said that his delegation welcomed the consensual adoption of the resolution as originally drafted. While not fulfilling the aspirations of the Palestinian people, it was a step towards ending the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine in the interest of regional and international peace and security. Its avoidance of any condemnation was nonetheless a compromise. In no circumstances could the oppressor ever be equated with the oppressed. In addition to economic sanctions and an end to irresponsible arms trade, the next resolution on the subject should call for the illegal occupation to cease and for the condemnation of the international crimes committed in the context of that occupation.

**A delegate from Austria** said that her delegation fully supported a two-State solution but had submitted details in writing of reservations it wished to enter on three paragraphs of the resolution, which related to terminology.

**A delegate from Hungary** expressed her delegation's reservation on the entire text, considering it to be neither balanced nor conducive to long-term peace.

**A delegate from Sweden** said that the resolution should have called for the urgent release of the hostages kidnapped by Hamas, which was an important factor in the ongoing conflict.

## Closure of the Assembly

**Ms. A.T. Didiza** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the African Group, in the first of closing remarks by representatives of the geopolitical groups, said that the Assembly had enabled reflections on progress towards sustainable development and justice, with their attendant challenges, and commendably encouraged continuing advocacy for women's and youth participation in parliaments. Further work was needed, however, to address vexing issues, notably conflict and its resolution through peaceful dialogue. On that score, the admirable activities of the IPU Task Force on Ukraine could perhaps be reproduced to apply to conflicts in Africa, where the IPU was currently engaged in helping parliaments in transition, with the African Group ready to help, as needed. Concerning the emergency item, the present system robbed the IPU Member Parliaments of the opportunity to deliberate on critical global issues. The Group therefore hoped that a better system could be devised going forward. It congratulated and thanked all those involved in organizing the Assembly and looked forward to learning at the 151st Assembly about further parliamentary achievements, both national and regional.

**Mr. M. Hadid** (Palestine), speaking on behalf of the Arab Group and emphasizing the importance of a responsible parliamentary stance rooted in justice and international law, said that the tragic situation in Palestine could not be ignored. The Zionist killing machine continued to target innocent people in flagrant violation of international instruments. Palestinian suffering continued amid shameful global silence. Strongly supportive of the Palestinian cause, the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU) called on all parliamentary organizations to assume their legal, moral and humanitarian responsibility to stop the occupation's crimes and facilitate achievement of the legitimate Palestinian aspiration to an independent State, with Jerusalem as its capital. Through promoting dialogue and preventive diplomacy, joint parliamentary action would reduce conflict and foster a just peace. Greater parliamentary cooperation and solidarity were key to innovative solutions for fulfilling Palestinian ambitions for development and prosperity, with a commitment to democracy, human rights, intercultural dialogue and non-interference in the internal affairs of States also being paramount.

**Mr. Tian Xuejun** (China), Chair of the Asia-Pacific Group, said that, at its recent meeting, members had expressed strong support for and keen interest in participating in the IPU's work, with 19 eventually selected from among the many who had competed to fill vacancies for officeholders. The Group had deliberated on emergency item proposals and candidates for the related drafting committee and heard a presentation on the IPU study on sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in the Asia-Pacific region. It had also been briefed by various of its members on the work of the Executive Committee, an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Plus Three meeting, and preparations for the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament. The Group commended the Assembly outcomes, which had successfully broadened common ground, promoted parliamentary actions for social development and justice, and enhanced multilateralism. Honoured to be part of that process, the Group looked forward to working with other parliaments to build on such achievements.

**Ms. M.d.C. Alva Prieto** (Peru), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), said that, despite the distance, numerous delegations from the GRULAC region were present at the Assembly, although the Argentine delegation was markedly absent for reasons yet to be clarified. In solidarity, GRULAC would support its attendance at the 151st Assembly. In addition to an emergency item proposal that had importantly highlighted the issue of tariffs as a cause of the global trade crisis, GRULAC had contributed to the Assembly in the General Debate and through active participation in the work of IPU bodies, including the Executive Committee, to which she had been elected as a Vice-President. In the Standing Committees, GRULAC members had been instrumental as co-Rapporteurs in drafting the resolution on a two-State solution in Palestine and preparing for a new resolution on illegal international adoptions, to be debated in October 2025. With several of its members in officeholder positions, GRULAC was firmly set to continue advancing the IPU's work.

**Mr. L. Wehrli** (Switzerland), Chair of the Twelve Plus Group, said that, in the first of its five meetings during the Assembly, the Group had expressed to the IPU President its concerns over the proposal to pilot two emergency items, which it opposed on the ground that it lacked any statutory basis. Albeit grateful that those concerns had been taken on board and the proposal withdrawn, the Group deplored as symptomatic of growing polarization and division among countries and geopolitical

groups the third failure since the 147th Assembly to agree on an emergency item. Ways must be found to prevent any recurrence of that scenario, as it altogether obstructed collective action. The Group had actively participated in the work of IPU committees, notably in relation to the draft resolution on a two-State solution in Palestine. He commended the numerous members of the Group who had been appointed to serve on IPU bodies and extended particular thanks to the IPU Secretariat for its support.

**Dr. T. Ackson** (United Republic of Tanzania), President of the IPU, said in her closing remarks that, thanks to the efforts of the IPU's gracious hosts, the special 150th Assembly had been a fittingly memorable occasion. The IPU had unquestionably stood the test of time, with its mission one of continuing profound importance in a world where the people's voice, strong parliamentarianism and parliamentary diplomacy were ever more needed. The Assembly's successes were underpinned by the active participation, insightful contributions and commitment of the IPU Member Parliaments, whose delegates had provided inspiring examples of how they were tackling challenges, engaging in parliamentary diplomacy to develop meaningful cooperation for taking action forward.

It was also necessary, however, to acknowledge and learn from shortcomings, exemplified in the failure to adopt an emergency item resolution, by working to strengthen coordination and deepen dialogue – and all the more so when dialogue did not initially succeed. With that in mind, the IPU Member Parliaments should come together at the 151st Assembly with a renewed commitment to listen to one another and build the understanding needed to move forward together. As the emergency item procedure had shown itself not fit for purpose in a fractured world, the IPU would continue reflecting on ways of modernizing its Statutes and Rules, as she had promised from the start of her mandate, to ensure that the Assembly could always find common ground and express its position on the world's most pressing issues.

The General Debate had highlighted the extent to which the SDGs related to social development and justice, which could in fact be considered prerequisites for all the SDGs. True sustainable development was measured by a society's treatment of its most vulnerable, the quality of life provided to citizens, and respect for the shared human condition. Offering the necessary tools for that endeavour, the Tashkent Declaration sent a strong parliamentary contribution to the upcoming Second World Summit on Social Development.

At the 150th Assembly, the IPU Member Parliaments had reaffirmed their shared commitment to placing human dignity and well-being at the heart of policies, pledging to invest in education, healthcare and environmental protection, bridge digital divides, ensure equitable access to essential services, and empower all communities to flourish. Secondly, they had underscored that economies must serve humanity, not vice versa. Economic justice demanded bold reforms for fairer tax systems, promotion of workers' rights, protection of the most vulnerable, and genuine inclusion ensuring the participation of women, youth and marginalized groups in leading the way to a more equitable future. Thirdly, with a view to building trustworthy institutions, they had urged increased transparency, accountability and responsiveness, representation that truly reflected social diversity, strengthened rule of law, robust anti-corruption measures, and citizen participation in governance and budgeting processes. Globally, it was essential to support reforms enabling international institutions to address social challenges for the sake of a more just and stable world.

Against that backdrop, it was time to eradicate poverty and hunger, invest in health, education and happiness, protect the planet, democratize the economy, and ensure that all national and multilateral institutions guiding and overseeing the related efforts were fit for purpose. The Tashkent Declaration could help the IPU Member Parliaments shape powerful policy rooted in solidarity and justice for all humanity, which they must not let down.

**The Secretary General**, in his closing remarks, said that the IPU membership had not unfaithfully come together as hoped at the Assembly to find consensus and propose solutions to current challenges, yet hope must not be lost. Many delegations came to the IPU Assemblies to hear all sides of an argument, break free of their echo chambers, and view the world through different eyes. No matter how Assemblies ended, participants left enriched by what they had learned in working for solid outcomes that sometimes took longer than expected to attain. The IPU would surely bounce back stronger still from its experience.

As to the positive results from the landmark 150th Assembly, following an inclusive, exhaustive and often impassioned process, the IPU had adopted a resolution on a two-State solution in Palestine that underscored the parliamentary role in advancing that solution. It had also adopted a resolution on the long-lasting impact of conflict on sustainable development, while the subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council had all held very successful meetings. In that morning's meeting of the Governing Council, moreover, the Prime Minister of Senegal had conveyed a poignant message of thanks to the

IPU for its work to ensure justice by securing his release from prison and enabling his participation in the Senegalese political process, ending with his elevation to his current position. His experience was an example of what the IPU membership could proudly achieve together when united in a common agenda.

During the Assembly, the programme had allowed more space for coordination among the IPU's geopolitical groups, Standing Committees and specialized bodies, with no fewer than 70 meetings also organized on a range of global issues. Substantive discussions had been held on, among many others, beliefs and social norms, climate action, weapons of mass destruction, and methane gas emissions reduction. In addition, an exciting new campaign *Achieving gender equality, action by action* had been launched to promote parity in parliament and politics, encourage institutional gender sensitivity, and combat gender-based violence and discrimination.

With gender equality as the IPU's 2025 priority theme, it was gratifying that over 37% of parliamentarians at the Assembly were women, which was slightly below the record but indicated travel in the right direction. The Forum of Women Parliamentarians had also celebrated its 40th anniversary, while in Mexico the First Global Conference on Women Parliamentarians had been hugely successful.

Upcoming events included, in June 2025 in Rome, the Second Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue and, in July 2025 in Geneva, the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, preceded by the 15th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament. The latter two events presented rare opportunities for Speakers from around the world to review achievements and rededicate their institutions to more robust action in response to the challenges that had emerged in the five years since they had last convened in those settings.

The IPU family was growing, with Belize as its newest Member Parliament and two new permanent observers also joining. Delegations from Barbados and Dominica had, moreover, attended the Assembly to explore possible affiliation. The Organization was keeping on top of difficulties faced by certain Member Parliaments, whether financial or political, and had again taken steps to strengthen its Statutes and Rules, as it would continue to do.

It had been a pleasure and privilege to bring the IPU Assembly to Central Asia for the first time and an honour to have had Uzbek President Mirziyoyev, in a special plenary session, deliver an important statement that had inspired the Tashkent Declaration. He thanked the President of the Assembly and her colleagues for their warm hospitality and their support in organizing the Assembly.

*The President of the Assembly was presented with a gavel engraved with her name in appreciation of her work throughout the Assembly.*

**The President** said in her concluding remarks that the lively and meaningful debates witnessed over the preceding days had sadly reached their end. The Assembly had once again confirmed the Organization's importance as a global platform for free and open discussion of pressing issues affecting all nations and peoples, with the IPU's friendly and close-knit family demonstrating its sincere and dutiful commitment to peace and dialogue.

Over the previous year, the Uzbek parliamentary authorities had worked hard to ensure a truly successful and memorable 150th Assembly, with special thanks due to the IPU leadership and staff and indeed all others who had contributed towards the positive results. The IPU President's invaluable contribution to the Organization continued to bolster its international prestige and foster a productive friendly atmosphere within its team. She was doing her utmost to ensure that IPU decisions positively impacted lives and promoted the development of global parliamentarianism. In short, her efforts would go down in IPU history alongside the 150th Assembly in Tashkent.

On that note, she declared the 150th IPU Assembly closed.

*The State Anthem of Uzbekistan was played, followed by the IPU Anthem.*

*The sitting rose at 18:20.*

# Tashkent Declaration

## *Parliamentary action for social development and justice*

*Endorsed by the 150th IPU Assembly  
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

We, the members of parliament participating in the 150th IPU Assembly in Tashkent, have taken stock of social development in our countries by looking at its three main components, as defined by the United Nations: poverty reduction, employment generation and social cohesion. The global social development agenda that governments adopted 30 years ago at the first World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen, has only partly come to fruition, and new challenges have emerged that threaten to erode the social fabric of our societies, setting us back on many fronts.

With a Second World Summit for Social Development set to take place in Qatar in November 2025, the time has come to place social development at the centre of our efforts as legislators and as representatives of the people. This will also help advance the lagging Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDGs 1–5 (no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, and gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions).

Almost everywhere in the world – to varying degrees – social bonds are weakening. An *us vs. them* mentality has taken hold in politics, the media and in communities at large, trust in government and public institutions is at a low point, and social safety nets, such as unemployment insurance and pension schemes, where they exist at all, are under increasing strain.

Billions of people are making do every day on very little. Work, when available, is often precarious or underpaid. Informal work remains prevalent. Women, youth, migrants, disabled people, older workers, Indigenous people and marginalized groups are the most vulnerable to various forms of discrimination that hold them back in society. Far too many people lack decent housing or are homeless altogether. Families are struggling because of competing priorities, poor public services such as childcare, and a lack of income support for the most vulnerable. Hunger and malnutrition, which have never truly been defeated, are trending upward again.

Income and wealth inequalities have become entrenched. The economic benefits of new technologies have accrued primarily to producers and much less to workers and consumers. In many countries, an ageing population is being left to fend for itself, without adequate support to enjoy a fulfilling life. A brave new world of social media and digital products has come into being which, while facilitating many tasks, has given rise to novel forms of social isolation and alienation.

Staying faithful to the Copenhagen vision of social development will require a policy reset to achieve a more appropriate balance between the needs of the market and the needs of the people. Social development does not spring up spontaneously but requires a deliberate effort, from the community level up to the government level, nationally as well as globally, through the multilateral system led by the United Nations. A new social contract is needed between governments and their people that aims at the realization of all human rights and that brings people together in solidarity with one another. At the heart of this new contract should be the empowerment of women, which is a key prerequisite for all aspects of social development.

While realizing that social development requires a multi-pronged approach, and a mix of policy reforms that each country needs to determine for itself, we agree on the following three broad “precepts” to guide our action going forward: invest in people, democratize the economy and strengthen institutions.

### **Invest in people**

Social development is about people, and people are the most important resource we have to make this world a better place. Investing in people – i.e. in their education, healthcare and environment, as well as their skills, enabling them to get along as a community, to start a business, or to find a decent

job – is a prerequisite for social progress. Healthcare and education in particular are essential to allow people at all stages of life, from early childhood to old age, to flourish and to live the most fulfilling life possible.

We, therefore, pledge to work to:

- Make health coverage universal, in particular by investing more in primary care for prevention, by making care more affordable to all income groups, particularly through public systems and not-for-profit private providers, and by ensuring that the long-term care needs of disabled people and the elderly are duly considered.
- Expand education opportunities for all, through both formal and informal approaches, emphasizing lifelong education, citizenship education and critical thinking, and focusing on those most left behind, including women and girls, as well as new migrants, the unemployed and minorities.
- Invest in environmental protection, including to prevent pollution, biodiversity loss and climate-warming greenhouse gas emissions, all of which undermine human well-being.
- Make it a key priority to support forward-looking initiatives in national climate policies and facilitate the transition to renewable energy and green technologies.
- Invest more in universal social protection, such as unemployment schemes and public pensions, to lift people from poverty to prosperity and make sure no one is left behind.
- Adopt a child-sensitive approach to social protection, which is an integral part of ending violence against children in all its forms, including child labour, marriage, sexual exploitation, smuggling, and recruitment by criminal and armed groups.
- Craft social and economic policies to make housing affordable for all and a fundamental human right, including through public housing, cooperative housing and rent support for those most in need.
- Support public assets such as libraries, museums, performance centres and other such venues of intellectual life that help nurture human intelligence.
- Bridge the digital divide between rural areas and urban centres, as well as between the poor and the more affluent, expanding access to income generation opportunities and to social networks.
- Combat racism, xenophobia and intolerance, as well as violence in all its forms, which prevent people from thriving and undermine social harmony.
- Adopt a family-friendly approach in all social and economic policies, including support for parental leave, affordable childcare, and an improved work-life balance for all.

### **Democratize the economy**

The achievement of sustained social development requires economic policies that benefit all people, building their capacities and providing for their needs so that everyone has an opportunity to succeed. Today, within nations as well as between them, economic benefits are unevenly and often unfairly distributed. Rampant inequality is not just a social ill; it is an intrinsic stumbling block to economic development, as fewer and fewer people are able to participate as producers and consumers. Fiscal and monetary policies need to be more focused on creating quality employment, including through enterprise development, and on fostering social cohesion by including all people, particularly women and youth, in the decision-making process.

We, therefore, pledge to work to:

- Establish new indicators of economic progress that are more directly linked to human well-being, happiness and social cohesion, as a way of complementing the key indicator of gross domestic product (GDP), which disregards the social and environmental costs of economic growth.
- Fight tax evasion and improve tax collection according to the principle of progressivity, shifting the tax burden onto those who can most afford to contribute based on their income and wealth, and with particular emphasis on multinational corporations.
- Reallocate budgets towards social programmes for health and education, as well as towards public infrastructure, including by cutting fossil fuel subsidies and reducing military expenditure.
- Enact competition laws to curb monopolies and oligopolies as a way of expanding market access for smaller producers and of preventing price gouging.

- Regulate the financial sector to curb harmful speculation, protect consumers and redirect assets towards more value-added production.
- Promote small and medium-sized enterprises, which are less prone to delocalization, particularly by facilitating access to credit and to professional skills development.
- Support the social and solidarity economy of cooperatives, social enterprises and mutual aid societies, which help strengthen social bonds and promote shared interests among entrepreneurs, workers and consumers.
- Uphold workers' rights in accordance with international conventions, particularly by protecting the right of collective bargaining, by outlawing all forms of child labour and forced labour, as well as the exploitation of migrant workers.
- Close the gender pay gap and strengthen social protections for care work, which is mostly carried out by women, and eliminate discrimination in employment against women and minority groups.
- Enact laws that give women the right to own land, inherit property or borrow money, and that ensure women's equal right to work.
- Support social dialogue among workers, producers and consumers, and expand their role in economic decision-making, from corporate boards to national regulatory bodies.
- Institute income support schemes to help workers displaced by large-scale technological innovation, including artificial intelligence.
- Support the transition from informal to formal work arrangements that are subject to taxation and provide for social benefits such as unemployment insurance, healthcare and old-age pensions.

### **Strengthen institutions**

Institutions are the glue that keeps societies and indeed the whole global community together. They include not just government institutions, including parliaments, at national, subnational and municipal levels, but also regulatory bodies, public administrations and media institutions that cater to the needs of the people in multiple ways. At the global level, multilateral organizations such as the international financial institutions, the International Labour Organization, and the United Nations system as a whole are needed to support an enabling environment for social development in all countries. The less people trust the institutions that are supposed to guide and protect them, the more likely they are to revert to their own devices in isolation from each other, which undermines social cohesion and makes broad-based economic reforms harder to achieve.

We, therefore, pledge to work to:

- Strengthen the legislative and accountability role of our own parliaments as a necessary condition for governance reforms across the board.
- Increase the representation of women and youth in parliaments and all other major decision-making bodies, commensurate with their numbers in society.
- Actively include women and young people in the work and leadership of national parliaments and the IPU.
- Institute rules and processes to make all public institutions more open to outside input from citizens, consumers, workers and producers, as well as from civil society at large.
- Strengthen the capacities of government institutions, particularly public administrations, to provide quality services for all.
- Allow easy access to declassified government information for people, advocacy groups and communities, to protect their rights as well as to hold governments accountable.
- Fight corruption at all levels within politics, public administrations and the private sector.
- Limit the influence of interest groups in election finance and take steps to prevent electoral fraud.
- Ensure a more open and transparent budget process in which citizens and groups can participate, and promote citizens' budgets as a tool of public engagement to ensure public trust.
- Institute gender-responsive budgeting at all levels of government, from national to local.
- Encourage the participation of citizens, consumers, producers and workers in regulatory bodies for digital technologies and artificial intelligence, as a way of minimizing the social risks of such technologies.
- Ensure the ethical use of artificial intelligence and develop innovative legal frameworks to effectively regulate this rapidly evolving domain.

- Create an enabling environment for media organizations and cultural institutions to help strengthen people's capacities to think critically about the information they receive in the public domain, which will help reduce the social impacts of misinformation and disinformation.
- Strengthen the judiciary so that it can be counted on to deliver justice impartially and in a timely manner, upholding the rule of law.
- Strengthen and reform the international financial architecture to free up resources for developing countries' social expenditure, including through debt relief and more effective aid.
- Support reforms of the multilateral system to enable it to carry forward the new agenda for social development alongside other global commitments for peace and development.

In politics, as in most things in life, change requires time – and a long-term vision, which we believe this Declaration provides. We urge all parliaments and parliamentarians to take ownership of this vision and to begin the process of change by developing national plans that are open to the contribution of all. In preparation for the Second World Summit for Social Development, we commit to holding debates in our parliaments and to engaging with our respective government negotiators at the United Nations.

We are thankful to the Parliament of Uzbekistan for bringing us together for this important debate and are inspired by the country's progress on social development and democratic reform in recent years. Let us work together towards a strong new global agreement on social development that is fit for the times and that will secure justice and peace for people everywhere.

## The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine

*Resolution adopted by consensus<sup>\*</sup> by the 150th IPU Assembly  
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

The 150th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*Recalling* the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council on the Middle East conflict, including resolutions [242](#) (1967), [338](#) (1973), [1397](#) (2002), [1515](#) (2003) and [2334](#) (2016), which established the principles for the resolution of this conflict, in particular the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by force, as well as those of the United Nations General Assembly, including resolutions [181 \(II\)](#) (1947), [194 \(III\)](#) (1948), [58/292](#) (2004), [67/19](#) (2012), [73/18](#) (2018), and the most recent resolution [79/81](#) (2024) on *Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine*, which expressed unwavering support, in accordance with international law, for a two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the 1967 borders, with both States living side by side in peace and security,

*Recalling also* the IPU's numerous resolutions and statements since 1988 on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which have consistently emphasized the need for a peaceful resolution based on international law and mutual recognition, reaffirmed the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, opposed illegal settlements, condemned all acts of terrorism and violent attacks, and called for urgent humanitarian action, while supporting international efforts to achieve a two-State solution,

*Acknowledging* the long-standing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, its devastating human toll, including population displacement, loss of life and regional instability, and its significant intensification since 7 October 2023, which has resulted in a substantial number of deaths, the taking of hostages and escalating violence, leading to a worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza, exacerbated by dire living conditions and restricted access to essential resources,

*Firmly believing* that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict extends beyond being a regional issue, and that its repercussions are being felt globally, including through the export of tensions to other parts of the world, fuelling divisions within communities, influencing international relations, weakening international law, including international humanitarian law, and impacting global peace and security, while complicating efforts towards multilateral cooperation,

*Expressing deep concern* over the ongoing occupation of Palestinian territories and the expansion of Israeli settlements in violation of international law and the prohibition of territorial acquisition by force, in contradiction to the principles of self-determination and territorial integrity enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming* the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and statehood based on the 1967 borders within the framework of a two-State solution, as well as the critical role of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in upholding international legal norms and providing advisory opinions on the legal implications of occupation and settlement activities,

*Deeply concerned* by the grave violations of the fundamental rights, dignity and safety of civilians – with children, women and girls, and people with disabilities bearing a particular burden as the most vulnerable members of affected communities – as the ongoing conflict continues to cause population displacement, destroy livelihoods, restrict humanitarian access and exacerbate inequalities, leaving lasting physical, psychological and socioeconomic impacts on individuals, families and entire communities,

*Recognizing* that acts of violence, terrorism against civilians and the use of starvation as a method of warfare constitute serious breaches of international humanitarian law and that State actions must fully comply with human rights obligations and the rule of law,

*Deeply convinced* that a two-State solution is the only viable path to break the cycle of violence and ensure security, prosperity and equal rights for the peoples of Israel and Palestine, in line with international law and the principles of self-determination and territorial integrity, and that key steps towards this goal include: an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, leading in particular to the release of hostages and political prisoners; the universal recognition of Palestinian and Israeli statehood; and the cessation of illegal settlement activities, as peace cannot be achieved through force or occupation,

*Highlighting* the unique role of parliaments, including regional parliamentary bodies, in advancing dialogue, diplomacy and peacebuilding to support a two-State solution, while making use of their core functions to uphold international law, ensure government accountability, facilitate inclusive debate and consensus-building, promote human rights, protect vulnerable groups, allocate funds for humanitarian aid and reconstruction, and foster international cooperation and parliamentary diplomacy to encourage the peaceful resolution of the conflict,

1. *Calls on* parliaments to urge their governments to advocate for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, leading in particular to the lifting of the blockade to enable the free movement of people and goods, facilitated access to humanitarian aid and the release of hostages and political prisoners, in view of ending the war, which has left only death and destruction in its wake;
2. *Calls on* the Parliaments of Israel and Palestine to promote human dignity and safeguard fundamental rights by taking all actions necessary to protect civilians, particularly children, women, people with disabilities and the elderly, ensuring unimpeded humanitarian access and supporting the safe delivery of essential supplies; and in this regard:
  - a. *Reaffirms* its support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) as a vital provider of humanitarian aid, education and healthcare services to Palestinians;
  - b. *Urges* the Parliament of Israel to: review its decision to ban UNRWA's operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT); and to support the implementation of education for peace initiatives;
  - c. *Requests* that parliaments provide financial support to UNRWA and other humanitarian organizations working in Gaza and the OPT more broadly to alleviate suffering and support recovery efforts;
3. *Strongly encourages* parliaments to enhance oversight of their governments' foreign policy actions to ensure compliance with international law, including the implementation of transparent arms export control measures, the monitoring of transfers of arms and military equipment to countries in conflict, and the protection of human rights;
4. *Advises* parliaments to monitor and promote respect for the ICJ's advisory opinions on the legal implications of occupation and settlement activities;
5. *Urges* parliaments to use their legislative powers to enact or amend laws in order to reinforce support for a two-State solution, ensuring the recognition of both Israel and Palestine as independent sovereign States;
6. *Appeals* to parliaments to advocate for their governments to support the recognition of Palestinian statehood, including the accession of Palestine as a full Member of the United Nations, as a key step towards a two-State solution, and to back the implementation of a comprehensive peace process, led by the United Nations, aimed at achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace;
7. *Expresses its hope for* strengthened parliamentary diplomacy aimed at facilitating dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian representatives, supporting a two-State solution and fostering peaceful coexistence between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples, through direct engagement with inter-parliamentary institutions and networks, multilateral parliamentary forums and relevant United Nations agencies;
8. *Strongly encourages* the Parliaments of Israel and Palestine to engage in indirect parliamentary diplomacy, facilitated by neutral third parties such as the IPU, promoting dialogue and cooperation on shared issues of concern, including security, health, education, humanitarian access, economic development and environmental protection;

9. *Invites* parliaments to provide financial and technical support for electoral processes and their follow-up in due time in Palestine to allow for the holding of regular, free, fair and transparent elections, and to promote democracy, good governance, peace and security;
10. *Urges* parliaments to participate in, and the IPU to facilitate and coordinate, monitoring of the political situation and electoral processes in both Israel and Palestine, including through the deployment of election observation missions;
11. *Calls on* parliaments and regional parliamentary bodies to provide, and on the IPU to facilitate and coordinate, technical assistance, including legislative capacity-building support, to the Parliaments of Israel and Palestine, with the aim of strengthening their core parliamentary functions in support of peace, democracy and a two-State solution, including the promotion of State-building and the rule of law, legislative reform, oversight of government actions, citizens' engagement, and effective participation in international peacebuilding processes;
12. *Invites* regional parliamentary bodies to leverage their unique position to share good practices encouraging cross-border cooperation and joint actions on economic development, to discuss shared challenges such as water management and environmental protection, and to support parliamentary diplomacy and foster peace in the Middle East region;
13. *Encourages* the Parliaments of Israel and Palestine to adopt and implement gender-responsive legislation and policies that protect the rights and dignity of women and girls, prevent gender-based violence, and promote the role of women as peacebuilders;
14. *Urges* parliaments to promote, in the Middle East region, the creation of initiatives that support peace education, youth empowerment, non-violence programmes aimed at fostering a culture of peace and coexistence, mutual understanding including through interfaith and intercultural dialogue, and the prevention of violent extremism, while prioritizing the principles of the United Nations Women, Peace and Security, and Youth, Peace and Security agendas;
15. *Also urges* parliaments to promote a common security approach in the pursuit of a two-State solution, recognizing that the security of both the Israeli and Palestinian peoples is interdependent, and to take measures that build mutual trust, ensure the protection of civilians, and prevent actions that exacerbate tensions;
16. *Calls on* the Parliaments of Israel and Palestine to adopt a human security approach in their day-to-day work, prioritizing the protection and well-being of individuals and communities on both sides and addressing the root causes of insecurity, including poverty, population displacement and inequality, in support of peace, stability, dignity and the realization of a sustainable two-State solution;
17. *Recommends* that the IPU transform its Committee on Middle East Questions into a Strategic Task Force on the Middle East, composed of equal numbers of representatives from all IPU geopolitical groups, with a mandate to support dialogue and facilitate indirect parliamentary diplomacy between the Parliaments of Israel and Palestine, and to monitor and report on commitments related to humanitarian access, the protection of vulnerable groups, and peace education, as well as on steps taken towards the achievement of a two-State solution, taking into account the global impact of the conflict.

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\*- **Iran (Islamic Republic of)** expressed its opposition to the entire text of the resolution.  
 - **Germany, Hungary** and **Switzerland** expressed a reservation on the entire text of the resolution.  
 - **Austria** expressed reservations on the use of the terms "use of starvation as a method of warfare" in preambular paragraph 8 and "political prisoners" in preambular paragraph 9 and operative paragraph 1.

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

*Resolution adopted by consensus\* by the 150<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

The 150th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*Recalling* the IPU's long-held position, expressed through many previous resolutions, that there cannot be peace without sustainable development and that there cannot be sustainable development without peace, and *underlining* the IPU's prominent role in condemning acts of aggression and human rights violations in recent years,

*Concerned* that conflicts, particularly armed conflicts, hinder progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), profoundly disrupt the environment, economic growth and the lives of millions globally, and have devastating effects on communities, and especially on women, children, and marginalized or vulnerable groups,

*Concerned also* about the complex interactions between, and the potential mutual reinforcement of, conflict, poverty, environmental degradation and injustice, and about the long-term effects of conflicts on civilian populations, communities, livelihoods, the environment and economies, which can extend across decades and even generations,

*Noting* that such long-term effects include poverty, hunger, forced displacement, environmental damage, and the destruction of civilian infrastructure – such as hospitals, schools, energy facilities, ports and dams – that enables the delivery of healthcare, education, energy, security and other essential services,

*Recognizing* that the destruction of ecosystems during armed conflicts has severe and long-term consequences for human security, biodiversity, climate stability and sustainable development, and that there is currently no international legal framework to hold aggressors accountable for such destruction, including for indirect environmental degradation resulting from the use of military force,

*Recalling* the urgent need for comprehensive and robust strategies to address conflicts and to protect sustainable development during such conflicts,

*Emphasizing* the important role played by parliaments in: addressing conflicts; mitigating their negative effects on sustainable development; promoting peace and stability through inclusive governance; strengthening the rule of law and good governance; fostering economic development; ensuring gender equality and human rights protections, particularly for women, children, and marginalized and vulnerable groups; and promoting inclusive decision-making processes,

*Emphasizing also* that IPU Assemblies – as places for parliamentarians, policymakers and strategists from around the world to come together to discuss the most pressing topics in the political sphere, and to engage in strategic capacity-building and regional cooperation on matters including peace and international security, risk management, and sustainable development – serve as vital platforms for international rapprochement and inclusivity, and as effective forums for mitigating and reducing conflicts through multilateralism and respect for the international rules-based order,

*Highlighting* the importance of multilateral partnerships, and of strong and impactful alliances, between parliaments globally in light of the conflicts and challenges the world is witnessing, all of which require more effective actions in order to provide a safe and prosperous environment for the benefit of countries, peoples and the future of the world as a whole,

*Stressing* that the achievement of the collective interests of all nations, and of progress on our shared commitment to sustainable development, peace and security, is dependent upon comprehensive support for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and upon the mitigation of tensions through: stronger compliance with international humanitarian law, including the right of prisoners of war to humane treatment; adherence to the principles of State sovereignty while upholding human rights and other international legal obligations; efforts to promote a culture of peace, tolerance and coexistence; renewed multilateral cooperation frameworks; and the development of new sustainable and resilient energy security policies,

*Recognizing* that the disappearance of persons has a profound impact on their families and societies, and that it hinders development, community cohesion and peacebuilding, and *recalling* the IPU resolution *Missing persons*, adopted at the 115th IPU Assembly,

*Reaffirming* the critical role of parliamentary diplomacy in supporting all efforts aimed at addressing conflicts, including by urging parties to such conflicts to engage in dialogue and seek peaceful solutions,

*Underlining* the importance of parliamentary collaboration with international and regional organizations, especially the United Nations, in order to strengthen global efforts aimed at achieving peace and mutual understanding, and *emphasizing* that reform of the global governance system, including of the United Nations, is essential to ensure that international organizations are effective and representative, and that the right to veto is not abused by States acting in violation of international law,

*Stressing* the need to: protect civilian infrastructure in conflicts, allowing humanitarian efforts to be delivered in line with humanitarian and environmental principles, and in accordance with the provisions of international humanitarian law; ensure respect for, and the protection of, all civilians and humanitarian personnel in armed conflicts, again in accordance with the provisions of international humanitarian law and as notably reiterated by UN Security Council resolution [2730](#) (2024); and ensure that services such as healthcare, education, food, water and energy remain accessible and uninterrupted during conflict,

*Affirming* the need for cooperation with development partners in order to ensure the continuity of humanitarian services in areas affected by conflicts, and for rapid response to the needs of populations in conflict situations, including consideration of strategies for reconstruction and emergency preparedness, and *emphasizing* the importance of removing any obstacles, including those of a political, bureaucratic or logistical nature, that hinder the timely provision of aid,

*Affirming also* that the achievement of security is not limited to conflict prevention but also requires the building of sustainable, equitable, inclusive and safe societies, which in turn contributes to the long-term stability and sustainable development of countries, in line with the objectives of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Recognizing* the essential role of parliaments, where they exist, in promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and in providing access to justice for all,

*Recognizing also* that parliaments play a crucial role in developing and strengthening accountable, transparent and inclusive institutions at all levels, including in the security and justice sector, and in fostering the equitable representation of underrepresented groups in decision-making processes,

*Recalling* UN Security Council resolution [2553](#) (2020), which stresses the importance of reforming the security sector in post-conflict environments in order to prevent countries from relapsing into conflict, and which further stresses that a professional, effective and accountable security sector, and accessible and impartial law-enforcement and justice sectors, are equally necessary in laying the foundations for peace and sustainable development, and *emphasizing* the need for parliaments to support the implementation of international arms control treaties such as the Arms Trade Treaty, which aims to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and to prevent their diversion to the illicit market, or for unauthorized end use and end users, including in the commission of terrorist acts,

*Recalling also* the Pact for the Future (UN General Assembly resolution [79/1](#), 2024), which called on States to redouble efforts to significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere,

*Reaffirming* the importance of promoting the full integration of a gender perspective in peace and security initiatives, including through the implementation of UN Security Council resolution [1325](#) (2000) on Women, Peace and Security, as well as subsequent resolutions on the matter, by strengthening the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women and girls in conflict prevention and resolution,

*Conscious* that, through their security sector oversight role, parliaments can play a crucial role in preventing the onset or recurrence of conflicts, thus mitigating their impact on sustainable development,

*Stressing* the need to reform the United Nations Security Council to ensure wider representation and fairness in international decision-making, and *believing* that a balance in the membership of, and powers within, the United Nations Security Council is necessary to strengthen its role in achieving peace and international security,

1. *Affirms* that the implementation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as a basis for peace and sustainable development, contributes to reducing conflicts, to mitigating the humanitarian impact of such conflicts, and to improving the political environment;
2. *Encourages* parliaments to promote democracy, the rule of law, human rights and environmental rights as fundamental principles and as a basis for strengthening peace and stability, and *emphasizes* the importance of climate and environmental justice and sustainability, ensuring the participation of all segments of society, including women, youth and marginalized or vulnerable groups, in political, social and environmental decision-making processes;
3. *Calls upon* parliaments to intensify their efforts to promote dialogue, reconciliation, understanding and peaceful dispute resolution between conflicting parties, and to work towards comprehensive and sustainable solutions to ongoing conflicts, with the meaningful participation of all affected stakeholders;
4. *Also calls upon* parliaments to support humanitarian and development efforts to meet the needs of populations affected by conflicts and humanitarian crises, and to promote economic, environmental and social stability in affected areas, including the provision of basic services such as education, healthcare, food, water, electricity and sanitation;
5. *Insists on* the importance of parliamentarians' oversight, budgetary and legislative roles in pursuing sustainable development, in monitoring government policies and programmes related to security, peace and development, and in ensuring the fair representation of citizens, with particular attention paid to marginalized groups, while promoting transparency and accountability in decision-making;
6. *Urges* parliaments to exercise their oversight role in order to ensure the effectiveness of humanitarian and development assistance aimed at stemming reversals in the achievement of the SDGs in areas affected by conflicts and humanitarian crises;
7. *Calls for* enhanced cooperation between national parliaments, regional and international organizations, and civil society organizations in promoting joint efforts to strengthen support strategies for communities affected by conflicts;
8. *Also calls for* the strengthening of partnerships between the public and private sectors, civil society organizations and civil society in order to ensure the achievement of the SDGs in areas affected by conflicts;

9. *Calls upon* parliaments to consider the intersection of political, economic, social and environmental dimensions, including climate resilience measures and sustainable resource management, when developing strategies to mitigate the impact of conflicts on sustainable development;
10. *Insists on* the importance of encouraging and promoting dialogue and coexistence between parties to conflicts based on the principles of international law, including respect for internationally recognized borders, as a means of working towards peaceful and constructive dispute resolution;
11. *Also insists on* the importance of restoring sustainable development in post-conflict environments based on scientific data and evidence;
12. *Further insists on* the importance of strengthening education systems in order to spread awareness of the values of peace, tolerance and peaceful conflict resolution, and to promote a culture of peace and non-violence in society;
13. *Stresses* the need to foster a culture and awareness of human rights, sustainable development and environmental considerations in societies affected by conflicts, and on the need to ensure that such rights and considerations are part of any peacebuilding or sustainable development process;
14. *Calls upon* parliaments to support the development of legal frameworks addressing environmental harm in armed conflicts, including the establishment of ecocide as an international crime to ensure individual accountability, and *encourages* continued efforts to refine legal definitions and accountability mechanisms, both nationally and internationally, covering both individual liability and State responsibility;
15. *Also calls upon* parliaments to promote legal measures that ensure accountability for environmental harm directly resulting from the crime of aggression, recognizing that such damage would not have occurred but for the initiation of hostilities, and addressing both immediate and long-term environmental destruction, including forms of slow violence, within post-conflict justice frameworks;
16. *Welcomes* advanced parliamentary practices that play an important role in promoting dialogue and understanding, and in achieving peace, in communities affected by conflicts;
17. *Calls upon* parliaments to strengthen coordination with humanitarian and development organizations, to ensure that States grant international humanitarian organizations unhindered access to occupied territories, and to agree on clear safeguards to protect water, energy and crops, which are essential for human development and for the welfare and food security of nations of the world, as well as other humanitarian and civilian infrastructure in areas affected by conflicts, in line with international humanitarian law;
18. *Insists* that climate change and security are inseparable elements in achieving sustainable development and ensuring lasting peace, and *calls for* the development of integrated strategies to reduce the effects of climate change on areas affected by conflicts;
19. *Calls for* the implementation of comprehensive strategies to promote peace and stability on the basis of national reconciliation, and for the promotion of inclusive governance approaches that prevent marginalization, and foster social and political harmony, in the aftermath of conflicts;
20. *Encourages* parliaments to play a key role in preventing disappearances, in clarifying the fate of missing persons and in assisting their families, in particular by adopting domestic legislation on missing persons, by establishing adequate mechanisms to prevent, resolve and address disappearances, and by strengthening cooperation, both nationally and internationally;

21. *Insists on* the importance of incorporating humanitarian exemptions into sanctions regimes, in line with the precedent set by UN Security Council resolution [2664](#) (2022), as an important means of ensuring that humanitarian action is not impeded by the unintended impact of sanctions, as well as on the importance of ensuring that mechanisms are in place to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of such exemptions, thus helping to ensure continuity of access to essential services for the civilian population and to stem reversals in the achievement of the SDGs, and *emphasizes* the need for full compliance with sanctions regimes imposed on States for violations of international law in order to bring conflicts to an end and to minimize their impact on sustainable development;
22. *Calls for* the strengthening of an existing global commission, such as the United Nations Mediation Support Unit, which comprises relevant experts, with a mandate to work towards a ceasefire, based on international law and leading to lasting and just peace, in countries affected by conflicts, and to ensure the implementation of the SDGs in conflict-affected areas, with a focus on addressing the root causes of such conflicts and developing innovative mediation approaches;
23. *Recommends* the establishment of an international compensation mechanism, ensuring that aggressors bear financial responsibility for ecological restoration in conflict-affected areas, *stresses* that this does not absolve the international community of its responsibility to engage in reconstruction efforts, and *calls for* the integration of environmental peacebuilding and transitional justice principles into all post-conflict recovery frameworks to ensure sustainable and just rehabilitation processes;
24. *Encourages* parliaments to periodically review national legislation to ensure its compatibility with the urgent and other needs of communities affected by conflicts, and to focus in particular on updating legislation that protects human rights and the environment in such situations;
25. *Calls for* the strengthening of partnerships between national parliaments and international and regional organizations with a view to exploring innovative solutions to restore sustainable development in countries affected by conflicts, while ensuring that civilian infrastructure is rebuilt in such a manner that it is resilient and better suited to both pre-existing and post-conflict challenges;
26. *Also calls for* the funding of post-war reconstruction through, *inter alia*, compensation provided by States whose unlawful actions have caused destruction, and *calls upon* the international community to consider alternative ways to ensure appropriate compensation should such States refuse to fulfil their obligation to provide compensation, including by redirecting the assets of such States for recovery purposes;
27. *Further calls for* parliaments to play a stronger role in the inclusive and equitable distribution of resources in areas affected by conflicts, in supporting reconstruction programmes in line with the principle of environmental and social sustainability, and in ensuring that marginalized or vulnerable groups benefit from such programmes and are not left behind;
28. *Calls for* the rapid restoration, in an inclusive and equitable manner, of essential services during early recovery and reconstruction following conflicts, while building back better and providing more resilient essential services to the civilian population, in line with UN Security Council resolution [2573](#) (2021);
29. *Encourages* parliaments to develop a sound legal framework for democratic oversight of the security sector, and to ensure that such a framework is compatible with international laws, norms and standards, including the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

30. *Calls upon* parliaments to exercise their budgetary function, with transparency and accountability, to challenge, question, cancel or adjust the resources allocated to security, and to demand that the security sector meet high standards of accountability and effectiveness in accordance with domestic laws and regulations;
31. *Also calls upon* parliaments to exercise their oversight function to verify whether security-related laws and policies are being implemented effectively and are having the intended effect, and whether resources allocated to the security sector are being used efficiently;
32. *Recommends* that parliaments exercise their representative function to facilitate political consensus on security issues through dialogue and transparency, and to ensure that all citizens, including marginalized and vulnerable groups, are always represented in the best possible way in the decision-making process.

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- \* - **India** expressed a reservation on operative paragraph 18.
  - **Iran (Islamic Republic of)** expressed reservations on preambular paragraphs 2, 10 and 21, and on operative paragraph 21.
  - The **Russian Federation** expressed reservations on preambular paragraphs 13 and 20, and on operative paragraphs 14, 21 and 26.

# Report of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

*Noted by the 150th IPU Assembly  
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

The Committee held two sittings, on 7 and 8 April 2025.

## **Illegal international adoption**

At its first sitting, held on 7 April 2025 with President Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia) in the chair, the Committee held a debate on its next resolution, *Recognizing and supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent this practice*. Two of the co-Rapporteurs were present: Mr. M. De Maegd (Belgium) and Mr. S. Patra (India). The third Rapporteur, Ms. L. Crexell (Argentina), was not present as she had been unable to attend the Assembly.

The debate was followed by a discussion on follow-up to the 2023 IPU resolution *Orphanage trafficking: The role of parliaments in reducing harm*.

In his opening remarks, Mr. O. de Frouville (Paris-Panthéon-Assas University; United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances) provided a comprehensive overview of the human rights dimensions of illegal international adoptions, highlighting international legal frameworks such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Hague Convention, and calling for States to recognize victims, provide reparations and prevent future illegal adoptions. Mr. G. Ijumba (United Nations Children's Fund – UNICEF) emphasized the importance of preventing unnecessary family separation and prioritizing children's best interests through a continuum of care that included kinship care, foster care, and adoption only as a last resort.

Ms. C. Fanon (*Racines Perdues*) shared her personal story as a victim of illegal international adoption. She had been born in Guatemala in 1986 and had been separated from her mother two days after birth. She had been brought to Belgium with a false passport and had been officially registered as deceased in Guatemala. In 2017, she had found her biological family and discovered that there were hundreds of similar cases in Belgium and thousands worldwide. Ms. Fanon advocated for recognizing victims' rights to identity, nationality and family links, and urged parliamentarians to listen to victims with their hearts, not just their heads.

Mr. De Maegd, co-Rapporteur, emphasized the need to recognize illegal international adoptions as violations of human rights. He called for comprehensive measures including opening archives, providing psychological support, and creating legal mechanisms to help victims find their true identities and origins.

A total of 28 delegates participated in the debate, which emphasized the need for stronger legal frameworks and international cooperation. Specific country examples illustrated the need for comprehensive reforms to prevent such practices and support victims. The session concluded with a call for collective action to protect children's rights and ensure ethical adoption processes.

Opening the discussion on follow-up to the 2023 IPU resolution *Orphanage trafficking: The role of parliaments in reducing harm*, Ms. L. Reynolds (Australia) explained that between 80% and 90% of children in orphanages had living parents and called for changes in donor and volunteer behaviour to support family preservation rather than institutionalization. Delegates from Indonesia, Japan, South Africa, Türkiye and Uruguay reported on legislative efforts to protect orphans and prevent orphanage trafficking, and suggested the creation of indicators to draw parliamentary attention to the phenomenon.

## **Artificial intelligence**

At its second sitting, held on 8 April 2025, the Committee held a debate on follow-up to the implementation of the 2024 IPU resolution *The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law*, with Ms. O'Neill again in the chair.

The sitting began with elections to fill vacant seats on the Bureau of the Committee.

The debate on artificial intelligence (AI) took the form of an interactive discussion in three parts: the first on updates on parliamentary actions on AI since the October 2024 resolution, the second on the current state of international cooperation on AI governance, and the third on the use of AI in parliaments.

In the first part of the debate, the Committee was joined by Ms. N. Lugangira (United Republic of Tanzania), one of the co-Rapporteurs who drafted the resolution and helped the Committee finalize the text. Ms. Lugangira spoke about the main developments in the AI landscape since the October 2024 resolution, noting that at least 17 African countries had developed national AI-related strategies, aligning with the African Union's Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy. She drew attention to the role of AI in gender-based violence, including against women parliamentarians, and to growing concerns about the use of AI to fabricate election results.

In the second part of the debate, the Committee was joined by two experts. Ms. P. Chetty (Research ICT Africa) outlined progress in international cooperation since the 2024 resolution. Mr. A. Saebi (Center for AI and Digital Policy) called for clear red lines in AI systems, for public engagement and oversight, for ratification of the Council of Europe's Framework Convention on AI, and for endorsement of the *Universal Guidelines for AI*. Delegates shared their respective experiences and raised questions around how to legislate the internet of things, how regulation could keep pace with progress, and how broad principles could be translated into effective legislation. The experts drew attention to existing frameworks for AI ethics that could assist parliaments in the key task of ensuring that AI served humanity.

In the third part of the debate, which was moderated by Mr. P. Dalphond (Canada), Mr. A. Williamson (IPU Centre for Innovation in Parliament) provided an expert overview of how parliamentarians could use AI ethically and safely. He outlined the potential of AI to improve constituent engagement, streamline correspondence, support parliamentary work with chatbots, and enhance responsiveness, while addressing challenges such as accuracy, reliability, data security, privacy, ethics and transparency. Delegates shared their experiences with AI, expressing concerns about its role in amplifying gender-based violence, influencing political campaigns and reshaping the labour market. In response, Mr. Williamson acknowledged the questions and stressed the importance of seizing AI-related opportunities with caution.

The Committee took note of a proposal to include AI as a permanent agenda item, given the transformative potential of the technology and the rapid evolution of its capabilities.

### **Special guests**

The following special guests participated in the work of the Committee (remotely, unless otherwise indicated):

#### Illegal international adoption

- Mr. Olivier de Frouville, Professor at Paris-Panthéon-Assas University, and Chairperson of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances
- Mr. Geoffrey Ijumba, Deputy Representative of UNICEF in Uzbekistan (in person)
- Ms. Coline Fanon, Belgian victim of illegal international adoption

#### Artificial intelligence

- Ms. Neema Lugangira, member of the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania
- Ms. Pria Chetty, Executive Director Designate of Research ICT Africa
- Mr. Alireza Saebi, Centre for AI and Digital Policy
- Mr. Andy Williamson, Senior Researcher at the IPU's Centre for Innovation in Parliament

# Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

*Noted by the 150th IPU Assembly  
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

The Committee held two sittings, on 7 and 8 April 2025, with Mr. H. Aoyagi (Japan), member of the Bureau of the Committee, as acting President for the first sitting. After opening the session, Mr. Aoyagi invited all present to adopt the agenda of the session and approve the summary record of the previous session, held at the 149th Assembly in Geneva in October 2024.

## **The UN field presence in support of national development: The case of Uzbekistan**

Presenters: Ms. S. Machl, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan; Mr. P. Linnér, Programme Director, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation

This session featured a discussion on the role of the UN Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team in providing advisory services and capacity-building assistance to Uzbekistan.

In their initial remarks, Ms. S. Machl and her team explained that the UN Country Team consisted of 25 UN entities working to advance progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in six main thematic areas (governance, education, livelihoods and social protection, climate and environment, health, and the Aral Sea region) through 16 joint programmes with a budget of US\$ 352 million. They explained that their work revolved around a five-year Cooperation Framework designed in close coordination with the Government, as well as with the input of the Senate of Uzbekistan and civil society organizations.

While the country had made significant strides toward nationally determined development goals, there were still a number of growing challenges, such as a “demographic dividend” that required greater investments in quality education, and an ageing population that needed more healthcare and other support. On a programmatic level, the UN Country Team had to contend with a funding gap of 25%, which was unlikely to be filled by the time the current Cooperation Framework came to an end at the end of 2025.

Mr. Linnér gave a presentation on the UN development budget, explaining that it continued to be overreliant on earmarking, which afforded UN agencies little flexibility to respond to evolving needs on the ground. He noted in particular that development funding continued to be dominated by a shortlist of large donors, several of whom were cutting back on their commitments.

Mr. Linnér also spoke about how humanitarian assistance, while essential in the face of so many ongoing hotspots, was eroding development budgets without really addressing the underlying needs of developing countries. On the plus side, he noted that practices such as “pooled funding” (in which two or more UN agencies contributed funding to a joint programme) and global thematic funds delivered results in a more cost-effective way. The fact that Uzbekistan was ranked 11th on the list of developing countries receiving pooled funding (US\$ 44 million) helped to explain the UN Country Team’s record of success there.

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

- Parliaments have a role to play in overseeing the design and funding of UN country programmes, as well as in advocating for high-quality funding with relevant ministries and multilateral organizations, including the World Bank and the Organisation for Economic Development and Co-operation.
- UN Country Teams must engage parliaments early in the process of formulating country programmes in order to ensure alignment with national priorities.
- UN Country Teams need to document lessons learned and provide regular updates on their programmatic work to enable parliaments to fulfil their oversight role.

- Donors are increasingly challenged by growing conflict risks, which can quickly erase prior development investments. Peace remains the most important condition for obtaining development finance.

### **The growing role of the BRICS in international relations: What impact for the UN?**

Presenters: Mr. C. Cajado Sampaio, member of the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil and of the IPU Executive Committee; Mr. O. Malginov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Uzbekistan

Mr. D. Laouhingamaye (Chad), member of the Bureau of the Committee, was acting President for this second sitting, which focused on the role of the BRICS in international relations. He explained that the discussion built on the October 2024 session of the Committee, which had focused on the role of the G20.

Speaking on behalf of his country as host of the 2025 BRICS Summit, Mr. Cajado Sampaio (Brazil) recalled that the BRICS had begun in 2009 as an informal partnership of like-minded countries seeking to strengthen their political and economic cooperation within the multilateral framework of the UN. In his view, the recent expansion of the BRICS from 5 to 10 members, as well as the inclusion of a number of associate members, was evidence that the group was working well in supporting shared development and peace objectives that were wholly compatible with those of the UN.

Mr. Cajado Sampaio noted that the BRICS had become a strong voice in support of UN Security Council reform, with a view to increasing the representation of Africa and Latin America on this key body for international peace and security at a time when the number of conflicts around the world was at its highest. He further noted that the BRICS was working to make global economic governance more inclusive of developing countries, including through the creation of a more reliable, independent global payment system and efforts to secure a greater voice for developing countries within the International Monetary Fund.

Mr. Malginov presented a similar view of the BRICS as an informal group that was not seeking to establish itself as an international organization in competition with the UN, but that merely worked as a consultative body, open to all interested countries, with no animosity against anyone. He recalled the BRICS Summit that had been held in the Russian Federation in 2024, as well as the many initiatives that had been taken up on that occasion. He noted that a BRICS parliamentary forum was convened regularly to provide a sounding board to the governmental Summit.

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

- The BRICS has grown as an influential group on the international scene, with its members now accounting for 37% of global gross domestic product (by purchasing power parity). The group has no aspiration to become a rules-making organization. It exists principally to help member countries harness the global economy for the benefit of their people.
- Unlike the G20 and other informal groups, however, the BRICS is also championing new institutions such as the New Development Bank to help finance projects in the Global South. Some countries regard this as an inevitable response to the inability of the multilateral system to fairly address the needs of all members of the international community.
- The BRICS is committed to the core mission of the UN as an organization working for peace, as evidenced by the fact some members of the group are among the top contributors to UN Peacekeeping.
- The UN has everything to gain from working closely with the BRICS and the G20, including through the creation of joint working groups. National parliaments have an important oversight role to play at the UN, as well as within these other informal groups.

### **Special briefing on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East**

Ms. M. Lorenzo (Director, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) Office for Europe), briefed the Committee on recent developments in Gaza, where 10,000 UNRWA staff – doctors, teachers, counsellors and other professionals – were working every day to help the population meet their basic needs in the face of the ongoing offensive by the Israel

Defense Forces. She reported that Israel had blocked all humanitarian aid from coming into Gaza, imperilling the lives of thousands of people. Aid workers were being targeted, and some 300 of them had been killed to date. Despite this situation, UNRWA continued to do what it could, including providing education to children online. However, the agency's resources were dwindling and urgent support was needed for operations to continue. Ms. Lorenzo stressed that the international community's response to the killing of 50,000 innocent civilians so far, and to the growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza, was placing immense strain on the rules-based multilateral system.

Elections were also held to fill vacant seats on the Bureau of the Committee.

With no other business remaining, the acting President brought the session to a close.

## Advancing global economic cooperation: Reducing tariffs and combating protectionism

### Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of Chile and Peru for the inclusion of an emergency item

#### Results

Affirmative votes.....	482	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	942
Negative votes .....	460	Two-thirds majority.....	628
Abstentions .....	255		

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

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.

## Parliamentary diplomacy to promote peace and address the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar

### Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of Philippines and Thailand for the inclusion of an emergency item

#### Results

Affirmative votes.....	630	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	988
Negative votes .....	358	Two-thirds majority.....	659
Abstentions .....	209		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Albania		Absent		Georgia		Absent		Palestine		12	
Algeria		16		Germany	19			Paraguay			12
Andorra	10			Ghana		Absent		Peru	15		
Angola		15		Greece		Absent		Philippines	10		
Armenia	11			Guyana		Absent		Poland	15		
Australia	14			Hungary	12			Portugal	10		
Austria	12			Iceland	10			Qatar		11	
Azerbaijan		Absent		India		Absent		Republic of Korea		Absent	
Bahamas		Absent		Indonesia			22	Romania	13		
Bahrain		11		Iran (Islamic Republic of)		19		Russian Federation			20
Belarus		12		Iraq		16		Rwanda		Absent	
Belgium	13			Ireland	12			San Marino		Absent	
Bhutan	5		5	Israel	12			Sao Tome and Principe			10
Bosnia and Herzegovina		Absent		Italy	17			Saudi Arabia		15	
Botswana			11	Japan	20			Senegal		Absent	
Brazil			20	Jordan		13		Serbia		Absent	
Bulgaria		Absent		Kazakhstan		Absent		Seychelles		10	
Burkina Faso		14		Kenya		Absent		Slovenia	11		
Burundi			10	Kyrgyzstan		Absent		Somalia		13	
Cambodia	13			Lao People's Dem. Republic		Absent		South Africa		18	
Cameroon		Absent		Latvia	11			South Sudan		Absent	
Canada	15			Libya		Absent		Spain	10		
Chad			13	Lithuania	11			Sri Lanka		Absent	
Chile	6	6	1	Luxembourg	10			Sweden	13		
China	15	3	5	Malawi	5	9		Switzerland	12		
Côte d'Ivoire		Absent		Malaysia	15			Tajikistan		Absent	
Croatia		Absent		Maldives		10		Thailand	18		
Cyprus	11			Malta	10			Timor-Leste	11		
Czechia	13			Mauritania		Absent		Türkiye			19
DPR of Korea		Absent		Mexico	20			Turkmenistan		Absent	
DR of the Congo			20	Monaco	10			Uganda		Absent	
Denmark	12			Mongolia		Absent		Ukraine	15		
Djibouti		11		Montenegro		Absent		United Arab Emirates			13
Dominican Rep.		Absent		Morocco		15		United Kingdom	18		
Ecuador		Absent		Mozambique		10		United Republic of Tanzania		18	
Egypt		20		Namibia			11	Uruguay			11
Equatorial Guinea	5		6	Nepal		Absent		Uzbekistan		Absent	
Estonia	11			Netherlands	13			Viet Nam		Absent	
Eswatini		Absent		New Zealand	12			Zambia		14	
Ethiopia		Absent		Nigeria	22			Zimbabwe		13	
Fiji	10			Norway	12						
Finland	12			Oman		12					
France	18			Pakistan		22					
Gambia (The)		Absent									

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## The need for urgent action on the recent violation of the ceasefire agreement by Israel in Palestine, the escalating conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan, and the compounding effects of global warming

**Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of Seychelles, Zimbabwe, Jordan and Egypt with the support of the Arab Group and the African Group for the inclusion of an emergency item**

### Results

Affirmative votes..... 584                      Total of affirmative and negative votes ..977  
 Negative votes ..... 393                      Two-thirds majority.....651  
 Abstentions ..... 220

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

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.

## **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS** ***LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS***

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Speaker of the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania  
Présidente de l'Union interparlementaire  
Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale de la République-Unie de Tanzanie

Ms./Mme Tanzila Narbaeva  
Chairperson of the Senate of Uzbekistan  
*Présidente du Sénat d'Ouzbékistan*

Mr./M. Martin Chungong  
Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union  
*Secrétaire général de l'Union interparlementaire*

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Ms. Mesila DODA	Member of Parliament
Ms. Monika KRYEMADHI	Member of Parliament
Mr. Genci GJONCAJ	Secretary General of the Parliament
Mr. Genci GOLI Adviser	Director
C	Democratic Party of Albania

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M. Ahmed KHARCHI Président du Groupe Membre du Comité exécutif	Vice-Président du Conseil de la nation Membre, commission des affaires juridiques (FLN)
M. Monder BOUDEN Membre du Groupe consultatif de haut niveau sur la lutte contre le terrorisme et l'extrémisme violent	Vice-Président de l'Assemblée populaire nationale (RND)
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Mme Farida ILIMI HADDOUCHE Membre du Bureau de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et droits de l'homme 1 <sup>ère</sup> Vice-Présidente du Bureau des femmes parlementaires	Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale Membre, Commission des Affaires étrangères de la Coopération et de l'émigration (FLN)
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M. Mohamed Anouar BOUCHOUIT Membre du Conseil du forum des jeunes parlementaires, Membre du Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité	Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale Président, Commission du transport et des télécommunications
M. Salim DJALAL	Secrétaire général, Assemblée populaire nationale
M. Ahcene DJOUAHRA	Secrétaire général, Conseil de la nation
Mme Mounia BENZIADA Secrétaire du Groupe	Directrice Conseil de la nation
Mme Hayette SIAD Secrétaire du Groupe	Cadre Assemblée populaire nationale
M. Abderazak Chaker MAHFOUDI	Directeur Assemblée populaire nationale
M. Mohamed Amine ASSOUL	Chef d'études, chargé du protocole Assemblée populaire nationale
Mme Wassila NOUAR ZERGAOUI	Cadre Assemblée populaire nationale
FLN	Front de Libération Nationale
RND	Rassemblement Nationale Démocratique

**ANDORRA- ANDORRE**

Mme Sandra CODINA Cheffe de la délégation	Vice-Présidente du Conseil Général (DA)
Mme Maria Àngels ACHE	Membre du Conseil Général (C) Membre, Commission de la santé Membre, Commission de l'éducation, de la recherche, de la culture, de la jeunesse et des sports
M. Pere BARÓ	Membre du Conseil Général (PS) Vice-président, Commission de l'économie Membre, Commission des affaires étrangères
Mme Arantxa RODRIGUEZ Secrétaire du Groupe Secrétaire de la délégation	Délégations internationales Conseil Général
DA	Démocrates pour l'Andorre
CC	Ciutadans Compromesos
C	Concòrdia
PS	Parti social-démocrate

**ANGOLA**

Ms. Arlete CHIMBINDA Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Member, Committee of Family, Childhood and Social Action (UNITA)
Ms. Maria VALENTE President of the IPU Group	Member of the National Assembly Member, Economy and Finance Committee (MPLA)
Mr. Felino JOB	Member of the National Assembly First secretary, Commission on Foreign Relations, International Cooperation and Angolan Communities Abroad (MPLA)
Ms. Florbela MALAQUIAS Member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the National Assembly Member, Family, Childhood and Social Action (PHA)
Mr. Kilamba VAN-DÚNEM	Member of the National Assembly Member, Committee of Economy and Finance (MPLA)
Ms. Mihaela KOPUMI	Member of Parliament National Assembly Member, Constitutional and Legal Matters (UNITA)
Mr. Pedro NERI	Secretary General, National Assembly
Mr. Lazáro VICENTE Adviser	Head of Protocol Division National Assembly
Ms. Nildeice BARRICA Adviser	Head of the Friendship and Solidarity Groups Division National Assembly
Ms. Sílvia SITA Adviser	Head of Exchange Division National Assembly
MPLA	People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola
UNITA	The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola
PHA	Humanist Party of Angola

**ARMENIA**

Mr. Hakob ARSHAKYAN Leader of the Delegation Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, Member of the Group of Facilitators for Cyprus	Vice President of the National Assembly (CC)
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Mr. Arsen TOROSYAN  
Vice-President of the Bureau of the Standing  
Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

Member of the National Assembly  
Committee Chair, Standing Committee on Health Care  
(CC)

Ms. Hasmik HAKOBYAN  
Member of the Board of the Forum of Young  
Parliamentarians  
Member of the Committee to Promote Respect for  
International Humanitarian Law

Member of the National Assembly  
Member of Standing Committee on Foreign Relations,  
Standing Committee on Foreign Relations (CC)

Ms. Tsovinar VARDANYAN  
Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on  
Sustainable Development  
Member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

Member of the National Assembly  
Committee Chair, Standing Committee on Financial-  
Credit and Budgetary Affairs (CC)

Mr. Davit ARAKELYAN  
Member of ASGP

Secretary General, National Assembly

Ms. Anna HOVAKIMYAN  
Secretary of the delegation

CC Civil Contract

#### AUSTRALIA

Ms. Deborah O'NEILL  
Leader of the Delegation  
Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on  
Democracy and Human Rights  
Member of the Committee to Promote Respect for  
International Humanitarian Law

Member of the Senate  
Chair, Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations  
and Financial Services  
Chair, Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of  
Delegated Legislation (ALP)

Ms. Linda REYNOLDS  
Member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

Member of the Senate  
Chair, Standing Committee on Senators' Interests  
Deputy Chair, Joint Committee on Public Accounts and  
Audit (LP)

Ms. Clarissa SURTEES

Secretary General, House of Representatives

Ms. Jane THOMSON  
Secretary of the delegation

Secretary  
Senate

ALP Australian Labor Party  
LP Liberal Party of Australia

#### AUSTRIA

Mr. Peter WURM  
Leader of the Delegation

Member of the National Council (FPÖ)

Mr. Michael HAMMER

Member of the National Council (ÖVP)

Ms. Pia Maria WIENINGER

Member of the National Council (SPÖ)

Ms. Elisabeth GOETZE

Member of the National Council (GRÜNE)

Mr. Alexis WINTONIAK

Deputy Secretary General, National Council

Mr. Matthias MATUSCHEK  
Secretary of the delegation

Adviser

FPÖ Freedom Party of Austria  
SPÖ Social Democratic Party  
GRÜNE The Green Party  
ÖVP Austrian People's Party

#### AZERBAIJAN

Ms. Sahiba GAFAROVA  
Leader of the Delegation

Speaker of the Milli Majlis (YAP)

Mr. Shahin ISMAYILOV  
Member of the Board of the Forum of Young  
Parliamentarians

Member of the Milli Majlis  
Chairman, Youth and Sports Committee (YAP)

Ms. Sevil MIKAYILOVA  
Vice-President of the Executive Committee,  
Ex-officio member of the Bureau of Women  
Parliamentarians

Member of the Milli Majlis  
Member, Committee on Foreign and Interparliamentary  
Relations  
Member, Human Rights Committee

Mr. Kamran BAYRAMOV  
Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on  
Peace and International Security

Member of the Milli Majlis  
Member, Committee for Law Policy and State-Building  
Member, Committee for Regional Affairs (YAP)

Ms. Amina AGHAZADA  
Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on  
Democracy and Human Rights

Member of the Milli Majlis  
Member, Committee for Law Policy and State-Building

Ms. Sabina KHASAYEVA  
Member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

Member of the Milli Majlis  
Member, Committee for Family and Women's and  
Children's Affairs (YAP)

Mr. Rizvan NABIYEV

Member of the Milli Majlis  
Member of the Defence, Security and Counter-  
Corruption Committee  
Member of the Committee on Foreign and  
Interparliamentary Relations

Mr. Farid HAJIYEV  
Member of ASGP

Secretary-General, Milli Majlis

Mr. Rustan MAMUDOV

Deputy Secretary-General, Milli Majlis

Mr. Teymur TAGHIYEV

Head of the Secretariat, Milli Majlis

Mr. Ilkin MAMMADOV

Head of the International Relations Department, Milli  
Majlis

Ms. Aynur NURAHMADOVA

Assistant to the Speaker

Mr. Elmar HUSEYNOV

Assistant to the Speaker

Ms. Lala CHALABIZADA  
Secretary of the delegation

Adviser, Milli Majlis

YAP            New Azerbaijan Party

#### **BAHAMAS**

Mr. Barry GRIFFIN

Vice President of the Senate (PLP)

Ms. Pia GLOVER ROLLE  
Leader of the Delegation  
President of the IPU Group

Member of the House of Assembly (PLP)

Ms. Maxine SEYMOUR  
Member of the Working Group on Science and  
Technology

Member of the Senate (FNM)

Mr. Rashad FLOWERS  
Secretary of the delegation

Assistant Clerk of Parliament

PLP            Progressive Liberal Party  
FNM            Free National Movement

#### **BAHRAIN**

Mr. Ahmed AL MUSALAM  
Leader of the Delegation  
President of the IPU Group

Speaker of the Council of Representatives

Mr. Jamal FAKHRO	Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council
Mr. Abdulnabi SALMAN AHMAD Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Deputy Speaker of the Council of Representatives
Mr. Bassam ALBINMOHAMED	Member of the Shura Council Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and National Security
Mr. Ahmed Sabah ALSALLOOM	Member of the Shura Council Chair of the Committee on Financial and Economic Affairs
Ms. Dalal ALZAYED Member of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law	Member of the Shura Council Chairwoman, Committee on Legal and Legislative Affairs
Ms. Hala Ramzy FAYEZ Member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the Shura Council Member, Committee on Services
Mr. Hasan EBRAHIM	Member of the Council of Representatives Deputy Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and National Security
Mr. Mahdi ALSHOWAIKH	Member of the Council of Representatives Member, Committee on Services
Ms. Maryam AL DHAIN	Member of the Council of Representatives Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and National Security
Ms. Kareema ALABBASI Adviser, Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation	Secretary General of the Shura Council
Mr. Mohammed ALBOAINAIN Adviser, Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation	Secretary General of the Council of Representatives
Ms. Aysha GHAYYATH Adviser, Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation	Adviser Council of Representatives
Ms. Hanadi ALENEZI Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation	Adviser Council of Representatives
Mr. Fouad ALANSARI Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation	Director Council of Representatives
Ms. Fouzia ALJEEB Adviser, Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation	Adviser Shura Council
Mr. Mohammed ALJABRI Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation	Director Council of Representatives

**BELARUS**

Ms. Natalya KOCHANOVA Leader of the Delegation	Chairperson of the Council of the Republic
Ms. Irina ABELSKAIA	Member of the Council of the Republic Deputy Chairman, Standing Commission on Education, Science, Culture and Social Development
Ms. Iryna LIAUKOVICH	Member of the Council of the Republic Deputy Chairman, Standing Commission on Economy, Budget and Finance

Mr. Sergei RACHKOV Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs	Member of the House of Representatives Chairman, Standing Commission on International Affairs
Mr. Sergei ALEINIK	Member of the Council of the Republic Chairman, Standing Commission on International Affairs and National Security
Mr. Uladzislau TATARYNOVICH	Member of the Council of the Republic Chairman, Standing Commission on Economy, Budget and Finance
Mr. Andrei TARANDA Secretary of the Group	Head of the Department for International Relations Council of the Republic
Mr. Alexander OPIMAKH	Diplomatic corps
Mr. Aliaksandr AHARODNIKAU	Diplomatic corps

**BELGIUM**

Mr. Peter DE ROOVER Leader of the Delegation	President of the House of Representatives Chair, Advisory Committee for European Matters Chair, Parliamentary Concertation Committee (N-VA)
Mr. Vincent BLONDEL	President of the Senate Chair, Advisory Committee on European Matters Chair, Institutional Matters (Les Engagés)
Mr. Andries GRYFFROY President of the IPU Group	First Vice President of the Senate Member, Committee for Transversal Matters of the Regions Members, Committee for Transversal Matters of the Communities (N-VA)
Mr. Michel DE MAEGD Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Member of the House of Representatives Vice-chair, Committee on Foreign Relations Member, Advisory Committee on European Matters (MR)
Ms. Maaïke DE VREESE	Member of the House of Representatives Vice-chair, Committee on Home Affairs, Security, Migration and Governance Affairs (N-VA)
Ms. Annick LAMBRECHT	Member of the House of Representatives Member, Committee on Foreign Relations Member, Advisory Committee on European Matters (Vooruit)
Ms. Stephanie D'HOSE	Member of the Senate Member, Committee on Institutional Matters (Open VLD)
Mr. André REZSÖHAZY	Deputy Secretary General of the Senate
Ms. Liesbeth STROOBANDT	Chief of staff of the Speaker of the House of Representatives
Mr. Peter VERCAMMEN Secretary of the Group	Deputy Director Senate
Mr. Ruben VANHAVERBEKE Deputy Secretary of the Group	Adviser House of Representatives
N-VA	New Flemish Alliance
Vooruit	Flemish Socialist Party
MR	Mouvement Réformateur
Open VLD	Flemish Liberal Party
Les Engagés	Les Engagés

**BHUTAN**

Mr. Sangay DORJI Leader of the Delegation	Chairperson of the National Council
Mr. Kuenga KUENGA	Member of the National Assembly (PDP)
Mr. Kuenzang THINLEY	Member of the National Assembly (PDP)
Mr. Lam DORJI	Member of the National Assembly (BTP)
Mr. Sonam TOBGYEL	Member of the National Council
Mr. Tenzin THINLEY	Secretary General, National Council
Ms. Delma DELMA	Secretariat staff, National Council
Mr. Tshewang NORBU	Chief Legal Officer, National Council

PDP            People's Democratic Party  
BTP            Bhutan Tendrel Party

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

Mr. Miroslav VUJIČIĆ Leader of the delegation	Member of the House of Representatives
Ms. Ermina SALKIČEVIĆ-DIZDAREVIĆ	Member of the House of Representatives Member, Standing Committee on Peace and International Security (SP)
Ms. Rejhana DERVIŠEVIĆ	Member of the House of Representatives (SP)
Ms. Jelena RAJAKOVIĆ Secretary of the delegation	Head of Department for Bilateral Relations House of Representatives

SP            SDP BiH

**BOTSWANA**

Mr. Dithapelo Lefoko KEORAPETSE Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Speaker of the National Assembly (UDC)
Mr. Dumelang SALESHANDO	Member of the National Assembly Member, Finance, Trade and Economic Development Member, Wildlife, Tourism, Natural Resources & Climate Change (BCP)
Mr. Kenny KAPINGA	Member of the National Assembly Member, Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice, Security Chairperson, Subsidiary Legislation (BCP)
Ms. Maipelo Boitumelo MOPHUTING	Member of the National Assembly Member, Parliamentary Caucus on Women (UDC)
Mr. Palelo Keitseope MOTAOSANE	Member of the National Assembly Member, Agriculture, Lands & Housing Member, Local Governance and Social Welfare (BDP)
Mr. Phenyo Khumoiile SEGOKGO	Member of the National Assembly Chairperson, Governance and Oversight Member, Government Assurances (UDC)
Mr. Reason Moraedi LEKUTLANE	Member of the National Assembly Member, Education and Skills Development Member, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture (UDC)

Mr. Victor Billy PHOLOGOLO	Member of the National Assembly Member, Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice, Security Chairperson, Finance and Estimates (UDC)
Mr. Gabriel G.G. MALEBANG Secretary of the Group	Clerk, National Assembly
Ms. Babui SAUBI Secretary of the delegation	Committees Clerk National Assembly
Mr. Christopher Shimane NFILA Secretary of the delegation	Director National Assembly
Mr. Olefile Wilfred MOOKETSI Secretary of the delegation	Research Officer National Assembly
Ms. Nonfo Curler ZWINILA	Public Relations Officer National Assembly
UDC            Umbrella for Democratic Change BCP            Botswana Congress Party BDP            Botswana Democratic Party	

**BRAZIL**

Mr. Claudio CAJADO SAMPAIO Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group Member of the Executive Committee	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PP)
Mr. Atila LINS	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PSD)
Mr. Julio ARCOVERDE	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PP)
Ms. Laura CARNEIRO Member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PSD)
Mr. Murilo GALDINO DE ARAUJO	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (Republicans)
Mr. Sergio CUNHA	Member of the Federal Senate (PSD)
Mr. Nelson TRAD FILHO	Member of the Federal Senate (PSD)
Mr. João Carlos BACELAR	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PL)
Mr. Cleber VERDE COEIRO MENDES	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (MDB.-MA)
Mr. Jose ROCHA	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (União)
Ms. Silvia ARAUJO Secretary of the Group	Adviser Federal Senate
Mr. Claudio GOMES Adviser	Adviser Federal Senate
MDB-MA        Brazilian Democratic Movement PP                Progressives PSD              Social Democratic Party Republicans    Republicans União            Brazil Union PL                Liberal Party	

**BULGARIA**

Ms. Rositsa KIROVA Leader of the Delegation	Member of the National Assembly Chairperson, Committee on Direct Participation of Citizens, Citizen's Complaint and Interaction with Civil Society, Member, Committee on Regional Policy, Public Works and Local Self-Government (GERB)
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Ms. Konstantina PETROVA	Member of the National Assembly Member, Committee on Environment and Water Member, Committee on Regional Policy, Public Works and Local Self-Government (Revival)
Ms. Stefana KARASLAVOVA-VODENICHARSKA ASGP Member	Secretary General of the National Assembly
Ms. Sacha NIKOLOVA	Adviser, National Assembly
Ms. Stefka ALEXandrova Secretary of the Delegation	State expert, International Relations and Protocol Directorate, National Assembly
GERB REVIVAL	Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria Nationalist political party

**BURKINA FASO**

M. Ouendenmanègdè Hermann YELKOUNY Chef de la délégation	Vice-Président de l'Assemblée législative de la transition Membre, Commission du Développement Durable
M. Boubacar BALBONE Président du Groupe UIP	Membre de l'Assemblée législative de la transition Vice-Président, Commission des Affaires Générales Institutionnelle et des Droits Humains
Mme Kiswindsida Agueratou OUEDRAOGO	Membre de l'Assemblée législative de la transition Membre, Commission du Développement Durable
Mme Félicienne Marie Pélagie KONSEIBO/TIENDREBEOGO	Membre de l'Assemblée législative de la transition Membre, Commission des Finances et du Budget
M. Kalifa KABRE	Membre de l'Assemblée législative de la transition Premier secrétaire, Commission du Développement Durable
M. Souleymane OUEDRAOGO	Membre de l'Assemblée législative de la transition
M. Wendyellé Ambroise NIKIEMA	Membre de l'Assemblée législative de la transition Membre, Commission des Finances et du Budget
Mme Valérie SEMPORE/SOUBEIGA	Secrétaire générale, Assemblée législative de la transition
M. Wendmissida Antoine Elisée ZONG-NABA	Conseiller, Assemblée législative de la transition
M. Abdoul Aimé Roland KONATE Secrétaire du Groupe	Directeur, Assemblée législative de la transition

**BURUNDI**

M. Fabrice NKURUNZIZA Chef de la délégation	Vice-Président du Sénat Conseil National pour la Défense de la Démocratie- Forces de défense de la Démocratie (CNDD-FDD))
Mme Spes Caritas NJEBARIKANUYE	Membre du Sénat Conseil National de la Défense de la Démocratie- Forces de Défense et de la Démocratie
M. Renovat NIYONZIMA	Secrétaire Général du Sénat

**CAMBODIA**

Mr. Borith OUCH Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Vice President of the Senate (CPP)
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Mr. Chanphal NGY	Member of the Senate (CPP)
Mr. Dara SAM	Member of the National Assembly (CPP)
Ms. Samvada KHENG	Member of the National Assembly (CPP)
Mr. Samkol LAY Adviser	Secretary General of the Senate
Mr. Malayvireak KOY Adviser	Director of International Relations of the Secretariat General of the Senate
Ms. Monyenna SOEUNG Adviser	Assistant to the President of the National Assembly
Mr. Samnang YEAP Adviser	Chief of Cabinet of the First Vice President of the Senate
Mr. Sokhem PECH Adviser	Chief Adviser to the First Vice President of the Senate
Mr. Sokveng NGOUN Adviser	Director General of Protocol and International Relations of the Secretariat General of the Senate
Mr. Veasna VA Adviser	Vice Chief of Cabinet of the First Vice President of the Senate
CPP	Cambodian People's Party

**CAMEROON - CAMEROUN**

M. Marcel NIAT NJIFENJI	Président du Sénat (RDPC)
M. Abdoulaye ABOUBAKARY Chef de la délégation	Vice-Président du Sénat
Mme Marie Armande DIN BELL	Vice-Présidente du Sénat
M. F.C ISAAC MBUNKA Membre du Groupe de travail sur la science et la technologie	Membre du Sénat (RDPC)
M. Manju Nestus FRU	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC)
Mme Johanna EBANGHA EPSE AGBOR	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC)
Mme Koulouchoumi ÉPSE AHIDJO OUMMOUL	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UNDP)
M. Vincent DE PAUL EMAH ETOUNDI	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC)
M. Gustave LEOPOLD NGANE	Secrétaire général, Sénat
Mme Edwige Ursule MEDOUANE AWOLE EPSE ETOGA Conseillère	Conseillère Technique Sénat
M. Justin NJOMATCHOUA Conseiller	Directeur de cabinet du Président du Sénat
M. Médard MVONDO Secrétaire de la délégation	Directeur Assemblée nationale
RDPC	Rassemblement Démocratique du Peuple Camerounais
UNDP	Union Nationale pour la Démocratie et le Progrès

**CANADA**

Ms. Salma ATAULLAHJAN Leader of the delegation	Member of the Senate (CPC)
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Ms. Raymonde SAINT-GERMAIN	Member of the Senate (ISG)
Mr. Mohamed Iqbal RAVALIA	Member of the Senate (ISG)
Mr. Pierre DALPHOND	Member of the Senate (PSG)
Ms. Flordeliz OSLER	Member of the Senate (CSG)
Mr. Jean-Philippe BROCHU Member of ASGP	Secretary General, House of Commons
Ms. Erica PEREIRA Secretary of the Group	Adviser House of Commons
Ms. Allison GOODY Adviser	Adviser House of Commons
Ms. Natalie MYCHAJLYSZYN Adviser	Adviser House of Commons
CSG	Canadian Senators Group
CPC	Conservative Party of Canada
ISG	Independent Senators Group
PSG	Progressive Senate Group

**CHAD - TCHAD**

M. Houdeingar David NGARIMADEN	Premier Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale
Mme Fatime MAHAMAT SEID	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDP)
M. Dingaoumaibe LAOUHINGAMAYE Membre du Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPS)
M. Abdelgader ABDERAMANE KOKO	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPS)
M. Nadjingar TITDJIBAYE	Chef de Cabinet
MPS	Mouvement patriotique du salut
MPTR	Mouvement des patriotes tchadiens pour la république
RDP	Rassemblement pour la démocratie et le progrès

**CHILE**

Mr. Francisco UNDURRAGA Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Member, National Defense Member, Family (EVOP)
Mr. Francisco CHAHUAN	Member of the Senate President, Committee on Foreign Relations (RN)
Mr. Harry JURGENSEN	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Member, Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development Member, Ethics and Transparency (I)
Mr. Juan Antonio COLOMA	Member of the Senate Member, Committee on finances (UDI)
Ms. Loreto CARVAJAL Member of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law	Member of the Senate President, Committee on women affairs (PPD)
Mr. Rojo EDWARDS	Member of the Senate (PSC) Member of the Economic Commission Member of the Presidential Commission
Mr. Damaso MONTEBRUNO Adviser	Adviser Chamber of Deputies

Mr. Juan OSES  
Adviser

Director  
Senate

Mr. Luis ROJAS GALLARDO  
Member of ASGP

Secretary-General, Chamber of Deputies

EVOP Political Evolution  
FA Frente Amplio  
RN Renovación Nacional  
I Independent party  
UDI Unión Demócrata Independiente  
PPD Partido por la Democracia  
PSC Partido Social Cristiano

#### CHINA

Mr. LOSANG Gyaltzen  
Leader of the Delegation

Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC  
(CPC)

Mr. CHEN Fuli

Deputy to the National People's Congress of China  
Deputy Secretary General of the Standing Committee of  
the National People's Congress of China  
Member, Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee

Mr. TIAN Xuejun

Deputy to the National People's Congress of China  
Vice Chairman, Education, Science, Culture and Public  
Health Committee

Mr. WANG Hong

Deputy to the National People's Congress of China  
Vice Chairman, Environmental Protection and  
Resources Conservation Committee

Mr. ZHANG Taifan

Deputy to the National People's Congress of China  
Member, Ethnic Affairs Committee

Ms. LI Yuping

Deputy to the National People's Congress of China  
Member, Constitution and Law Committee

Mr. HOU Yongzhi

Deputy to the National People's Congress of China  
Member, Financial and Economic Affairs Committee

#### CÔTE D'IVOIRE

M. Adama BICTOGO  
Chef de la délégation  
Président du Groupe

Président de l'Assemblée nationale (RHDP)

M. Koffi Kra Paulin KOUASSI

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale  
CEPP, Commission de l'évaluation des politiques  
publiques (RHDP)

M. Koffi Marius KONAN

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale  
Membre, Commission des Affaires Générales et  
Institutionnelles (PDCI-RDA)

M. Samy MERHY

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale  
Membre, Commission des Affaires Economiques et  
Financières (RHDP)

M. Kohou Émile GUIRIÉOULOU

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale  
Président de la Commission et Président du Réseau  
des Parlementaires Africains sur le Changement  
Climatique,  
Membre de la Commission de la Recherche, de la  
Science, de la Technologie et de l'Environnement  
(PPA-CI)

Mme Macora COULIBALY DAO

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Membre de la  
Commission Sécurité et Défense (RHDP)

M. Aboubacar Sidiki DIOMANDE	Secrétaire Général de l'Assemblée nationale
M. Amani Sebastien KOUASSI Secrétaire du Groupe	Chef de Service Assemblée nationale
M. Tamakolo OUATTARA	Diplomatic corps Assemblée nationale
RHDP	Rassemblement des Houphouetistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix
PDCI-RDA	Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire-RDA
PPA-CI	Parti des Peuples Africains - Côte d'Ivoire

**CROATIA**

Mr. Saša ĐUJIĆ Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Member of the Croatian Parliament Deputy Chairperson, Committee on the Constitution, Standing Orders and Political System Member, Interparliamentary Co-operation Committee (SDP)
Mr. Ivan MALENICA	Member of the Croatian Parliament Chairperson, Committee on the Constitution, Standing Orders and Political System Member, Judiciary Committee (HDZ)
Mr. Stjepan VUKAS	Deputy Director Croatian Parliament
Mr. Refik ŠABANOVIĆ SDP HDZ	Diplomatic corps Social Democratic Party of Croatia Croatian Democratic Union

**CYPRUS**

Mr. Averof NEOFYTOS Leader of the Delegation	Member of the House of Representatives Deputy Chairperson, House Standing Committee on Energy, Trade, Industry and Tourism Member, House Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs (DISY)
Ms. Alexandra ATTALIDES	Member of the House of Representatives Member, House Standing Committee on Internal Affairs Member, House Standing Committee on Human Rights and Equal Opportunities for Men and Women (--)
Mr. Marios GAROYIAN	Member of the House of Representatives Member, House Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs (DEPA)
Ms. Avgousta CHRISTOU Secretary of the delegation, Secretary of the Group	Senior International Relations Officer House of Representatives
Ms. Marianna KAISIS Secretary of the delegation, Secretary of the Group	International Relations Officer House of Representatives
DISY	Democratic Rally
--	Independent
DIKO	Democratic Party
DEPA	Democratic Alignment
AKEL	Progressive Party of the Working People

**CZECHIA**

Mr. Viktor VOJTKO Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group Member of the Working Group on Science and Technology	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs Member, Committee on the Budget (STAN)
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Ms. Miluše HORSKÁ	Member of the Senate Member, Committee on Education, Science, Culture, Human Rights and Petitions Vice- Chairperson, Committee on Mandate and Parliamentary Privilege (KDU-ČSL)
Mr. Petr FIFKA	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Vice-chair, Committee on Health Care Vice-chair, Committee on European Affairs (ODS)
Mr. Zdeněk NYTRA	Member of the Senate Member, Committee on EU Affairs (liberal-conservative)
Ms. Alena TUCKOVA Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation	Adviser Chamber of Deputies
Ms. Radka ZEMANOVÁ Secretary of the Group	Adviser Senate
STAN KDU-ČSL	Mayors and Independents Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party and Independents Caucus
ODS ANO liberal-conservative	Civic Democratic Party ANO 2011 Movement Civic Democratic Party

**DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Mr. Kyong il MAENG Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the Supreme People's Assembly
Mr. Hak Song KIM	Member of the Supreme People's Assembly
Mr. Kyong il RIM	Member of the Supreme People's Assembly
Mr. Mun Dok SONG	Member of the Supreme People's Assembly
Mr. Chol Yong RI	Diplomatic corps
Mr. Tong Hyon JO	Diplomatic corps

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO – RÉPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO**

Mme Ida KITWA GODALENA Membre du Comité exécutif	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Membre, Économie financière et contrôle budgétaire (AUN)
M. Boris MBUKU LAKA Membre du Bureau de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Membre, Droits de l'homme (ER)
Mme Jeannette KAVIRA MAPERA Membre du Bureau des femmes parlementaires	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Membre, Économie financière et contrôle budgétaire (MEDR)
Mme Carole AGITO	Membre du Sénat Membre, Commission économique, financière et de la bonne gouvernance (AV)
M. José KALALA WA KALALA	Membre du Sénat Membre, Commission relations extérieures (UVT)
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M. Jean NGUVULU KHOJI Secretary of the Group	Secrétaire Général Sénat
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Mme Marie Suzanne PASI VALU NDOMOLO Secrétaire du Groupe	Directrice, Sénat
M. Philibert KANIKA SUMBAYI	Conseiller, Assemblée nationale
M. Jules MOLISHO SHINGAMBI	Conseiller, Sénat

ER	Ensemble pour la République
AUN	Alliance des fédéralistes pour un nouveau Congo
AV	Alternative Républicaine
MEDR	Mouvement des écologistes pour le développement responsable
UVT	Union des valeurs tshisekedistes
UDPS/TSHISEKEDI	Union pour la démocratie et le progrès social / tshisekedi
MLC	Mouvement de libération du Congo

**DENMARK**

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Mr. Jens MEILVANG	Member of the Danish Parliament Vice-Chairman, The Transport Committee Member, The Rural Districts and Islands Committee (LA)
Mr. Jeppe SØE	Member of the Danish Parliament Member, The Cultural Affairs Committee Member, The Digitalisation and IT Committee
Mr. Kasper ROUG	Member of the Danish Parliament Chairman, The Small Islands Committee Member, The Defence, Resilience and Preparedness Committee (S)
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Mr. Claudius LARSON Secretary of the delegation	Secretary The Danish Parliament

Ms. Kamilla KJELGAARD  
Secretary of the delegation

Secretary  
The Danish Parliament

EL The Red-Green Alliance  
M The Moderates  
LA Liberal Alliance  
S The Social Democratic Party  
V The Liberal Party

#### DJIBOUTI

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M. Elmi MAHABE WAISS

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RPP)

M. Hassan ADEN GUEDI

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UDJ)

RPP Rassemblement populaire pour le progrès  
FDLD Front pour la restauration de l'unité et la démocratie  
UDJ Union pour la démocratie et la justice

#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Mr. Luis BAEZ  
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Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on  
Peace and International Security

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
Member of the Committee on Justice  
President of the Committee on AI  
Member of the Commission on Internal Affairs and  
Police; Member of the Commission on Tourism (PRM)

PRM Partido Revolucionario Moderno

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Ms. Maria Fernanda ARAUJO

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Mr. Arturo German MORENO ENCALADA

Member of the National Assembly

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Mr. Mahmoud ETMAN	Secretary General, Senate
Mr. Abdel latif FAROUK	Director, House of Representatives
Mr. Haytham NOURELDIN	Director, House of Representatives
Mr. Mahmoud ELGANZOURI	Protocol Officer, House of Representatives
Mr. Moataz HASSAN	Director, House of Representatives
Mr. Tamer HAMMAD	Ambassador
Mr. Amr ABDELZAHER	Diplomatic corps
Liberal	Nation's Future Party

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Mr. Jesús Evuy MONSUY NSUE	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PDGE)
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Mr. Jesús OBAMA NZANG Secretary of the delegation	Secretary General, Senate
PDGE	Partido Democratico de Guinea ecuatorial

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Mr. Antero HABICHT	Secretary General, the Estonian Parliament
Ms. Enel OTSTAVEL	Adviser, the Estonian Parliament
Mr. Jaap ORA	Diplomatic corps
E200	Eesti 200
EKRE	Estonian Conservative People's Party
SOC	Social Democratic Party

**ESWATINI**

Mr. Jabulani Clement MABUZA Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the House of Assembly Chairperson, House Business Committee Ex-Officio Member, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Ms. HRH Princess Ncengencenge DLAMINI	Member of the Senate Member of the IPU Committee Chairperson of the ICT Portfolio Committee
Mr. Mduduzi DLAMINI	Member of the Assembly Chairperson, Defence and National Security Committee Chairperson of the IPU
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Ms. Nonhlanhla SHABANGU Secretary of the delegation	Committee Clerk, Senate

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Mr. Tesfaye Beljige DARA	Member of the House of Federation
Mr. Hailu Efa GONDA	Member of the House of the Federation
Mr. Mihretu Shanko GIDI	Member of the House of the Federation
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**FIJI**

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Mr. Inia SERUIRATU	Member of Parliament
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Ms. Neomai BALE Secretary of the delegation	Adviser, Parliament
Mr. Seniteli WAINIU Secretary of the delegation	Adviser, Parliament
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**FINLAND**

Mr. Ari KOPONEN Leader of the Delegation	Member of Parliament Vice Chair, Education and Culture Committee alternate member, Grand Committee (The Finns)
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Ms. Outi LEHTIMÄKI Secretary of the delegation	Assistant, Parliament
Mr. Teemu VUOSIO Secretary of the Group, Adviser	Adviser, Parliament
The Finns	The Finns Party
The Centre	The Centre Party
VAS	Left Alliance
Kokoomus	National Coalition Party
KD	Christian Democratic
PS	The Finns Party

**FRANCE**

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Mme Gisèle JOURDA	Membre du Sénat Vice-présidente, Commission des affaires européennes Membre, Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et des forces armées (SER)
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Mme Alice LALA Secrétaire de l'ASGP	Administratrice Assemblée nationale
Mme Karine VELASCO Secrétariat de l'ASGP	Assistante de Direction et de Gestion Assemblée nationale
RDPI	Rassemblement des démocrates, progressistes et indépendants
LR	Les Républicains
LFI	La France Insoumise
SER	Socialiste, Écologiste et Républicain
HOR	Horizons et indépendants
EPR	Ensemble pour la République
SOC	Socialistes et apparentés

**GAMBIA (THE)**

Mr. Assan TOURAY	Member of the National Assembly (UDP)
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Mr. Sainey KONTEH Secretary of the delegation	Director National Assembly
NPP	National Peoples Party
UDP	United Democratic Party
PDOIS	Peoples Democratic Organization for Independence and Socialism

**GEORGIA**

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GD	Georgian Dream

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Mr. Lars-Uwe KETTNER	Diplomatic corps
CDU/CSU	Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union
SPD	Social Democratic Party
AfD	Alternative for Germany

**GHANA**

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radical left	SYRIZA
liberal conservative	New Democracy
centre-left	PASOK-KINAL Movement for Change

**GUYANA**

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APNU+AFC A Partnership for National Unity + Alliance for Change PPP/C People's Progressive Party Civic	

**HUNGARY**

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Ms. Katalin SOMFAINÉ ÁDÁM Secretary of the Group	Head of Office of the Hungarian IPU Group National Assembly
Mr. Adrián HARMATH	Deputy Head of the Embassy of Hungary in Uzbekistan
KDNP Christian Democratic People's Party MSZP Hungarian Socialist Party Mi Hazánk Mi Hazánk FIDESZ Fidesz	

**ICELAND**

Ms. Hildur SVERRISDÓTTIR	Deputy Speaker of the Althingi (Conservative Party)
Ms. Lilja Rafney MAGNUSDOTTIR Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Althingi Chair, Industrial Affairs Committee (NA)
Mr. Vidir REYNISSON	Member of the Althingi Member, Foreign Affairs Committee Chair, Committee of Education (SP)
Ms. Auður Elva JÓNSDÓTTIR	Deputy Secretary General, Althingi
Ms. Arna Gerdur BANG Adviser, Secretary of the delegation	Adviser Althingi
NA People's Party SP Social Democratic Alliance Conservative Party Independence Party	

## INDIA

Mr. Om BIRLA Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the House of the People Chairperson, Business Advisory Committee Chairperson, Rules Committee
Mr. Hari Bansh NARAYAN SINGH	Vice Chairman of the Council of States Chairman, Committee on Privileges Chairman, Committee on Member Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) (JD (U))
Mr. Anurag Singh THAKUR Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs	Member of the House of the People Chairperson, Standing Committee on Coal and Steel Member, Committee on Public Accounts (BJP)
Ms. Aparajita SARANGI Member of the Executive Committee Ex-officio member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the House of the People Member, Committee on Public Accounts Member, Standing Committee on External Affairs (BJP)
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Ms. Kiran CHOUDHRY	Member of the Council of States Member, Committee on External Affairs Member, Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Women and Child Development (BJP)
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Mr. Utpal KUMAR SINGH Secretary of the Group	Secretary General, House of the People
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Mr. Anjani KUMAR Secretary of the delegation	Joint Secretary House of the People
Mr. Rajeev DUTTA Adviser	Joint Secretary & OSD to the Speaker, Lok Sabha
BJP	Bharatiya Janata Party
JD (U)	Janata Dal (United)
BJD	Biju Janata Dal

**INDONESIA**

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Ms. Miranti WIDIANI Secretary of the Group Secretary of the delegation	Head of the sub-division of the Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation House of Representatives
Mr. Naufal Fakhri ERLANGGA Secretary of the delegation	Parliamentary staff House of Representatives
Mr. Tide Aji PRATAMA Adviser	Adviser House of Representatives
Ms. Made Fitri Maya PADMI Adviser	Adviser House of Representatives
Mr. Hilman HIDAYAT Secretary of the Group	Staff House of Representatives
PKS Demokrat PDI-P Gerindra PAN Golkar	Partai Keadilan Sejahtera (Prosperous Justice Party) Partai Demokrat (Democratic Party) Partai Demokrasi Indonesia - Perjuangan (Indonesian Democratic Party - Struggle) Partai Gerakan Indonesia Raya (Great Indonesia Movement Party) Partai Amanat Nasional (National Mandate Party) Partai Golongan Karya (Functional Group Party)

**IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)**

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Mr. Ebrahim REZAEI	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Member, National Security and Foreign Policy Commission
Mr. Fada Hossein MALEKI	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Member, National Security and Foreign Policy Commission
Mr. Seyed Shamseddin HOSSEINI	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Member, Committee for Production Leap and Economic Prosperity, Member, Economic Committee

Ms. Somayeh RAFIEI	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Member, Agriculture, water and natural resources
Mr. Mojtaba YOUSEFI	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Member, Civil Commission
Mr. Abolfazl AMOUEI Adviser	Adviser Islamic Parliament of Iran
Mr. Ali HAJI MOHAMMADI Adviser	Adviser Islamic Parliament of Iran
Mr. Babak AHMADI Adviser	Adviser Islamic Parliament of Iran
Mr. Ehsan TAEBI Adviser	Adviser Islamic Parliament of Iran
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Ms. Shadi MAKI Adviser	Adviser Islamic Parliament of Iran
Mr. Mojtaba MORADI	Diplomatic corps
Mr. Hossein PARVARESH	Diplomatic corps

**IRAQ**

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Mr. Safwan YOUNUS Adviser	Secretary General, Council of Representatives
Mr. Salam MOHAMMED Adviser	Director Council of Representatives of Iraq

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Mr. Conor SHEEHAN	Member of the Dáil Éireann (Lab)
Mr. Mark DUFFY	Member of the Seanad (FG)

Mr. Padraig RICE	Member of the Dáil Éireann (SocDems)
Ms. Bridget DOODY	Deputy Clerk of the Seanad
Ms. Elaine GUNN	Clerk Assistant of Dáil Éireann
Ms. Bernadette MATHEWS Secretary of the delegation	Adviser Dáil Éireann
Mr. Paul STEPHENS Secretary of the delegation	Head of International Relations Dáil Éireann
FF            Fianna Fáil	
Lab          Labour	
FG           Fine Gael	
SocDems    Social Democrats	

**ISRAEL**

Mr. Amir OHANA Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Knesset(C)
Mr. Dan Eliyahou Yaacov ILLOUZ President of the IPU Group	Member of the Knesset (C)
Ms. Tsega Tseganesh MELAKU	Member of the Knesset (C)
Mr. Vladimir BELIAK	Member of the Knesset (NA)
Mr. Dan MARZOUK	Secretary General, Knesset
Mr. Ben ZILBERBERG	Adviser, Knesset
Mr. Hillel NEWMAN	Diplomatic Adviser, Knesset
Ms. Liat MARGALIT Secretary of the Group	Secretary to the Knesset IPU delegation
Mr. Rony TAL	Chief of Staff to the Speaker
Mr. Gil KOL	Adviser, Knesset
Mr. Tony Alexander RAICHLER	Adviser, Knesset
Mr. Uri MICHAEL	Adviser, Knesset
Mr. Gideon Moshe LUSTIG	Diplomatic corps
Ms. Liron MIZRAHI UNGER	Diplomatic corps
C            Likud	
NA          Yesh Atid	

**ITALY**

Mr. Pier Ferdinando CASINI Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Member of the Senate Member, Permanent Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence (PD)
Ms. Deborah BERGAMINI Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security Member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Member, Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs (FI) PAM Rapporteur on Political Affairs and Security
Mr. Giangiacomo CALOVINI	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Member, Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs (Fdl)
Ms. Lia QUARTAPELLE Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Vice President, Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs (PD)

Mr. Roberto SORBELLO  
Secretary of the Group

Adviser  
Chamber of Deputies

Ms. Susanna RADONI  
Secretary of the delegation

Adviser  
Chamber of Deputies

Ms. Maria Teresa CALABRO  
ASGP

Adviser  
Chamber of Deputies

Mr. Piergabriele PAPADIA DE BOTTINI DI  
SANT'AGNESE

Diplomatic corps

PD Partito Democratico  
FI Forza Italia  
Fdl Fratelli d'Italia

**JAPAN**

Mr. Yoshihiro SEKI  
Leader of the Delegation

Member of the House of Representatives (LDP)  
Member, Committee on Economy, Trade and Industry  
Member, Committee on National Security

Mr. Yukinori NEMOTO

Member of the House of Representatives (LDP)  
Member, Committee on Financial Affairs  
Member, Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Mr. Katsuhito NAKAJIMA

Member of the House of Representatives (CDP)  
Member, Committee on Health, Labour and Welfare

Mr. Hitoshi AOYAGI  
Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on  
United Nations Affairs

Member of the House of Representatives (JIP)  
Member, Committee on Audit and Oversight of  
Administration  
Member, Special Committee on Political Reform

Ms. Michiko UENO

Member of the House of Councillors (LDP)  
Member, Committee on Education, Culture and Science  
Member, Committee on Oversight of Administration

Mr. Hideya SUGIO

Member of the House of Councillors (CDP)  
Director, Committee on Budget  
Member, Committee on Land and Transport

Mr. Hiromitsu FUJITA  
Secretary of the Group

Director  
House of Representatives

Mr. Kanemitsu TANAKA  
Secretary of the Group

Deputy Director  
House of Representatives

Mr. Yuji OKANOYA  
Secretary of the Group

Adviser  
House of Representatives

Mr. Ryo UENOHATA  
Secretary of the Group

Adviser  
House of Representatives

Mr. Jun ISHIHARA  
Secretary of the Group

Director  
House of Councillors

Mr. Tomoya KONDO  
Secretary of the Group

Deputy Director  
House of Councillors

Ms. Saya HONDA  
Secretary of the Group

Adviser  
House of Councillors

LDP Liberal Democratic Party of Japan  
CDP The Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan  
JIP Japan Innovation Party

**JORDAN**

Mr. Ahmad SAFADI	Speaker of the House of Representatives
Ms. Huda Ibrahim Nassar NAFFA Head of the delegation	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
Mr. Mazen EL QADI	Member of the House of Representatives (Socialist party)
Mr. Mohammad HEDAIB	Member of the House of Representatives Head, Youth and Sport Committee (Socialist party)
Mr. Mohammad AQEL	Member of the House of Representatives Member, International Parliamentary Affairs Committee (Political Party)
Mr. Awni AL-ZU'BI	Member of the House of Representatives Member, Legal Committee
Mr. Haya ALQARALEH	Member of the Senate Member, Palestine Committee
Ms. Mahasen ALJAGHOUB Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions	Member of the Senate Head, National Dialogue Committee
Mr. Abdel Basat AL KABARITI	Member of the House of Representatives Member, Administrative Committee
Ms. Nour ABU GHOSH	Member of the House of Representatives Member, Youth Party Committee Member, Media and national Guidance Committee (Political Party)
Mr. Mohammad AL-THAHRAWY	Member of the House of Representatives Member, Palestine Committee
Mr. Ahmad SHDIFAT	Adviser House of Representatives Head, Agriculture and water Committee
Mr. Moh'd KATAW	Adviser, House of Representatives
Mr. Awwad AL GHUWARI	Secretary General, House of Representatives
Mr. Mohammad ABDALLAT	Deputy Secretary General, House of Representatives
Mr. Nedal ALAMRO	Director of public Relations, Senate
Mr. MAHMOUD BANI-AMIR Secretary of the delegation	Deputy Director House of Representatives
Mr. Aryad ABURUMMAN Secretary of the delegation	Adviser House of Representatives
Mr. Fayiz ALNEMRAN	Adviser, House of Representatives

Socialist party	Charter party
Political Party	The Islamic Action Front Party

**KAZAKHSTAN**

Mr. Yerlan KOSHANOV Leader of the Delegation	Chairman of the Mazhilis of Parliament (AMANAT party)
Mr. Zhakip ASSANOV	Deputy Chairman of the Senate

Ms. Aigul KUSPAN President of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the Mazhilis of Parliament Chairperson, Committee on International Affairs, Defense and Security (AMANAT party)
Mr. Nursultan BAITILESSOV	Member of the Mazhilis of Parliament Member, Committee on Legislation and Judicial-Legal Reform (AMANAT party)
Ms. Snezhanna IMASHEVA	Member of the Mazhilis of Parliament Chairperson, Committee on Legislation and Judicial- Legal Reform (AMANAT party)
Mr. Renat AITAYEV	Secretary General, Mazhilis of Parliament
Mr. Bolat KALYANBEKOV	Deputy Secretary General, Mazhilis of Parliament
Mr. Talgat KASSYMBEKOV	Deputy Secretary General, Mazhilis of Parliament
Mr. Rustam TLEGENOV Secretary of the delegation	Head of the Sector of the International Relations and Protocol Department, Mazhilis of Parliament
Mr. Aibol ZHUMAGULOV	Head of the Press Service, Mazhilis of Parliament
Ms. Elmira BASHEYEVA	Adviser, Mazhilis of Parliament
Mr. Aray BEKENOV	Head of the Sector of the International Relations and Protocol Department, Mazhilis of Parliament
AMANAT party	AMANAT party

**KENYA**

Mr. Amason Jeffah KINGI Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Senate Chairperson, Senate Business Committee Chairperson, Powers and Privileges Committee (PAA)
Ms. Catherine Muyeka MUMMA Member of the Working Group on Science and Technology	Member of the Senate Vice Chairperson, Standing Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations Member, Standing Committee on Education (ODM)
Mr. Clive Ombane GISAIRO	Member of the National Assembly Member, National Government Constituencies Development Fund Committee Member, Committee on Education and Research (ODM)
Mr. John Kiarie WAWERU Member of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law	Member of the National Assembly Member, Liaison Committee Chairperson, Communication Information and Innovation (UDA)
Mr. John Okwisia MAKALI	Member of the National Assembly Member, Budget and Appropriation Committee Member, Justice and Legal Affairs Committee (FORD -K)
Ms. Josephine NAISULA LESUUDA Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development	Member of the National Assembly Member, Budget and Appropriation Committee Member, Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education (KANU)
Ms. Millie Grace Akoth ODHIAMBO Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians	Member of the National Assembly Member, Budget and Appropriation Committee Member, Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations (ODM)

Mr. Raphael Chimera MWINZAGU	Member of the Senate Member, Standing Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights Member, County Public Investments Committee (UDA)
Mr. Titus LOTEE	Member of the National Assembly Member, Diaspora Affairs and Migrant Works Committee Member, Environment, Forestry and Mining (KUP)
Mr. Jeremiah Makokha NYEGENYE	Clerk, Senate
Ms. Eunice Wanjiku GICHANGI Adviser	Deputy Clerk, Senate
Mr. Benedict Emmanuel FURAHA Adviser	Director Senate
Mr. Nicholas Lonyuko EMEJEN Adviser	Deputy Director National Assembly
Mr. John Musee MUTINDA Adviser, Secretary of the delegation	Adviser National Assembly
Mr. Innocent Mbaya MGHANGA Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation	Adviser Senate
Ms. Alice Njeri KAHURA Adviser	Administrative Officer Senate
Ms. Madeline Gladys KISAMA Adviser	Protocol Officer Senate
PAA            Pamoja African Alliance ODM           Orange Democratic Party UDA           United Democratic Alliance FORD - K     Forum for the Restoration of Democracy - Kenya KANU          Kenya African National Union KUP            Kenya Union Party	

**KYRGYZSTAN**

Mr. Nurlanbek TURGUNBEK UULU Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh
Mr. Aizhigit TYNALIEV	Member of the Jogorku Kenesh Member, Committee on Fuel and Energy Complex, Subsoil Use and Industrial Policy
Mr. Altynbek KYLYCHBAEV	Member of the Jogorku Kenesh Member, Committee on International Affairs, Defense, Security and Migration
Mr. Sovetbek RUSTAMBEK UULU	Member of the Jogorku Kenesh Member, Committee on Social Affairs (ISHENIM)
Mr. Ataibek NADYROV	Head of the Department of International Cooperation and Protocol of the Jogorku Kenesh
Ms. Aida ARYKBAEVA	Deputy Head of the Department of International Cooperation and Protocol of the Jogorku Kenesh
Mr. Aziret TURATBEKOV	Senior Consultant of the Department of International Cooperation and Protocol of the Jogorku Kenesh
Mr. Chynybek ANARBEK UULU	Adviser of the Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh
Mr. Janat ERMEK	Head of the Protocol Department of the Jogorku Kenesh

Mr. Keldibek ZHEENBEKOV	Consultant of the Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh
Mr. Mirlanbek RAVSHANBEKOV	Expert of the Department of International Cooperation and Protocol of the Jogorku Kenesh
Mr. Altynbek DERKEMBAEV	Press-Secretary of the Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh
Mr. Nursultan KARASHEV	Consultant of the department of organization of protocol events and external relations, of the Jogorku Kenesh
Mr. Sardorbek ZAFAROV Secretary of the delegation	Consultant of the Department of International Cooperation and Protocol of the Jogorku Kenesh
ISHENIM ISHENIM	

**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

Mr. Sanya PRASEUTH Leader of the Delegation	Member of the National Assembly Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee, Foreign Affairs Committee (LPRP)
Ms. Minaphone SAYSOMPHU	Member of the National Assembly
Mr. Akhom PRASEUTH Adviser	Secretary General, National Assembly
Mr. Khemphone ANOTHAY Secretary of the delegation	Director National Assembly
Mr. Soutsakhone ANANTHA Secretary of the delegation	Adviser National Assembly
Mr. Phasouk NANTHAALANGSY	Diplomatic Corps
Mr. Siphandon OYBOUABOUDY	Diplomatic Corps
LPRP Lao People's Revolutionary Party	

**LATVIA**

Ms. Jana SIMANOVSKA Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Member of Parliament Member, Budget and Finance (Taxation) Committee Member, Public Expenditure and Audit Committee (PRO)
Mr. Andrejs JUDINS	Member of Parliament Chairman, Legal Affairs Committee Member, Citizenship, Migration and Social Cohesion Committee (JV)
Ms. Jekaterina DRELINGA	Member of Parliament Member, Education, Culture and Science Committee Member, European Affairs Committee (ST!)
Ms. Lelde RAFELDE	Secretary General, Parliament
Ms. Sandra PAURA Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation	Director Parliament
Mr. Reinis TROKSA	Ambassador
PRO Progressives JV The New Unity ST! Stability!	

**LIBYA**

Mr. Fawzi SALEM Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Vice President of the House of Representatives
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Mr. Musbah AWHIDA	Vice President of the House of Representatives
Ms. Rabeeah ABOURAS Member of the High-level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism	Member of the House of Representatives
Mr. Ramdan SHMBSH	Member of the House of Representatives
Ms. Sultna ABDULRAHIM	Member of the House of Representatives
Mr. Abd Ualla MUSSA	Secretary General, House of Representatives
Mr. Abdelhafiz ELWALID	Secretary of the Secretary-General House of Representatives
Mr. Abdullah AMER Adviser	Adviser House of Representatives
Mr. Ahmed HASHASH Adviser	Adviser House of Representatives
Mr. Ali ALBAKOUSH	Director of the Second Deputy's Office House of Representatives
Mr. ASHARAF ALDIRSI Adviser	Director House of Representatives
Mr. Rafia ALI	Director of the Office of the First Deputy House of Representatives
Mr. Mohamed BUZEID	Coordinator of the IPU Division

**LITHUANIA**

Ms. Ruta MILIUTE Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Member of Parliament Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs Member, Committee on European Affairs (DUFL)
Mr. Arminas LYDEKA	Member of Parliament Deputy Chair, Committee on European Affairs Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs (L)
Ms. Asta SKIRMANTIENE Adviser, Secretary of the delegation	Adviser Parliament
DUFL      Democratic Union 'For Lithuania' L          Liberals Movement	

**LUXEMBOURG**

Mme Diane ADEHM Cheffe de la délégation	Membre de la Chambre des députés Présidente, Commission des Finances Membre, Commission de la Défense (CSV)
M. Fred KEUP	Membre de la Chambre des députés Membre, Commission des Affaires étrangères et européennes, de la Coopération, du Commerce extérieur et à la Grande Région Membre, Commission des Finances (ADR)
M. Georges ENGEL	Membre de la Chambre des députés Vice-Président, Commission de la Défense Vice-Président, Commission de la Culture (LSAP)

M. Yann GERGES  
Secrétaire de la délégation

Adviser  
Chambre des députés

CSV           Chrëschtlech-Sozial Vollekspartei  
ADR           Alternativ Demokratesch Reformpartei  
LSAP          Lëtzebuenger Sozialistesche Arbechterpartei

**MALAWI**

Ms. Annie Aisha ADAMS  
Leader of the Delegation

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly  
Member, Women's Caucus (UDF)

Ms. Esther JAILOSI JOLOBALA  
Member of the Committee to Promote Respect for  
International Humanitarian Law

Member of the National Assembly  
Member, International Relations Committee  
Member, Natural Resources and Climate Change  
Committee (UDF)

Mr. Misolo KAPICHILA

Member of the National Assembly  
Member, Legal Affairs Committee  
Member, International Relations Committee (UDF)

Mr. Victor MUSOWA  
Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on  
Peace and International Security

Member of the National Assembly  
Member, Health Committee  
Member, International Relations Committee (DPP)

Ms. Fiona KALEMBA  
Secretary of the Group

Clerk, National Assembly

Ms. Gloria KOMBO DZIDEKHA  
Adviser

Adviser  
National Assembly

Ms. Kettie Catherine MUSUKWA  
Adviser

Adviser  
National Assembly

Ms. Nancy CHIKANDIRA  
Adviser

Adviser  
National Assembly

MCP           Malawi Congress Party  
UDF           United Democratic Front  
DPP           Democratic Progressive Party

**MALAYSIA**

Mr. Hasni MOHAMMAD  
Leader of the Delegation  
Vice-President of the Bureau of the Standing  
Committee on Peace and International Security

Member of the House of Representatives  
Member, Special Select Committee on Human Rights,  
Election and Institutional Reform (BN)

Mr. Chen WONG  
Member of the Working Group on Science and  
Technology

Member of the House of Representatives  
Chairman, Special Select Committee on International  
Relations and International Trade (PKR)

Ms. Mumtaz MD NAWI

Member of the House of Representatives  
Member, Special Select Committee on Women,  
Children and Community Development (PAS)

Ms. Susan Chemerai ANDING

Member of the Senate  
Member, Special Select Committee on Governance,  
Integrity and Anti-Corruption (PBB)

Ms. Nurul Fadhilah IBHARIM  
Secretary of the delegation

Assistant Secretary  
House of Representatives

BN            National Front  
PKR          People's Justice Party  
PAS          Malaysian Islamic Party  
PBB          Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu Sarawak

**MALDIVES**

Mr. Abdul Raheem ABDULLA	Speaker of the People's Majlis
Mr. Abdulla RIFAU	Member of the People's Majlis Chair, Committee on Environment and Climate Change Member, Foreign Relations Committee (PNC)
Ms. Anara NAEEM	Member of the People's Majlis Vice Chair, Judiciary Committee member, Committee on Human Rights and Gender (PNC)
Ms. Asma RASHEED Member of the High-level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism	Member of the People's Majlis Chair, Committee on Social Affairs Member, Committee on Human Rights and Gender (PNC)
Ms. Fathimath SAUDA Member of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians	Member of the People's Majlis Chair, Committee on Human Rights and Gender Member, Committee on Social Affairs (PNC)
Mr. Hussain Imran LATHEEF	Member of the People's Majlis Vice Chair, Housing Committee Member, General Purposes Committee (PNC)
Mr. Ibrahim NAZIL	Member of the People's Majlis Member, Committee on Economic Affairs Member, Judiciary Committee (MDP)
Mr. Mohamed SHAHID	Member of the People's Majlis Chair, General Purposes Committee (PNC)
Mr. Ahmed Nihan Hussain MANIK	Chief of Bureau, People's Majlis
Ms. Aishath EAMAN Secretary of the delegation	Senior Foreign Relations Officer People's Majlis
Ms. Fathimath NIUSHA Secretary of the Group	Secretary General, People's Majlis
PNC            People's National Congress MDP            Maldivian Democratic Party	

**MALTA**

Mr. Angelo FARRUGIA Leader of the Delegation Member of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law	Speaker of the House of Representatives Chairperson, House Business Committee Chairperson, Privileges Committee
Mr. Ryan CALLUS	Member of the House of Representatives (PN) Member of the Standards in Public Life Committee
Mr. Ian Paul BAJADA Secretary of the Group	Research Officer House of Representatives
PN            Partit Nazzjonalista	

**MAURITANIA**

Ms. Siham NAJEM	Member of Parliament
Mr. Sid'Ahmed DOUEIRY	Member of Parliament

**MEXICO**

Ms. Anabel ACOSTA ISLAS	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Science, Technology and Innovation, Energy (PVEM)
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Mr. César Augusto RENDÓN	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Secretary, Foreign Affairs Member, Finance (PAN)
Ms. Claudia Selene AVILA FLORES	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Transparency and Anti-Corruption, Foreign Relations (MORENA)
Mr. Saúl MONREAL ÁVILA	Member of the Senate Member of the Committee on Jurisdictional Human Rights; Member of the Committee on International Agencies and Justice (MORENA)
Ms. Cynthia Iliana LÓPEZ CASTRO President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians Ex-officio Member of the Executive Committee	Member of the Senate Chair, Committee on Consumers Defense Secretary, Committee on Education (MORENA)
Ms. Mely ROMERO CELIS	Member of the Senate (PRI)
Mr. Francisco Javier FARIAS BAILON	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Secretary, Tourism Secretary, Fishing (MC)
Ms. Magdalena del Socorro NÚÑEZ MONREAL	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Member, Budget and Public Accounts Member, Social Economy and Promotion of Cooperativism (PT)
Mr. Luis Alfonso SILVA ROMO	Member of the Senate (PVEM)
Ms. Marcela GUERRA CASTILLO Vice Chairperson of the High-level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism	Member of the Chamber of Deputies President, Foreign Relations, Immigration Issues, (PRI)
Ms. Julia Arcelia OLGUIN SERNA	Adviser, Chamber of Deputies
PVEM      Ecologist Green Party of Mexico PAN        National Action Party MC        Movimiento Ciudadano MORENA   Movimiento de Regeneración Naciona PRI        Institutional Revolutionary Party	

**MONACO**

M. Fabrice NOTARI Chef de la délégation Membre du Bureau de la Commission permanente du développement durable	Membre du Conseil national Président, Commission des Relations Extérieures (L'Union)
Mme Marine HUGONNET-GRISOUL	Membre du Conseil national Présidente du Groupe APF (L'Union)
M. Benjamin CELLARIO Secrétaire de Délégation	Conseil national
L'Union      Union Nationale Monégasque	

**MONGOLIA**

Ms. Bulgantuya KHURELBAATAR Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Vice-Chairman of the State Great Hural Member, Standing Committee on Budget Member, Standing Committee on Social Policy (social democracy)
Ms. Badamdorj PUNSALMAA	Member of the State Great Hural

Mr. Naranbaatar NANZAD	Member of the State Great Hural Member, Standing Committee on Environment, Food and Agriculture Member, Standing Committee on Security and Foreign Policy (social democracy)
Ms. Nominchimeg ODSUREN Vice-President of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians	Member of the State Great Hural Member, Standing Committee on State Structure Member, Standing Committee on Justice (social democracy)
Mr. Baasandorj BARSUREN Secretary of the Group	Secretary General, State Great Hural
Mr. Nyam-Osor DAGSHINJAV Adviser	Deputy Secretary General State Great Hural
Mr. Batbold MARUUSH Adviser	Adviser State Great Hural
Ms. Bayarmaa ENKHTUR Adviser	Director State Great Hural
Ms. Baatar LKMAGVASUREN	Director, State Great Hural
Ms. Burtetsetsen GANBAATAR Secretary of the delegation	Secretary State Great Hural
Ms. Narangua GANBAATAR Secretary of the delegation	Secretary State Great Hural
Social Democracy Liberal Conservatism	Mongolian People's Party Democratic party

**MONTENEGRO**

Mr. Gordan STOJOVIĆ	Member of Parliament Head, CEI-PD Member, Committee on International Relations and Emigrants
Ms. Jevrosima PEJOVIĆ	Member of Parliament Member, Security and Defence Committee Member, Committee on European Integration
Ms. Marija MILOŠEVIĆ Secretary of the delegation	Secretary of the European Integration Committee Parliament
Ms. Tijana ROSANDIĆ Deputy secretary of the delegation	Adviser Parliament

**MOROCCO / MAROC**

M. Sidi Mohamed OULD ERRACHID Chef de la délégation	Président de la Chambre des conseillers Membre, Commission de l'intérieur, des collectivités territoriales et des infrastructures de base(PI)
M. Ahmed TOUIZI Président du Groupe Membre du Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale	Membre de la Chambre des représentants (PAM)
M. Abderrahman OIFFA M. Mohamed Salem BEN MESSAOUD	Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (PAM) Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers
M. Ahmed EL-AALEME	Membre de la Chambre des représentants (PI)

M. Hassan CHOUMAIS	Membre de la Chambre des conseillers Commission des secteurs productifs (PAM)
M. Kamal AIT MIK Membre du Bureau du Forum des jeunes parlementaires de l'UIP	Membre de la Chambre des conseillers Commission de l'intérieur, des collectivités territoriales et des infrastructures de base (RNI)
Mme Khaddouj SLASSI	Membre de la Chambre des représentants (USFP)
M. Mustapha REDDAD	Membre de la Chambre des représentants (RNI)
M. Najib EL KHADI	Secrétaire général, Chambre des représentants
M. El Assad ZEROUALI	Secrétaire général, Chambre des conseillers
M. Mansour LAMBARKI Conseiller	Chef de cabinet Chambre des conseillers
M. Abdelwahad DRIOUICHE Conseiller	Deputy Secretary General Chambre des conseillers
M. Said SATRAOUY Secrétaire de la délégation	Chef de la division des relations multilatérales Chambre des représentants
M. Oussama SOUHAIL	Cadre à la direction des Relations Extérieures Chambre des représentants
PAM	Parti authenticité et modernité
RNI	Rassemblement national des indépendants
PI	Parti de l'Istiqlal
USFP	Union socialiste des forces populaires

**MOZAMBIQUE**

Mr. Pedro COMISSARIO AFONSO Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (FRELIMO) Deputy-Chair of the Committee on Defence
Mr. Alberto NKUTUMULA Member of ASGP	Secretary General, Assembly of the Republic
Mr. Jaime MATIAS	Adviser, Assembly of the Republic
Mr. Narcisio MANJATE Secretary of the Group	Adviser, Assembly of the Republic
FRELIMO	Front of Liberation of Mozambique
PODEMO	Optimist Party for Development of Mozambique

**NAMIBIA**

Ms. Emma Tangi MUTEKA Leader of the delegation Member of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians	Member of the National Council Vice- Chairperson, Committee on Health, Social Welfare and Labour Affairs (SWAPO)
Mr. Johannes Hamba KARONDO	Member of the National Council Member of Committee, Committee on Health, Social Welfare and Labour Affairs (SWAPO)
Mr. Phillemon NDJAMBULA	Member of the National Council Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Home Affairs, Security, Constitutional and Legal Affairs (SWAPO)
Mr. Johannes Tousy NAMISEB Secretary of the delegation	Secretary to the National Council
Ms. Moringa Johanna GOAGOSSES	Adviser, National Council

Ms. Pamela MATE	Adviser, National Council
Ms. Agnes LILUNGWE	Adviser, National Council
Ms. Rachel MUNDILO	Adviser, National Council
SWAPO	South West Africa People's Organisation

**NEPAL**

Mr. Dev Raj GHIMIRE Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the House of Representatives (CPN (UML))
Ms. Anjan SHAKYA	Member of the National Assembly Member, Committee on Development, Economic Affairs and Good Governance (CPN (UML))
Mr. Shyam Kumar GHIMIRE	Member of the House of Representatives Member, Public Account Committee (NC)
Ms. Sobita GAUTAM	Member of the House of Representatives Member, Law, Justice and Human Rights Committee (RSP)
Mr. Surya Man TAMANG DONG	Member of the House of Representatives Member, Industry, Commerce, Labour and Consumer Welfare Committee (CPN (Maoist Centre))
Mr. Padma Prasad PANDEY	Secretary General, Federal Parliament
Mr. Raju RIMAL Secretary of the delegation	Under Secretary Federal Parliament Secretariat
Mr. Tej Prakash BHATTARAI	Private Secretary to the Speaker
Mr. Harka Raj RAI Secretary	Secretary House of Representatives
CPN (UML)	Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist–Leninist)
NC	Nepali Congress (Chief Whip of Nepali Congress)
RSP	Rastriya Swatantra Party
CPN (Maoist Centre)	Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre)

**NETHERLANDS**

Mr. Hendrik-Jan TALSMAN Leader of the Delegation President of the Committee on Middle East Questions	Member of the Senate (Christian Party)
Ms. Fatimazhra BELHIRCH Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the Senate (Social-Liberals)
Ms. Glimina CHAKOR	Member of the House of Representatives (Social democrats)
Ms. Judith TIELEN	Member of the House of Representatives (Liberals)
Mr. Peter OSKAM	Secretary General, House of Representatives
Mr. Remco NEHMELMAN	Clerk, Senate
Ms. Jasmijn DROPPERT Adviser	Adviser Senate
Ms. Monique CHRISTIAANSE Secretary of the Group	Adviser House of Representatives

Mr. Nico SCHERMERS Diplomatic corps

Christian Party	Christen Unie
Patriots	Party for Freedom
Liberal Democrats	D66
Social democrats	Greenleft-Labour Party
Liberals	People 's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD)

#### NEW ZEALAND

Mr. Stuart SMITH  
Leader of the Delegation  
Member of the House of Representatives  
Member, Governance and Administration Committee  
Member, Transport and Infrastructure Committee (N)

Ms. Dana KIRKPATRICK  
Member of the House of Representatives  
Member, Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade  
Committee  
Member, Māori Affairs Committee (N)

Ms. Kahurangi CARTER  
Member of the House of Representatives  
Member, Petitions Committee (GP)

Mr. Tangi UTIKERE  
Member of the House of Representatives  
Member, Transport and Infrastructure Committee  
(L)

Mr. Nico HENNEVELD  
Secretary of the delegation  
Adviser  
House of Representatives

N	National Party
GP	Green Party
L	Labour Party

#### NIGERIA

Mr. Benjamin Okezie KALU  
Leader of the delegation  
Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives (APC)

Mr. Asuquo EKPENYONG  
Member of the Senate (APC)

Mr. Ibrahim Folorunsho JIMOH  
Member of the Senate (APC)

Mr. Ibrahim Hassan DANKWAMBO  
Member of the Senate (PDP)

Ms. Ireti Heebah KINGIBE  
Member of the Senate (LP)

Mr. Mark Udo ESSET  
Member of the House of Representatives (PDP)

Mr. Osita Ugwu NGWU  
Member of the Senate (PDP)

Mr. Olumide Babatunde OSOBA  
Member of the House of Representatives (APC)

Mr. Kamoru OGUNLANA  
Secretary General / Clerk  
Senate

Ms. Chidiogo Ngozi ANYIGOR  
Adviser  
Clerk, Senate

Mr. Udo UMEKWE  
Secretary of the delegation  
Assistant Director  
Senate

Ms. Florence Olanike FOFAH  
Adviser  
Adviser  
Senate

Mr. Godwin Okon EKPENYONG  
Secretary, Senate

APC	All Progressives Congress
PDP	Peoples Democratic Party
LP	Labour Party

**NORWAY**

Mr. Tellef Inge MØRLAND Leader of the Delegation Member of the High-level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism	Member of the Storting (Labour Party)
Mr. Grunde Kreken ALMELAND	Member of the Storting (Liberal Party)
Mr. Ola Borten MOE	Member of the Storting (Center Party)
Ms. Silje HJEMDAL	Member of the Storting (Progress Party)
Mr. Jo Kyrre GRIMSTAD	Secretary General, Stortinget
Ms. Lisbeth Merete STOCK Secretary of the delegation	Adviser Stortinget
Mr. Thomas Alexander FRASER Secretary of the delegation	Adviser Stortinget
Labour Party	Labour Party
Centre Party	Centre Party
Conservative Party	Conservative Party
Center Party	Center Party
Progress Party	Progress Party

**OMAN**

Mr. Khalid AL MAAWALI Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Shura Council
Mr. Ammar AL SAADI	Member of the Shura Council
Mr. Khawidam AL MAASHANI	Member of the Shura Council
Mr. Waleed AL MALKI	Member of the Shura Council
Ms. Hanefa AL QASIMI	Member of the State Council
Ms. Shamsa AL SHEIBANI	Member of the State Council
Mr. Ahmed AL HOSNI	Adviser, Shura Council
Ms. Amna AL HASHMI	Adviser, Shura Council
Mr. Ahmed AL NADABI Member of ASGP	Secretary General of the Shura Council
Mr. Mohammed AL JAHWARI	Adviser, Shura Council
Mr. Said AL RASHDI Secretary of the delegation	Adviser, Shura Council
Ms. Salma AL SINANI	Adviser, State Council
Mr. Sulaiman AL RAWAHI	Adviser, Shura Council
Ms. Sumaiya ALAMRI	Director, Shura Council

**PAKISTAN**

Mr. Syed Yusuf Raza GILANI Leader of the Delegation, Senate	Chairman of the Senate Chairperson, Business Advisory Committee Member, Senate Finance Committee (PPP)
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Mr. Syed Naveed QAMAR Leader of the Delegation, National Assembly	Member of the National Assembly Chairman, Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue Member, Standing Committee on Law and Justice (PPPP)
Ms. Sabheen GHOURY	Member of the National Assembly Member, Standing Committee on Federal Education, Professional Training, National Heritage and Culture Member, Standing Committee on Human Rights (MQM)
Mr. Aqeel MALIK	Member of the National Assembly State Minister for Law and Justice Member, Standing Committee on Aviation Member, Standing Committee on Defence (PML (N))
Mr. Farooq Hamid NAEK Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Member of the Senate Chairperson, Standing Committee on Law and Justice (PPPP)
Mr. Sarmad ALI	Member of the Senate Member, Standing Committee on Commerce Member, Information and Broadcasting (PPPP)
Ms. Shahnaz Saleem MALIK	Member of the National Assembly Member, Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony Member, Standing Committee on Science and Technology (PML (N))
Mr. Shahzaib DURRANI	Member of the Senate Chairperson, Standing Committee on Problems of less developed areas Member, Senate Finance Committee (Pakistan Muslim League (NAWAZ))
Ms. Syeda Shehla RAZA	Member of the National Assembly Member, Standing Committee on CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION Member, Standing Committee on Narcotics (PPPP)
Mr. Zeeshan KHANZADA	Member of the Senate Chairperson, Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis and human resource development Committee member, Standing Committee on Kashmir affairs and Gilgit Baltistan (PTI)
Mr. Mehbuuh SHAH	Member of the National Assembly Member, Standing Committee on Communications Member, Standing Committee on Housing and Works (PTI)
Mr. Syed Hasnain HAIDER Secretary of the delegation	Secretary General, Senate
Ms. Misbah KHAN	Advisor to Chairman, Senate
Mr. Syed Shamoos HASHMI Secretary of the delegation	Special Secretary (SI), National Assembly
Mr. Muhammad ASLAM	Director, National Assembly
Mr. Nisar AHMED Secretary of the delegation	Director, National Assembly
Mr. Mudassar Ali GONDAL	Deputy Secretary, Senate

Mr. Faisal ABBAS Assistant Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PTI	Pakistan Tahreek e Insaf
PPP	Pakistan Peoples Party
PML (N)	Pakistan Muslim League (N)
PPPP	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians
Pakistan Muslim League (NAWAZ)	PML (N)

#### PALESTINE

Mr. Musa HADID Deputy Speaker of the Palestine National Council  
Leader of the Delegation (FATEH)  
President of the IPU Group  
Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions

Mr. Jawad AWAD Member of the Palestine National Council

Ms. Samar AWADALLAH Member of the Palestine National Council

Ms. Riham BARGHOUTHY Member of the Palestine National Council

Mr. Bisher ALARAJ Diplomatic Corps

FATEH Palestinian National Liberation Movement

#### PARAGUAY

Mr. Sergio ROJAS Member of the Senate (PLRA)  
Leader of the Delegation

Mr. Nestor CASTELLANO Member of the Chamber of Deputies (ANR)

Mr. Rodrigo Daniel BLANCO Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PLRA)

Mr. Rodrigo GAMARRA Member of the Chamber of Deputies (ANR)

Mr. Carlos NUÑEZ Member of the Chamber of Deputies (ANR)

Mr. Marcelo Rafael SALINAS Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PLRA)  
Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on  
United Nations Affairs

ANR	Asociacion Nacional Republicana
PLRA	Partido Liberal Radical Autentico

#### PERU

Ms. Maria del Carmen ALVA PRIETO Member of the Congress of the Republic (AP)  
Leader of the Delegation  
Member of the Executive Committee

Mr. Wilson SOTO PALACIOS Member of the Congress of the Republic (AP)  
Member of the Board of the Forum of Young  
Parliamentarians

AP Acción Popular

#### PHILIPPINES

Mr. Jinggoy Ejercito ESTRADA Deputy Speaker of the Senate  
Leader of the delegation Chairperson, National Defense and Security, Peace,  
Unification and Reconciliation (PMP)

Ms. Esperanza AYSON Deputy Director-General  
Secretary of the delegation Senate of the Philippines

Mr. Efren Jr. BUENDIA Supervising Legislative Staff Officer  
Secretary of the delegation Senate of the Philippines

Ms. Racquel GARCE-MEIIJA Chief of Staff, Office of Senate President

Ms. Fortune MAYUGA	Chief Legislative Officer, Office of Senate President
Mr. Roberto G. MANALO	Ambassador
Mr. Jabbar M. ADIONG	Deputy Chief of Mission and Consul General
PMP      Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino	

**POLAND**

Ms. Gabriela MORAWSKA-STANECKA Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group Vice-President of the Executive Committee, Ex-officio member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Member of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law	Member of the Senate Member, Committee on Human Rights, the Rule of Law and Petitions Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs and the European Union (KO)
Ms. Barbara BARTUS	Member of the Sejm Vice-Chair, Legislative Member, Rules, Deputies' Affairs and Immunities Committee (PiS)
Ms. Dorota OLKO	Member of the Sejm Culture and Media, Education and Science(L)
Ms. Agnieszka KOŁACZ-LESZCZYŃSKA	Member of the Senate Deputy Chairperson, Education Committee Member, Committee on Legislation (PO)
Ms. Kinga GAJEWSKA	Member of the Sejm Vice-Chair, Education and Science member, Legislative (KO)
Mr. Radoslaw FOGIEL	Member of the Sejm member, Foreign Affairs (PiS)
Mr. Rafal KASPRZYK	Member of the Sejm Vice-Chair, Public Finance member, European Union (PL 2050 TD)
Mr. Stanisław GAWŁOWSKI	Member of the Senate Member, Committee on Legislation President, Committee on Climate and Environment (KO)
Mr. Wiktor DURLAK	Member of the Senate President, Sports Committee Member, Committee on Local Self-Government and State Administration (PiS)
Ms. Agata KARWOWSKA-SOKOŁOWSKA	Secretary General, Sjem
Mr. Michal DESKUR	Deputy Secretary General, Sejm
Ms. Ewa POLKOWSKA	Secretary General, Senate
Ms. Natalia KOWASKA Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation	Adviser Senate
Mr. Wojciech GRUBA Secretary of the Group	Adviser Sejm

PiS	Law and Justice
L	Left
KO	Civic Coalition
PL 2050 TD	Poland 2050 - Third Way

**PORTUGAL**

Mr. André PINOTES BATISTA	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Member, Committee on Economic Affairs, Public Works and Housing Member, Committee on Education and Science (SP)
Mr. Carlos PEREIRA	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Member, Committee on Budget, Finance and Public Administration Member, Committee on Economic Affairs, Public Works and Housing (SP)
Mr. Hugo CARNEIRO Member of the Group of Facilitators for Cyprus	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Member, Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Rights, Freedoms and Guarantees Member, Committee on Budget, Finance and Public Administration (SDP)
Mr. Miguel SANTOS	Member of the Assembly of the Republic President, Committee on Economic Affairs, Public Works and Housing Member, European Affairs Committee (SDP)
Ms. Suzana SANTOS Adviser	Adviser Assembly of the Republic
SDP            Social Democratic Party SP             Socialist Party	

**QATAR**

Mr. Hassan AL-GHANIM Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Shura Council
Ms. Hamda AL-SULAITI Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs	Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council
Mr. Abdulla ALSUBAEY	Member of the Shura Council Member, Economic and Financial Affairs Committee
Mr. Ahmad AL-HITMI	Member of the Shura Council Member, Economic and Financial Affairs Committee
Mr. Mohamed ALMANA	Member of the Shura Council Chairman, Economic and Financial Affairs Committee
Mr. Sultan AL DOSARI Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Member of the Shura Council Chairman, Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee Member, Social Affairs, Labour and Housing Committee
Mr. Yousef AL-KHATER	Member of the Shura Council Chairman, Internal and External Affairs Committee
Mr. Abdulatif ALMANA	Office of the Speaker, Shura Council
Mr. Hamad ALHAMADI Secretary of the delegation	International relations Shura Council
Mr. Mohammed SHAHBECK	Director, Shura Council
Mr. Mohammed AL-HASSAN Secretary of the delegation	International relations Shura Council
Mr. Naif AL-MAHMOUD	Secretary General, Shura Council
Mr. Hassan HASSAN	Diplomatic corps
Mr. Khalid AL-JEHANI	Diplomatic corps

**REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Mr. Seonggon WI Leader of the Delegation	Member of the National Assembly Member, Special Committee on Budget and Accounts Member, Public Administration and Security Committee (DPK)
Ms. Jae Won KIM	Member of the National Assembly Member, Culture, Sports, and Tourism Committee (RKP)
Mr. Jeongha PARK	Member of the National Assembly Member, Culture, Sports, and Tourism Committee (PPP)
Mr. Kun Young YOUN	Member of the National Assembly Member, House Steering Committee Member, Public Administration and Security Committee (DPK)
Mr. Minki KIM	Secretary General, National Assembly
Ms. Jeongran KIM Adviser	Adviser, National Assembly
Mr. Hyeongmin PARK	Adviser of the National Assembly
Mr. Kihyun PARK	Director, National Assembly
Ms. Seolah CHOI	Adviser, National Assembly
Mr. Seong-Oh HONG	Deputy Director, National Assembly
DPK	Democratic Party of Korea
RKP	Rebuilding Korea Party
PPP	People Power Party

**ROMANIA**

Mr. Ioan STAN Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Member of the Senate Member, Committee for the Investigation of Abuses, Fight against Corruption and for Petitions Member, Committee for Romanian Communities Living Abroad (SPD)
Mr. Adrian SOLOMON	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Chairperson, Committee for Labour and Social Protection (SPD)
Ms. Andreea-Firuța NEACȘU	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Member, Committee for Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues Member, Committee for Foreign Policy (AUR)
Ms. Daniela ȘTEFĂNESCU	Member of the Senate Secretary, Committee on Legal Affairs, Appointments, Discipline, Immunities and Validation Member, Committee on Agriculture, Food Industry and Rural Development Member, Committee for Public Administration (AUR)
Mr. Mihai-Adrian ȚIU	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Secretary, Committee for information technologies and communications Member, Committee for Industries and Services (S.O.S.)
Ms. Pollyanna-Hanellore HANGAN	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Member, Committee for Economic Policy, Reform, and Privatization (USR)

Mr. Varol AMET	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Member, Committee on Science and Technology Member, Committee on Transport and Infrastructure (The parliamentary group of the national minorities)
Mr. Zoltán MIKLÓS	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Vice-Chairperson, Committee for Budget, Finance and Banks Member, The Committee for Romanian Communities Living Abroad (UDMR)
Ms. Arany VIKÁRIUS	Deputy Secretary General, Senate
Ms. Cosmina MOLDOVAN Secretary of the Group	Adviser Senate
Ms. Cristina IONESCU Secretary of the delegation	Director Senate
Ms. Teodora Elena POTERAȘU Secretary of the Group	Adviser Chamber of Deputies
SPD	Social Democrat Party
AUR	Alliance for the Union of Romanians
NLP	National Liberal Party
S.O.S.	S.O.S. Romania
USR	Union to Save Romania
The parliamentary group of the national minorities	Democratic Union of Turkish-Muslim Tartars in Romania
UDMR	The Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Ms. Valentina MATVIENKO Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the Council of the Federation
Mr. Petr TOLSTOY	Deputy Chairman of the State Duma (UR)
Mr. Konstantin KOSACHEV	Deputy Speaker of the Council of the Federation Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Inna SVYATENKO	Deputy Speaker of the Council of the Federation Member, Committee on Social Affairs
Ms. Roza CHERMERIS Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs	Member of the State Duma (NP) Member, Committee on International Affairs
Mr. Sergei GAVRILOV Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development	Member of the State Duma (CPRV) Chairman, Committee on Property Affairs, Land and Property Relations
Mr. Leonid SLUTSKIY	Member of the State Duma (LDPR) Chairman, Committee on International Affairs
Mr. Aleksandr DVOINYKH	Member of the Council of the Federation Chair, Committee on Agriculture and Food Policy and Environmental Management
Mr. Andrey DENISOV	Member of the Council of the Federation First Deputy Chair, Committee on Foreign Affairs
Mr. Aleksei CHEPA	Member of the State Duma (JRT) First Deputy Chair, Committee on International Affairs
Ms. Lilia GUMEROVA Member of the Working Group on Science and Technology	Adviser

Mr. Ilias UMAKHANOV	Adviser
Mr. Gennady GOLOV	Secretary General, Council of the Federation
Mr. Nikolay PARUZIN	Deputy-Secretary General, Head of International Relations Department
Ms. Nataliia UDALOVA	Head of Federation's Speaker's Secretariat
Mr. Dmitrii STEPANOV Secretary of the delegation	Director State Duma
Mr. Aleksey BYKOV	Deputy Director Council of the Federation
Mr. Andrei BORZOV Adviser	Director State Duma
Ms. Olga SHMACHKOVA Secretary of the delegation	Adviser Council of the Federation
Ms. Maria ZHOLOBOVA Secretary of the delegation	Adviser Council of the Federation
NP	New People
CPRV	Communist Party of the Russian Federation
UR	United Russia
LDPR	Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia
JRT	Just Russia - for Truth

**RWANDA**

Ms. Soline NYIRAHABIMANA Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Vice President of the Senate (RPF-INKOTANYI)
Ms. Germaine MUKABALISA	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Member, Committee on Governance and Gender Affairs (PL)
Mr. Sosthène CYITATIRE	Member of the Senate Member, Committee on Social Affairs and Human Rights Deputy Chairperson, Committee in charge of Assessment of the Senate's Activities, Senators' Conduct and Immunity (RPF-INKOTANYI)
Ms. Yvonne UMULISA Adviser	Clerk, Senate
Mr. Aimable MUSAFIRI Adviser, Secretary of the Group	Adviser Senate
RPF-INKOTANYI	Rwandese Patriotic Front INKOTANYI
PL	Parti Liberal

**SAN MARINO**

Mr. Andrea UGOLINI Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Great and General Council Member, Permanent Committee on Health and Social Security (PDCS)
Ms. Gemma CESARINI	Member of the Great and General Council Member, Permanent Committee on Constitutional Affairs (LIBERA/PS)
Mr. Lorenzo BUGLI	Member of the Great and General Council Member, Permanent Committee on Foreign Affairs (PDCS)

Ms. Michela PELLICIONI  
Member of the Great and General Council  
Member, Permanent Committee on Health and Social Security (DML)

PDCS Partito Democratico Cristiano Sammarinese  
LIBERA/PS Libera/PS  
DML Domani - Motus Liberi

**SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE**

Ms. Celmira LOURENÇO SACRAMENTO  
Leader of the Delegation  
Speaker of the National Assembly (ADI)

Mr. António FALEIRO  
Member of the National Assembly  
Member, Fourth Committee on Human Rights,  
Citizenship, Cooperation and Communities (MCI/PS)

Ms. Filomena D'ALVA  
Member of the National Assembly  
Member, Fourth Committee on Human Rights,  
Citizenship, Cooperation and Communities  
(MLSTP/PSD)

Mr. Lourenço FREITAS  
Member of the National Assembly (ADI)

Mr. Domingos BOA MORTE  
Secretary General, National Assembly

Ms. Yonelma D'ALVA  
Director, National Assembly

ADI Acção Democrática Independente  
MCI/PS Movimento de Cidadãos Independentes/Partido Socialista  
MLSTP/PSD Movimento de Libertação de São Tomé e Príncipe

**SAUDI ARABIA**

Mr. Abdullah ALSHEIKH  
Leader of the Delegation  
President of the IPU Group  
President of the Shura Council

Mr. Waleed ABDULSHAKOOR  
Member of the Shura Council

Mr. Abdullah ALMADHI  
Member of the Shura Council

Mr. Abdulrahman ALHARBI  
Member of the High-level Advisory Group on  
Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism  
Member of the Shura Council

Mr. Ali ALKHTANI  
Member of the Shura Council

Ms. Raedah ABUNAYAN  
Member of the Shura Council

Ms. Rimah ALYAHYA  
Member of the Shura Council

Ms. Afnan ALORAIJ  
Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation  
Researcher  
Shura Council

Mr. Fahad ALOMER  
Secretary of the delegation  
Secretary of the Speaker  
Shura Council

Mr. Youssef ALHARBI  
Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation  
Secretary of the Speaker  
Shura Council

Mr. Khalid ALALSHAYKH  
Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation  
Researcher  
Shura Council

Ms. Lena ALSALEH  
Secretary of the delegation, Secretary of the Group  
Protocol  
Shura Council

Mr. Turki AL SAUD  
Adviser, Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation

Adviser  
Shura Council

Mr. Yazeed ALSEHAIM  
Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation

Protocol  
Shura Council

**SENEGAL**

M. Malick NDIAYE  
Chef de la délégation

Président de l'Assemblée nationale

M. Serigne Abdoul Ahad NDIAYE

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PASTEF)

Mme. Ousmane SONKO

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PASTEF)

M. Amadou THIMBO

Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale

M. Guillaume Apollinaire IPEND

Conseiller

M. Abdoulaye FAYE

Conseiller

M. Andre Mbaye DIENSE.

Conseiller

Mr. Oumou Kalsoum SALL

Conseiller, Chargé de la Coopération

PASTEF      PASTEF Les Patriotes  
APR          Alliance pour la République

**SERBIA**

Ms. Snežana PAUNOVIĆ  
Leader of the Delegation  
Member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

Vice-President of the National Assembly  
Chairperson, Committee on the Economy, Regional Development, Trade, Tourism and Energy;  
Member, Committee on Administrative, Budgetary, Mandate and Immunity Issues (SPS)

Mr. Edin ĐERLEK

Vice-President of the National Assembly  
Member, Foreign Affairs Committee;  
Member, Committee on the Rights of the Child (SPP)

Ms. Ivana STAMATOVIĆ

Member of the National Assembly  
Member, Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management Committee;  
Deputy member, Foreign Affairs Committee (ZS)

Mr. Mladen GRUJIĆ  
Member of the Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians

Member of the National Assembly  
Member, Committee on Human and Minority Rights and Gender Equality (SNS)

Ms. Aleksandra MLADAN

Adviser, National Assembly

Mr. Djordje KRALJEVIC

Adviser, National Assembly

Ms. Ana TRAJKOVIC  
Secretary of the delegation

Adviser, National Assembly

Ms. Dragana POKRAJAC

Adviser, National Assembly

Ms. Aleksandra ILIC

Diplomatic Corps

NPS                      People's Movement of Serbia  
SNS                      Serbian Progressive Party  
SPP                      Justice and Reconciliation Party  
SPS                      Socialistic Party of Serbia  
ZS                        Health Serbia

**SEYCHELLES**

Mr. Waven WILLIAM Leader of the Delegation President of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development	Member of the National Assembly Chairperson, International Affairs Committee Vice Chairperson, Standing Orders Committee (LDS)
Ms. Audrey VIDOT	Member of the National Assembly Vice Chairperson, Women's Parliamentary Caucus Member, Defense and Security Committee (US)
Mr. Clifford ANDRE	Member of the National Assembly Chairperson, Defence and Security Committee Chairperson, Climate Change, Environment, Tourism and Sustainable Development (LDS)
Ms. Emma DIDON Secretary of the delegation, Adviser	Research Officer / NA Desk Officer for IPU National Assembly
LDS            Linyon Demokratik Seselwa US             United Seychelles	

**SLOVENIA**

Mr. Predrag BAKOVIC Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Member of the National Assembly Chair, Committee on Foreign Policy Member, Committee on Infrastructure, Environment and Spatial Planning (Socialist Party)
Ms. Mirjam BON KLANJSCEK	Member of the National Assembly Chair, Committee on Education, Science, Sport and Youth Member, Commission for National Communities (Liberal Party)
Mr. Zoran MOJSKERC Member of the High-level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism	Member of the National Assembly Member, Committee on European Union Affairs Member, Committee on Justice (Conservative Party)
Ms. Tatjana PANDEV Secretary of the delegation	Director National Assembly
Socialist Party            Social Democrats Liberal Party             Svoboda Conservative Party      Democratic Party	

**SOMALIA**

Mr. Abdullahi Omar ABSHIR Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Deputy Speaker of the House of the People
Mr. Ismail Eid MOHAMED	Member of the House of the People Member, Justice and Judiciary Committee
Mr. Farah Moalin BISHAR	Member of the House of the People
Ms. Zamzam Dahir MOHAMUD	Member of the Upper House Secretary Committee, National Resource Committee Member of the Committee, OC Committee
Mr. Mohamud Ahmed MOHAMED	Member of the House of the People
Mr. Noradin Abdullahi OLUJOG	Member of the House of the People Member, Committee of telecommunications, Media and Technology
Ms. Leylo Nuur MAAH	Member of the Upper House Deputy Chair, Justice and Human Right Committee

Mr. Abdirahman Mohamed ABDULLE	Secretary-General, House of the People
Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi ABDI CIYOW	Deputy Secretary General, House of the People
Mr. Abdullahi Haji Gedi MUMIN	Deputy Secretary General, Upper House
Mr. Abdulkadir Abshir OMAR	Secretary, House of the People
SNGP Somali New Green Party	

**SOUTH AFRICA**

Ms. Angela Thokozile DIDIZA Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly (ANC)
Mr. Poobalan GOVENDER	Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (IFP)
Mr. Baxolile Babongile NODADA	Member of the National Assembly (DA)
Ms. Dorries Eunice DLAKUDE	Member of the National Assembly (ANC)
Ms. Jane Seboletswe MANANISO	Member of the National Council of Provinces (ANC)
Mr. Mikateko Golden MAHLAULE	Member of the National Assembly (ANC)
Mr. Mzwanele MANYI	Member of the National Assembly (MKP)
Mr. Nhlanhla Mzungezwa HADEBE	Member of the National Assembly (IFP)
Ms. Nqobile Matilda MHLONGO	Member of the National Assembly (EFF)
Ms. Seeng Mmabatho Nthabiseng MOKOENA	Member of the National Council of Provinces (MKP)
Mr. Xolile Christopher GEORGE	Secretary to Parliament
Mr. Masibulele XASO	Secretary of the National Assembly
Ms. Noluthando SHABALALA	Secretary to the Speaker, National Assembly
Ms. Nonyaniso Faith NDENZE	Adviser, National Assembly
Mr. Reginald Khethukuthula NGCOBO Adviser	Director, National Assembly
Ms. Rosalind Mpho MONNAKGOTLA	Adviser, National Assembly
Mr. Sibongile Sydney MAPUTI	Adviser, National Assembly
Mr. Thembanani Lucius MBADLANYANA	Adviser, National Assembly
ANC African National Congress	
DA Democratic Alliance	
MKP Umkhonto Wesizwe Party	
IFP Inkatha Freedom Party	
EFF Economic Freedom Fighters	

**SOUTH SUDAN**

Ms. Jemma Nunu KUMBA Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (SPLM)
Ms. Mary Majok Kiir DENG Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the Council of States (SPLM)
Mr. Daniel Abocha Ali MALOU	Member of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (SPLM)
Mr. Gabriel Guot Guot ACIEN	Member of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (NA)

Ms. Janet Aya Alex TABAN Member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly
Mr. John Gai Nyuot YOH	Member of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (SPLM)
Mr. Samuel Buhori Lotti THEOPHILUS	Member of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly
Ms. Sandra Bona MALWAL	Member of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly
Ms. Sarah Nene Redento LAKU	Member of the Council of States (OPP)
Mr. Elia Paul Ngori UMIA	Adviser, Council of States
Mr. Stephen Pay Biliu CHOUL	Adviser, Council of States
Mr. Alalla Younis Said LORO Secretary of the delegation	Clerk, Council of States

SPLM	Sudan people's liberation movement
NA	National Agenda
OPP	Other Political parties
SSOA	South Sudan Opposition Alliance
SPLM-IO	Sudan people's liberation movement in opposition

**SPAIN**

Mr. Agustín ALMODÓBAR BARCELÓ Leader of the Delegation Member of the Executive Committee	Member of the Senate (PP)
Mr. JOAQUÍN CABEZAS Adviser	Adviser Senate
Ms. Teresa GÓMEZ-BERNARDO Secretary of the delegation	Secretary Congress of Deputies
PP	Popular Party

**SRI LANKA**

Mr. Jagath WICKRAMARATNE Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Speaker of Parliament Chairman, Committee on Parliamentary Business Chairman, Committee on Standing Orders (NPP)
Ms. Anushka THILAKARATHNE	Member of Parliament Member, Women Parliamentarians Caucus in Parliament Member, Legislative Standing Committee (NPP)
Mr. Bimal RATHNAYAKE	Member of Parliament Chairman, Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation Member, Committee on Parliamentary Business (NPP)
Mr. Hansaka WIJEMUNI	Member of Parliament Deputy, Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health and Mass Media Member, Committee on High Posts (NPP)
Mr. Jayadewa Chandrawansa ALAWATHUWALA	Member of Parliament Member, Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government (SJB)
Ms. Kushani ROHANADEERA Secretary of the delegation, Secretary of the Group	Secretary General, Parliament
NPP	Jathika Jana Balawegaya
SJB	Samagi Jana Balawegaya

**SWEDEN**

Ms. Julia KRONLID Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the Riksdag Substitute member, Committee on Social Insurance (C)
Ms. Margareta CEDERFELT President of the IPU Group Vice Chairperson of the Working Group on Science and Technology	Member of the Riksdag Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs (C)
Ms. Angelika BENGTSSON	Member of the Riksdag Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs (C)
Ms. Ann-Christine FROHM	Member of the Riksdag Member, Committee on the Labour market (C)
Ms. Emma NOHRÉN	Member of the Riksdag Chair, Committee on the Environment (Environmental)
Ms. Janine ALM ERICSON	Member of the Riksdag Member, Committee on Finance (Environmental)
Ms. Lotta JOHNSON FORNARVE	Member of the Riksdag Substitute Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs (SP)
Mr. Ingvar MATTSON	Secretary General, Riksdagen
Ms. Helena LUNDSTEDT Secretary of the delegation	Adviser, Riksdagen
Mr. Björn SONDÉN Secretary of the delegation	Adviser, Riksdagen
Ms. Mathilda HULTSTRÖM Secretary of the delegation	Adviser, Riksdagen
Mr. Ralph HERMANSSON Secretary of the delegation	Adviser, Riksdagen
Ms. Vilma WIKH	Intern, Riksdagen
C Environmental SP	Moderate Party Green Party Left Party

**SWITZERLAND**

M. Thomas HURTER Chef de la délégation Président du Groupe Membre du Groupe de travail sur la science et la technologie	Membre du Conseil national Vice-président, Commission des transports et des télécommunications Membre, Commission de la politique de sécurité (SVP/UDC)
Mme Isabelle CHASSOT	Membre du Conseil des États Membre, Commission de politique extérieure; Membre, Commission des affaires juridiques Membre, Commission de la science, de l'éducation et de la culture (M/C)
Mme Laurence FEHLMANN RIELLE Membre du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires Membre du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient	Membre du Conseil national Membre, Commission de politique extérieure Membre, Commission des finances (SP/PS)
M. Franz GRÜTER	Membre du Conseil national Membre, Commission de politique extérieure Membre, Commission de l'immunité (SVP/UDC)

M. Daniel JOSITSCH	Membre du Conseil des États Membre, Commission de politique extérieure Président, Commission des affaires juridiques Membre, Commission de la politique de sécurité Membre, Commission des institutions politiques Membre, Délégation auprès de l'Assemblée parlementaire de l'OSCE (SP/PS)
M. Christian LOHR Membre du Bureau de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme	Membre du Conseil national Membre, Commission de la sécurité sociale et de la santé publique (M/C)
M. Laurent WEHRLI Membre du Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale Membre du Groupe de facilitateurs concernant Chypre Président du groupe géopolitique 12plus	Membre du Conseil national Président, Commission de politique extérieure Membre, Commission de gestion Membre, Délégation auprès de l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (FDP/PLR)
M. Jérémie EQUEY Secrétaire de la Délégation, Secrétaire du Groupe,	Relations internationales Conseil national
Mme Anna-Lea GNÄGI Secrétaire adjointe du Groupe, Secrétariat de la Délégation	Relations internationales Conseil des États
Mme Sarah PALMA Secrétariat de la Délégation	Relations internationales Conseil national
SVP/UDC Union Démocratique du Centre M/C Le Centre SP/PS Parti Socialiste FDP/PLR Les Libéraux / Les Libéraux-Radicaux	

**TAJIKISTAN**

Mr. Fayzali IDIZODA	Chairman of the Majlisi Namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli
Mr. Mahmashoh GULZODA	Member of the Majlisi Namoyandagon (PDPT)
Mr. Talabshoh SHARIFZODA	Adviser
PDPT People's Democratic Party of Tajikistan	

**THAILAND**

Mr. Wanmuhammadnoor MATHA Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Speaker of the House of Representatives and President of the National Assembly (Prachachart Party)
Mr. Natthaphong RUENGPANYAWUT	Member of the House of Representatives Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives, (People's Party)
Ms. Saratsanun UNNOPORN	Member of the House of Representatives Chairperson, Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives (Pheu Thai Party)
Mr. Chavaphon WATTANAVEKIN	Member of the Senate First Vice-Chairperson, Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Senate
Ms. Visaradee TECHATEERAWAT Member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the House of Representatives Second Vice-Chairperson, Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives (Phen Thai Party)
Mr. Kannavee SUEBSANG Member of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law	Member of the House of Representatives Third Vice-Chairperson, Standing Committee on Legal Affairs, Justice, and Human Rights, House of Representatives (Fair Party)

Mr. Nophadol IN-NA Member of the Working Group on Science and Technology	Member of the Senate Advisory Chairperson, Standing Committee on Commerce and Industry, Senate
Mr. Anucha BURAPACHAISRI	Member of the House of Representatives Member and Advisor, Standing Committee on Transport, House of Representatives (UTN)
Mr. Akara TONGJAISOD	Member of the House of Representatives Spokesperson, Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives (PPRP)
Mr. Dumrong POOTTAN Adviser	Adviser to the President of the National Assembly (Honorary) Former member of the Senate
Ms. Steejit TAIPIBOONSUK Member of ASGP Member of ASGP Executive Committee	Deputy Secretary General, House of Representatives
Mr. Nattakrit VONGJAREAN	Deputy Secretary General, House of Representatives
Ms. Krisanee MASRICHAN Secretary of the delegation	Director of the Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, Secretariat of the House of Representatives
Mr. Tanukom BAMRUNGPON Assistant Secretary to the Delegation	Director of the IPU Division, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organization Secretariat of the House of Representatives
Ms. Neeranan SUNGTO Assistant Secretary to the Delegation	Foreign Affairs Officer (Expert Level) Secretariat of the House of Representatives
Ms. Kanteera LEELANOND Secretary to the Thai Delegation Attending the ASGP meeting (ASGP)	Foreign Affairs Officer (Expert Level) House of Representatives
Ms. Nusree SAJTIPRASERT	Foreign Affairs Officer (Senior Professional Level) House of Representatives
Ms. Piraporn NAPUKSORNCHAINANT Assistant Secretary to the Delegation	Foreign Affairs Officer (Professional Level) Secretariat of the House of Representatives
Mr. Koson UDOMSIN Assistant Secretary to the Delegation	Foreign Affairs Officer (Professional Level) Secretariat of the House of Representatives
Mr. Wittawat HOMPIROM Interpreter attached to the Leader of the Delegation	Foreign Affairs Officer (Professional Level) Secretariat of the House of Representatives
Ms. Adiyada SRIBOONSAEN	Foreign Affairs Officer (Professional Level) Secretariat of the House of Representatives
Mr. Iskanda WATTANATHORN Adviser	Academic Officer, Working Group of the Speaker of the House of Representatives
Mr. Wachirawit TESSRIMUANG Adviser	Secretary, Political Working Group of the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives
Prachachart Party PPRP UTN Fair Party People's Party Pheu Thai Party	Prachachart Party Palang Pracharath Party United Thai Nation Party Fair Party People's Party Pheu Thai Party

**TIMOR-LESTE**

Mr. Saul Salvador Haleluya Judelju AMARAL Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Member of the National Parliament
Ms. Carminda CARLOTA	Member of the National Parliament
Ms. Maria Teresa DASILVA GUSMÃO	Member of the National Parliament
Mr. Oscar DE ARAUJO	Member of the National Parliament
Mr. Aniceto LONGUINHOS GUTERRES LOPES	Member of the National Parliament
Ms. Maria Ana Bela SAVIO	Member of the National Parliament
Mr. Edgar SEQUEIRA MARTINS Secretary of the Group	Secretary General, National Parliament
Ms. Izilda PEREIRA Protocol IPU Staff National Parliamentary Group	Adviser of the National Parliament
Ms. Casilda Ilda AFONSO	Adviser of the National Parliament
Mr. Joaquim da Conceição SOARES IPU Staff National Parliamentary Group	Adviser National Parliament
Ms. Melisa Ibela Deliana E SILVA CALDAS Adviser	Adviser National Parliament

**TÜRKİYE**

Mr. Numan KURTULMUŞ Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye
Ms. Asuman ERDOĞAN President of the IPU Group Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (AK PARTY)
Ms. Fatma ÖNCÜ	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (AK PARTY)
Mr. Ali OZKAYA	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (AK PARTY)
Ms. Nurhayat ALTACA KAYISOGLU	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (CHP)
Mr. Mevlut KARAKAYA	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (MHP)
Mr. Burak AKBURAK	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (İYİ PARTİ)
Ms. Ceylan AKCA CUPOLO	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (DEM Parti)
Mr. Osman MESTEN	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (AK Party)
Mr. Abdulkadir Emin ONEN	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (AK Party)
Mr. Talip UZUN	Secretary General, Grand National Assembly of Türkiye
Ms. Yesim USLU Secretary of the delegation	Deputy Director Grand National Assembly of Türkiye
Mr. Abdurrahman Can ÖZCEVIK	Adviser, Grand National Assembly of Türkiye
Mr. Ahmet Semih PUR Secretary of the Group	Legislative expert Grand National Assembly of Türkiye
Mr. Bilal KESER Secretary of the delegation	Legislative expert Grand National Assembly of Türkiye

Ms. Hande DENERİ Secretary of the delegation	Adviser Grand National Assembly of Türkiye
Ms. Elif Cagla ALBAYRAK Secretary of the delegation	Legislative expert Grand National Assembly of Türkiye
Mr. Ismail Hakki ÜNLÜ Secretary of the delegation	Legislative expert Grand National Assembly of Türkiye
AK PARTY	Justice and Development Party
İYİ PARTİ	Good Party
DEM Parti	Peoples' Equality and Democratic Party
CHP	The Republican People's Party
MHP	Nationalist Movement Party

**TURKMENISTAN**

Ms. Dunyagozel GULMANOVA Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Assembly (TDP)
Mr. Baymyrat BABAYEV	Member of Parliament Assembly (TDP)
Ms. Bayramgozel MYRADOVA	Member of Parliament Assembly (TDP)
Mr. Maksat KULYYEV	Member of Parliament Assembly (TDP)
TDP	Democratic Party of Turkmenistan

**UGANDA**

Mr. Patrick Kayongo NSANJA Leader of the delegation	Member of Parliament Member, Public Accounts Committee- COSASE Member, Physical Infrastructure
Mr. Hassan KIRUMIRA	Member of Parliament (NUP) Member, Budget Committee Member, Natural Resources Committee
Mr. Abdul MUTUMBA	Member of Parliament (NRM) Member, Equal Opportunities Committee Member, Education and Sports Committee
Ms. Nancy ACORA ODONGA Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians	Member of Parliament Member, National Economy Committee Member, Agriculture Committee
Ms. Susan AMERO Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of Parliament Member, Local Government and Public Service Committee Member, Public Accounts Committee- Central
Ms. Sitnah Chemisto CHEROTICH	Deputy Clerk to the National Assembly
Mr. Police Fred BUSINGE	Deputy Director, Parliament
Mr. Muhammed Rukidi MPUGA	Adviser, Parliament
Mr. Meshach NUWABIINE Secretary of the delegation	Deputy Director, Parliament
NUP	National Unity Party
NRM	National Resistance Movement

**UKRAINE**

Mr. Oleksandr KORNIYENKO Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of Parliament (SN)
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Mr. Arsenii PUSHKARENKO	Member of Parliament Deputy Chairman, Committee on Foreign Policy and Interparliamentary Cooperation (SN)
Mr. Artur GERASYMOV Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development	Member of Parliament Member, Committee on Agrarian and Land Policy (YeS)
Mr. Ivan KRULKO	Member of Parliament First Deputy-Chairman of the Budget Committee (Batkivshchyna)
Mr. Oleksandr MEREZHKO	Member of Parliament Chairman, Committee on Foreign Policy and Interparliamentary Cooperation (SN)
Mr. Oleksii ZHMERENETSKYI	Member of Parliament Head of the subcommittee on adaptation of Ukrainian legislation to the provisions of European Union law (EU acquis), fulfillment of Ukraine's international legal obligations in the field of European integration, Member, Committee on Anti-corruption Policy (SN)
Ms. Olga RUDENKO Member of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians	Member of Parliament Head of the subcommittee on ensuring foreign economic ties and effective use of international aid, Member, Committee on Foreign Policy and Interparliamentary Cooperation (SN)
Mr. Oleksandr SANCHENKO	Member of Parliament Member, subcommittee on Humanitarian and Information Policy (SN)
Ms. Tamila TASHEVA	Member of Parliament Member, Committee on the Organization of State Power, Local Self-Government, Regional Development and Urban Planning (Holos)
Mr. Viacheslav SHTUCHNYI Secretary of the Group	Secretary General of Parliament
Mr. Andriy KANIUKA	Adviser, Parliament
Ms. Antonina FEDOSOVA	Adviser, Parliament
Ms. Olha RYBAK Secretary of the Delegation	Adviser, Parliament
Mr. Erik KUCHERENKO Secretary of the delegation	Adviser, Parliament
SN	"Servant of the People" political party
YeS	"European Solidarity" political party
	"Batkivshchyna" political party

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

Dr. Ali AL NUAIMI Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group IPU Vice-President Member of the Executive Committee	Member of the Federal National Council
Ms. Sara FALAKNAZ Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions Member of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians	Member of the Federal National Council

Ms. Meera ALSUWAIDI Vice-President of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development	Member of the Federal National Council
Mr. Marwan ALMHEIRI	Member of the Federal National Council
Mr. Ahmed KHOORI	Member of the Federal National Council
Ms. Sedra ALMANSOORI	Member of the Federal National Council
Ms. Moza ALSHEHHI	Member of the Federal National Council
Mr. Omar ALNUAIMI	Secretary General, Federal National Council
Ms. Afra ALBASTI Adviser	Deputy Secretary General, Federal National Council
Mr. Matar ALMHEIRI	Deputy Secretary General, Federal National Council
Mr. Abulrahman ALSHEHHI	Adviser, Federal National Council
Ms. Roudha ALSHEHHI	Adviser, Federal National Council
Mr. Belal ALALI Adviser	Adviser, Federal National Council
Ms. Eman ALSUWAIDI Adviser	Adviser, Federal National Council
Mr. Juma ALMHEIRI Adviser	Adviser, Federal National Council
Mr. Ahmad ALAQILI	Adviser, Federal National Council

**UNITED KINGDOM**

Mr. Fabian HAMILTON Leader of the Delegation Chair of the British Group of the IPU	Member of the House of Commons (L)
Mr. Chris LAW	Member of the House of Commons (SNP)
Lord Chris RENNARD	Member of the House of Lords (LD)
Mr. Dan CARDEN President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians Ex-officio member of the Executive Committee	Member of the House of Commons Member, Foreign Affairs Committee (L)
Lord Dennis ROGAN	Member of the House of Lords (UUP)
Dame Harriett BALDWIN	Member of the House of Commons Member, Treasury Committee (C)
Ms. Jess MORDEN	Member of the House of Commons Member, Liaison Committee (L)
Dame Karen BRADLEY	Member of the House of Commons Chair, Home Affairs Committee (C)
Ms. Pam COX	Member of the House of Commons Member, Justice Committee (L)
Mr. Simon BURTON	Clerk, House of Lords
Ms. Chloe MAWSON	Clerk Assistant, House of Lords

Ms. Sarah DAVIES	Clerk Assistant, House of Commons
Mr. Rick NIMMO	Director, BGIPU
Ms. Dominique REES	Deputy Director, BGIPU
Ms. Rhiannon EDWARDS	Multilateral Programme Manager, BGIPU
L	Labour
SNP	Scottish National Party
LD	Liberal Democrats
UUP	Ulster Unionist Party
C	Conservative

**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

Mr. Joseph MHAGAMA Leader of the Delegation	Member of the National Assembly (CCM)
Mr. Elibariki KINGU	Member of the National Assembly (CCM)
Ms. Neema LUGANGIRA	Member of the National Assembly Member, Parliamentary Committee on Social and Community Development Committee (CCM)
Ms. Esther N. MATIKO Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Member of the National Assembly Member, Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (CHADEMA)
Ms. Mwanaisha ULENGE	Member of the National Assembly (CCM)
Mr. Ramadhan Suleiman RAMADHAN	Member of the National Assembly (CCM)
Mr. Athuman BRAMBATI Secretary of the Group	Clerk, National Assembly
Ms. Katherine KAIHULA Adviser, Secretary of the delegation	Adviser National Assembly
Ms. Hoyce TEMU	Diplomatic corps
CCM	Chama Cha Mapinduzi
CHADEMA	Chama Cha Demokrasia Na Maendeleo

**URUGUAY**

Ms. Silvia NANE Leader of the Delegation Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Member of the Senate (FA)
Mr. Amín NIFFOURI Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions	Member of the House of Representatives (PN)
Mr. José Pedro MONTERO President of the ASGP	Secretary General, Senate
Ms. Carina GALVALISI Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation	Head of Department House of Representatives
Mr. Oscar PIQUINELA Secretary of GRULAC Geopolitical Group	Adviser, Senate
FA	Frente Amplio
PN	Partido Nacional

**UZBEKISTAN**

Mr. Nuriddin ISMOILOV Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Legislative Chamber
Mr. Abdulkakim ESHMURATOV	Member of the Senate Chairperson, Judiciary and Anti-Corruption Committee
Mr. Akmal SAIDOV	Member of the Legislative Chamber Member, Committee on Democratic Institutions and Civil Society Development of the Legislative Chamber
Mr. Anvar TUYCHIYEV	Member of the Senate Chairperson, Senate Committee on Agrarian, Water Management and Ecology
Ms. Dilorom FAYZIYEVA	Member of the Legislative Chamber Deputy Chairperson, Committee on international affairs, defense and security
Ms. Gulshana KHUDOYAROVA	Member of the Legislative Chamber Member, Committee on corruption and legal issues
Ms. Oral ATANIYAZOVA Member of the Advisory Group on Health	Member of the Senate Deputy Chairperson, Committee on Science, Education and Health
Ms. Orzigul KOZIKHONOVA	Member of the Senate Chairperson, Committee on Youth, Women, Culture and Sports
Mr. Ulugbek SHERMATOV	Member of Parliament Legislative Chamber Chairperson, Committee on international affairs, defense and security
Mr. Qudrat NURULLAYEV	Secretary General of the Senate

**VIET NAM**

Mr. THANH MAN TRAN Leader of the Delegation	President of the National Assembly Chair, Standing Committee of the National Assembly (CPV)
Mr. HAI HA VU President of the IPU Group	Member of the National Assembly (CPV)
Mr. DON TUAN PHONG	Member of the National Assembly Vice Chair, Committee for National Defence, Security and Foreign Affairs (CPV)
Mr. PHU BINH PHAM	Member of the National Assembly Member, Committee on Defense, Security and Foreign Affairs (CPV)
Mr. QUANG TUNG LE	Member of the National Assembly (CPV)
Mr. TAN TOI LE	Member of the National Assembly Chair, Committee for National Defence, Security and Foreign Affairs (CPV)
Ms. THU HA LE	Member of the National Assembly (CPV)
Mr. HOANG VIET DO Secretary of the delegation	Director National Assembly
Mr. DUY TRUNG DAO Secretary of the delegation	Deputy Director National Assembly

Mr. QUANG MANH LE Adviser	Chairman National Assembly
Mr. DUC VIET AN Adviser	Adviser National Assembly
Mr. HOANG HAI NGUYEN Adviser	Adviser National Assembly
Mr. NGUYEN THO LUAN Secretary of the delegation	Official National Assembly

CPV Communist Party of Viet Nam

#### ZAMBIA

Ms. Nelly B. Kasumba MUTTI Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group Member of the Executive Committee	Speaker of the National Assembly
Mr. Harry Simbeleko KAMBONI Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians	Member of the National Assembly Chairperson, Education, Science & Technology Member, National Guidance & Gender Matters (UPND)
Mr. Imanga WAMUNYIMA	Member of the National Assembly Member, Privileges and absences Member, Public Accounts (PNUP)
Ms. Jacqueline SABAO	Member of the National Assembly Member, Standing Orders Vice Chairperson, Public Accounts (UPND)
Mr. Mubita Boris ANAKOKA	Member of the National Assembly Member, Parastatal Bodies (UPND)
Mr. Oliver MUMBUNA AMUTIKE Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions	Member of the National Assembly Member, Planning & Budgeting (UPND)
Mr. Simon MWALE	Member of the National Assembly Member, National Economy, Trade and Labour Matters (PF)
Mr. Roy NGULUBE Secretary of the Group	Secretary General of the National Assembly
Mr. Dominic MWINAMO Adviser	Director National Assembly
Mr. Sage Chilumbu SAMUWIKI Adviser	Director National Assembly
Mr. Temwa NYIRENDA Protocol Officer	Deputy Director National Assembly
Mr. MacDonald MWIINGA Adviser	Adviser National Assembly
Ms. Pauline M. MONGA Adviser	Adviser National Assembly

UPND United Party for National Development  
PNUP Party of National Unity and Progress  
PF Patriotic Front

**ZIMBABWE**

Mr. Jacob Francis Nzwidamilimo MUDENDA Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Speaker of the National Assembly Chairperson, Committee on standing rules and orders (ZANU PF)
Ms. Mabel Memory CHINOMONA Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Senate Deputy Chairperson, Committee on Standing Rules and Orders (ZANU PF)
Mr. Jona NYEVERA	Member of the National Assembly Member, Portfolio Committee on Mining and Mining Development Member, Portfolio Committee on Local Government, Rural and Urban Development (ZANU PF)
Ms. Lusiyomo NYELELE	Member of the National Assembly Member, Portfolio Committee on Youth Empowerment, Development and Vocational Training Member, Portfolio Committee on Mines and Mining Development (ZANU PF)
Ms. Maureen KADEMAUNGA	Member of the National Assembly Member, Public Accounts Member, Portfolio Committee for Budget, Finance and Investment Promotion (CCC)
Mr. Mtshane KHUMALO LUCAS	Member of the Senate
Mr. Sengezo TSHABANGU	Member of the Senate Member, Thematic Committee on Climate Change Member, Thematic Committee on Peace and Security (CCC)
Mr. Tawanda KARIKOGA	Member of the National Assembly Member, Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade Member, Portfolio Committee on Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development (ZANU PF)
Ms. Tsitsi Veronica MUZENDA	Member of the Senate Member, Thematic Committee on Sustainable Development Goals Member, Thematic Committee on Human Rights (ZANU PF)
Mr. Kennedy Mugove CHOKUDA Adviser	Secretary General of the National Assembly
Mr. ASHA JENJE Adviser	Director, National Assembly
Mr. Califinos Kudakwashe GUV Adviser	Director, Senate
Ms. Chiguta Jessie MAPOKOTERA	Principal Executive Assistant to the President of the Senate
Mr. Kumbirai MAKAMURE	External relations officer, Senate
Ms. Rumbidzai Pamela CHISANGO Secretary of the delegation	Principal external relations officer National Assembly
ZANU PF CCC	The Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front Citizens Coalition for Change

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**DELEGATIONS PARTICIPATING IN AN OBSERVER CAPACITY /**  
**DÉLÉGATIONS PARTICIPANT EN QUALITE D'OBSERVATEURS**

**AFGHANISTAN**

Mr. Mir Rahman RAHMANI QALANDERKHAN Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the House of the People
Mr. Mohammad Akbar STANIKZAI	Deputy Speaker of the House of Elders
Mr. Sanjar KARGAR	Member of the House of the People
Mr. Abdul Qader ARYUBI Secretary of the delegation	Secretary General, House of the People

**MYANMAR**

Mr. Win Myat AYE Leader of the Delegation	Member of the House of Nationalities Member, The Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) (NLD)
Mr. Htun THU Secretary of the delegation, Adviser	Adviser House of Representatives
Ms. Mya THIDA Adviser, Secretary of the delegation	Adviser House of Nationalities
NLD	National League for Democracy

**II. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – MEMBERS ASSOCIES****ARAB PARLIAMENT**

Mr. Mohamed Ahmed ALYAMMAHI Leader of the Delegation	Speaker
Mr. Ali ALKHALAILEH	Member of Parliament
Ms. Khadija HAJJOURI	Member of Parliament
Mr. Saad ALOTAIBI	Member of Parliament
Ms. Shaikha AL-JUFAIRI	Member of Parliament
Mr. Kamel SHARWY	Secretary General
Mr. Ahmed HASSABALLA	Protocol Coordinator
Mr. Ashraf ELSEIDY	Adviser
Ms. Radwa ELSISI	Media Coordinator

**CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT (PARLACEN)**

Ms. Sandra DE LEÓN	Member of Parliament
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**EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)**

Mr. Joseph NTAKIRUTIMANA Leader of the Delegation	Speaker Chairperson, The EALA Commission
Mr. Ngwaru Jumanne MAGHEMBE	Member of Parliament
Mr. Alex LUMUMBA OBATRE	Clerk
Ms. Anastasia Monica NTHENYA MBEBA	Personal Assistant to the Speaker
Ms. Emily OKEMA KIRUNGI	Administrative Assistant to the Clerk
Ms. Priscilla AMODING	Senior Administrative Assistant to the Speaker

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (EP)**

Mr. Nicolae ȘTEFĂNUȚĂ Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker
Ms. Iarina Aurora BADEA	Adviser

**INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF MEMBER NATIONS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES**

Mr. Anar MAMMADOV	Member of Parliament Member, IPA CIS Permanent Commission on Economy and Finance Member, Youth and Sports Committee of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Mr. Dmitriy KOBITSKIY	Secretary General

**LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN PARLIAMENT (PARLATINO)**

Mr. Rolando GONZÁLEZ PATRICIO Leader of the Delegation	President
Ms. Norma CALERO	Adviser

**PARLIAMENT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)**

Mr. Jibrin BARAU Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker
Mr. Billay G..TUNKARA	Deputy Speaker
Ms. Moima Dabah BRIGGS-MENSAH	Member of Parliament Second Rapporteur, Social Affairs
Mr. Patrick Kodjovi Senam BOLOUVI	Member of Parliament Chairman, Mines and Energy Vice Chair, Defense
Mr. Kountouon Bertin SOME	Secretary General / Clerk
Mr. Kouao N'Dessonn Yves N'GUESSAN	Adviser
Mr. Mohammed Kabeer GARBA	Director

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION (PABSEC)**

Mr. Asaf HAJIYEV	Secretary General / Clerk
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**III. OBSERVERS – OBSERVATEURS****UNITED NATIONS**

Ms. Najat MAALLA	Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on violence against children
Ms. Sabine MACHL	UN Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan
Ms. Nadezda DEMENTIEVA	Regional Liaison Officer for CEE and CA
Mr. Peter LINNÉR	Programme Director Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation
Ms. Xenya SCANLON	Chief, Communications, External Relations and Partnerships, UN Convention to Combat Desertification

**PARTNERSHIP FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH (PMNCH)**

Ms. Flavia BUSTREO	Chair, Governance and Ethics Committee
Ms. Ilze KALNINA	Lead, Political Advocacy

**UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)**

Ms. Regina Maria CASTILLO RODRIGUEZ	Representative in Uzbekistan
Ms. Shaxlo ASHRAFXANOVA	CRM Specialist
Mr. Geoffrey IJUMBA	Deputy Representative in Uzbekistan

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)**

Ms. Ivana ŽIVKOVIĆ	UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator, and Regional Director for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
Ms. Akiko FUJII	Resident Representative
Mr. Anas QARMAN	Deputy Resident Representative
Ms. Kamila MUKHAMEDKHANOVA	Effective Governance Cluster Leader
Ms. Kate SMITH	Communications Specialist, UNDP Climate

**UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (UNRWA)**

Mr. Ben MAJEKODUNMI	Chief of Staff
Ms. Marta LORENZO	Director UNRWA Representative Office for Europe

**UN WOMEN**

Ms. Julie BALLINGTON	Policy Advisor
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**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)**

Ms. Elisa SCOLARO	External Relations, Parliamentary Affairs, and acting Coordinator, Health and Multilateral Partnerships
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**AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION (APU)**

Mr. Boubacar IDI GADO	Secrétaire Général
Mr. José Tomas RAIMUNDO	Administrateur

**ARAB INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

Mr. Ahmed Alawi Hafeedh BA ABOOD	Secretary-General
Mr. Hussam El Dine HALWAJI AMMAR	Follow-up Specialist

**ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)**

Mr. Mohammad Reza MAJIDI	Secretary General
Mr. Mehdi GHASHGHAVI	APA Secretariat Deputy
Mr. Seyed Javad HASHEMI HASSANABADI	Director International Division

**ASSOCIATION OF SENATES, SHOORA AND EQUIVALENT COUNCILS  
IN AFRICA AND THE ARAB WORLD (ASSECAA)**

Mr. Abdulwasie Yusuf ALI	Secretary General
Mr. Egwim Nkemjika CHIMA	Assistant Secretary General

**COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (CSTO PA)**

Mr. Sergei POSPELOV	Executive Secretary
Mr. Gleb BOKHANOVICH	Secretary

**COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA)**

Ms. Bénite DIBATEZA	Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Network Coordinator and Programmes Manager
Mr. Stephen TWIGG	Secretary-General
Mr. Jarvis MATIYA	Deputy Secretary-General

**INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK FOR EDUCATION (IPNED)**

Ms. Beth GUM	Senior Policy & Advocacy Adviser
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**INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY ON ORTHODOXY (IAO)**

Mr. Maximos CHARAKOPOULOS	Secretary General
Mr. Ioan VULPESCU	President of the General Assembly

**PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT (PNND)**

Mr. Alyn WARE	Global Coordinator
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**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM)**

Ms. Rejhana DERVIŠEVIĆ	Head of Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to PAM, PAM Rapporteur on Economy
Mr. Pedro ROQUE	Vice-President

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN  
EUROPE (OSCE)**

Ms. Pia KAUMA	President
Ms. Daria BOYARSKAYA	Senior Advisor, International Secretariat of the OSCE PA
Ms. Emmi KUPIAINEN	Advisor for the OSCE Affairs
Mr. Saša GAVRIĆ	OSCE-ODIHR, Adviser on Gender Issues
Ms. Yulia NETESOVA	OSCE-ODIHR, Chief of Democratic Governance and Gender Unit

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF TURKIC STATES (TURKPA)**

Mr. Mehmet Süreyya ER	Secretary General
Mr. Serhat UYSAL	Protocol Officer

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION OF BELARUS AND RUSSIA**

Ms. Elena AFANASIEVA	Member of Parliament Chairman of the Committee on Labour and Social Policy
Mr. Nikolai NOVICHKOV	Member of Parliament Member of the Committee on Labour and Social Policy, Member of the Committee on Health
Mr. Sergey STRELCHENKO	Secretary General

**PARLIAMENTARY UNION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION MEMBER STATES (PUIC)**

Mr. Ali Asghar MOHAMMADI SIJANI	Deputy Secretary General
Mr. Mouhamed Khouraichi NIASS	Secretary General

**SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (SADC-PF)**

Ms. Boemo SEKGOMA	Secretary General
Mr. Sheuneni KURASHA	Programme Manager Democracy Governance & Human Rights National Assembly

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF SUPREME AUDIT INSTITUTIONS (INTOSAI)**

Mr. Antonio ANASTASIA	Delegate
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**UNITE PARLIAMENTARIANS NETWORK FOR GLOBAL HEALTH**

Mr. Amar PATNAIK	Global Board Member, Chapter Chair for India
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**INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)**

Mr. Fahad AHMED	Legal Advisor
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**IV. PARLIAMENTS PARTICIPATING AS OBSERVERS WITH A VIEW  
TO A POSSIBLE AFFILIATION/REAFFILIATION  
PARLEMENTS PARTICIPANT EN QUALITE D'OBSERVATEURS EN VUE  
D'UNE AFFILIATION/REAFFILIATION EVENTUELLE**

**BARBADOS**

Mr. Arthur HOLDER Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the House of Assembly
Mr. Pedro E. EASTMOND	Clerk of Parliament

**DOMINICA**

Mr. Joseph Thomas Isaac Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the House of Assembly Chairman, Standing Orders Committee Chairman, Privileges Committee (DLP)
Mr. Eirdison Daniel JAMES Secretary of the delegation	Clerk, House of Assembly

DLP          Dominica Labour Party

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**V. ADVISERS AND OTHER PERSONS TAKING PART IN THE WORK OF THE 150th ASSEMBLY –  
CONSEILLERS ET AUTRES PERSONNES PARTICIPANT AUX TRAVAUX DE LA 150<sup>e</sup> ASSEMBLÉE**

**SURINAME**

Mr. Rattan Naresh ALGOE Member of ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the National Assembly
Mr. Dino OEDIT Member of ASGP	Deputy Secretary-General of the National Assembly

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF LA FRANCOPHONIE (APF)**

M. Damien CESSÉLIN	Secrétaire général
Mr. Benoit ONAMBELE	Conseiller diplomatique

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**VI. SPECIAL GUESTS TAKING PART IN ACTIVITIES FORESEEN ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
150th ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION  
INVITES SPECIAUX PRENANT PART A DES ACTIVITES PREVUES A L'OCCASION DE LA 150<sup>e</sup>  
ASSEMBLEE DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE**

Ms. Tatiana MOLCEAN, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)  
Mr. Paul DZIATKOWIEC, Director of Mediation and Peace Support, Geneva Centre for Security Policy  
Ms. Teresa BERGMAN, Senior Advisor - Strategy, Research and Policy Analysis, World Future Council  
Mr. Juan de Dios CINCUNEGUI, International Centre of Parliamentary Studies, Austral University, Argentina  
Mr. Fahad AHMED, Legal Adviser, ICRC  
Ms. Şafak PAVEY, Senior Advisor, UNHCR

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

Ms. Sophie KILADZE, Vice-Chair, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child  
Ms. Gulnora MARUFOVA, Member of the Senate of Uzbekistan

**Working Group on Science and Technology**

Mr. Wallace SHUAIHUA CHENG, Head of Impact and Innovation, Globethics Foundation

**Workshop on Reducing methane emissions: A critical pathway for addressing the climate crisis**

Mr. Juan Pablo LETELIER, Director, Instituto de Gobernanza

**King Global Hamad Center for Peaceful Coexistence**

HE. Ali ALARADI, Deputy Chairman of KHGC  
Mr. Abdulla ALMANNAI, Executive Director  
Ms. Noora ALMANSOORI, Peaceful Coexistence Director  
Mr. Ahmed ALJABER, Senior International Cooperation Specialist.

**Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights**

Mr. Olivier DE FROUVILLE, Chair, UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances  
Ms. Coline FANON, President, Racines Perdues (Belgium)  
Ms. Regina CASTILLO, Country Representative, UNICEF Uzbekistan

**Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs**

Mr. Oleg MALGINOV, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Uzbekistan

**Forum of Women Parliamentarians**

Ms. Saša GAVRIĆ, Gender Adviser, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR)  
Ms. Yulia NETESOVA, Chief of Democratic Governance and Gender Unit in OSCE/ODIHR  
HE. Ambassador Antti KARTTUNEN, Head of the OSCE Office in Uzbekistan  
Ms. Gulnora KHASHIMOVNA RAKHIMOVA, Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance, Uzbekistan  
Ms. Rano ESHOVNA TURDIBOEVA, Deputy Minister of Employment and Poverty Reduction, Uzbekistan

**Forum of Young Parliamentarians**

Ms. Laylo ASLONOVA, Member of the Youth Parliament, Senate of Uzbekistan  
Mr. Otabekkuhja SOBITOV, Member of the Youth Parliament, Legislative Chamber of Uzbekistan

**Panel on Interfaith Dialogue**

Mr. Fadi DAOU, Executive Director, Globethics  
Mr. Frank DABBA SMITH, Co-Chairperson of the Brent Multi-faith Forum

**GLOSSARY / GLOSSAIRE****English****Titles/Functions:**

Speaker of Parliament  
President of the Group

Adviser  
Chair/Chairman/Chairperson  
Clerk  
Deputy Speaker  
Head  
Leader of the Delegation  
Officer  
Researcher  
Secretary of the Group/delegation  
Spokesman

**Parliaments:**

House of Commons  
House of Representatives  
National Assembly  
People's Representatives

**Parliamentary Committees:**

Abroad  
Agreements  
Broadcasting  
Building  
Citizenship  
Complaint Reception  
Computer Science  
Cross-cutting Issues  
Directive Board  
Elderly  
Fishery  
Food  
Foreign Affairs  
Freedoms  
Funding  
Gender Equality  
Growth  
Health/Healthcare  
Heritage  
Home Affairs  
Housing  
Human Rights  
Intelligence  
Investigation/Inquiry  
Joint Committee  
Labour/Work  
Law  
Legal  
Local Self-government  
Missing, Adversely Affected Persons  
Oversight  
People with Disabilities  
Physical Planning, Land Use Planning, Country Planning  
Public Expenditure  
Public Works  
Rehabilitation  
Social Welfare  
Standing Committee  
Standing Orders/Rules  
State Device

**Français****Titres/Fonctions :**

*Président du Parlement*  
*Président(e) du Groupe*

*Conseiller*  
*Président(e)*  
*Secrétaire général/Greffier*  
*Vice-Président(e)*  
*Chef*  
*Chef de la délégation*  
*Fonctionnaire*  
*Chercheur*  
*Secrétaire du Groupe/ de la délégation*  
*Porte-parole*

**Parlements :**

*Chambre des Communes*  
*Chambre des représentants*  
*Assemblée nationale*  
*Représentants du peuple*

**Commissions parlementaires :**

*A l'étranger*  
*Approbations*  
*Radiodiffusion*  
*Bâtiment*  
*Citoyenneté*  
*Instruction des plaintes*  
*Informatique*  
*Matières transversales*  
*Comité directeur*  
*Aînés*  
*Pêche*  
*Alimentation*  
*Affaires étrangères*  
*Libertés*  
*Financement*  
*Egalité entre les sexes*  
*Croissance*  
*Santé*  
*Patrimoine*  
*Affaires internes*  
*Logement*  
*Droits de l'homme*  
*Renseignement*  
*Enquête*  
*Comité mixte*  
*Travail*  
*Lois*  
*Juridique*  
*Autonomie locale*  
*Personnes disparues ou lésées*  
*Surveillance*  
*Personnes handicapées*  
*Aménagement du territoire*  
  
*Dépenses publiques*  
*Travaux publics*  
*Réinsertion*  
*Protection sociale*  
*Comité permanent*  
*Règlement*  
*Dispositif étatique*

Sustainable Development  
Trade  
Training  
Truth  
Underprivileged  
Ways and Means  
Wildlife  
Women, Children and Youth

*Développement durable*  
*Commerce*  
*Formation*  
*Vérité*  
*Défavorisés*  
*Voies et moyens*  
*Faune*  
*Les femmes, les enfants et les jeunes*

**IPU Committees:**

Advisory Group on Health  
Bureau of Women Parliamentarians  
Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians  
Committee on Middle East Questions  
Committee to Promote Respect for International  
Humanitarian Law (IHL)  
Executive Committee  
Forum of Young Parliamentarians  
Gender Partnership Group  
Group of Facilitators for Cyprus  
Standing Committee on Peace and International  
Security  
Standing Committee on Sustainable Development,  
Finance and Trade  
Standing Committee on Democracy and Human  
Rights  
Standing Committee on UN Affairs

**Commissions et Comités de l'UIP :**

*Groupe consultatif sur la santé*  
*Bureau des femmes parlementaires*  
*Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires*  
*Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient*  
*Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit*  
*international humanitaire (DIH)*  
*Comité exécutif*  
*Forum des jeunes parlementaires*  
*Groupe du partenariat entre hommes et femmes*  
*Groupe de facilitateurs concernant Chypre*  
*Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité*  
*internationale*  
*Commission permanente du développement durable, du*  
*financement et du commerce*  
*Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits*  
*de l'homme*  
*Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies*