

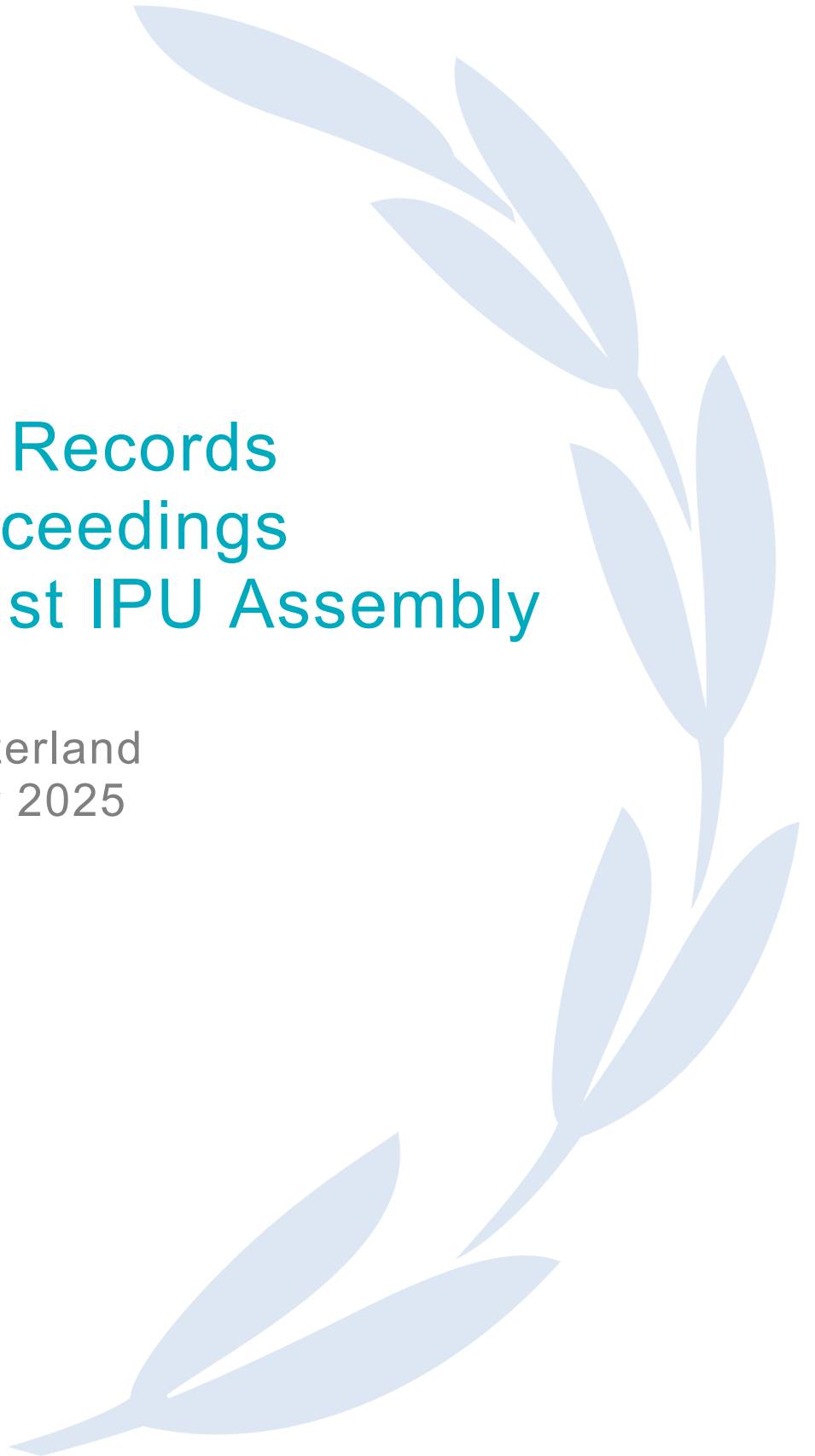


Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Summary Records of the Proceedings of the 151st IPU Assembly

Geneva, Switzerland
19-23 October 2025

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Geneva

19-23 October 2025

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Introduction

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

Afghanistan*, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, 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, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar*, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The following six Associate Members also took part in the Assembly: the Arab Parliament, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the Pan-African Parliament, the Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF) and the Parliament of MERCOSUR (PARLASUR).

Observers included representatives of:

- (i) the United Nations and related organizations: United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO);
- (ii) parliamentary assemblies and associations: African Parliamentary Union (APU), Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), Collective Security Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly (CSTO PA), Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR), International Parliamentary Network for Education (IPNEd), Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO), Maghreb Consultative Council, ParIAmericas, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), Parliamentary Assembly of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (AP-CPLP), Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States (TURKPA), Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM), Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA), Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member States (PUIC), Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF), and UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health;
- (iii) international non-governmental organizations: Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI);
- (iv) international political party federations: Global Greens, Liberal International (LI), Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPPAL);

* 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.

(v) other partner organizations: Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Development Law Organization (IDLO), International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and Sovereign Order of Malta.

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

Of the 1,103 delegates who attended the Assembly, 594 were members of parliament (581 from Member Parliaments and 13 from Associate Member delegations), including 42 Presiding Officers, and 40 Deputy Presiding Officers. Member Parliament delegations included 216 women MPs (37.2%) and 80 young MPs (13.7%).

Opening of the 151st Assembly

SITTING OF MONDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2025

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 11:05, with Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka (Poland), Vice-President of the IPU, in the Chair.

The official IPU Anthem was played.

Opening remarks

The Vice-President, welcoming participants to Geneva and conveying all best wishes for a successful 151st Assembly from IPU President Dr. T. Ackson on her Tanzanian election campaign trail, said in her opening remarks that the upcoming General Debate on the theme Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis was set to address issues of critical importance. Universally ratified and the abiding keystone of international humanitarian law (IHL), the Geneva Conventions of 1949 were rooted in the profound conviction that human dignity was a non-negotiable right to be safeguarded in all circumstances. Among other things, IHL sought to limit the effects of armed conflict on civilians and civilian infrastructure, and to protect prisoners of war and interned civilians from ill-treatment. In addition to shielding the unarmed, humanitarian norms restricted the means and methods of warfare, undoubtedly reducing suffering and saving lives. Further efforts were nonetheless clearly needed to enforce those norms more effectively.

The growing number of armed conflicts worldwide had had a devastating impact, exacerbating humanitarian needs and civilian suffering in some countries to crisis levels, with millions displaced by such conflict-related factors as persecution, rampant killings, sexual violence, disruption of essential services, and lack of food, water, shelter and medical care. Hundreds of humanitarian workers had also been either killed, injured, captured or detained in 2024 alone, with figures continuing to worsen. The lack of compliance with IHL had furthermore been amplified, at an unacceptable cost, by the climate crisis, disease outbreaks, widespread misinformation, geopolitical fragmentation and a contested multilateral system.

Behind the figures were real people who had hopes and aspirations and should enjoy the basic rights guaranteed to all. At a time when civilians and combatants most needed protection, humanitarian norms were being threatened, humanitarian aid defunded, and humanitarian action challenged, compromising access and security for humanitarian workers.

Against that backdrop, the global parliamentary community must proactively put in place measures to prevent conflict and IHL violations; ensure rigorous enforcement of IHL rules; and keep humanitarian concerns at the centre of its work. Parliamentarians must ensure that the humanitarian dimension was never absent from their decision-making, especially on matters of security.

Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis required the political courage to refuse to look away from suffering and to stand up for principles. In a ray of light in the darkness, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) regularly documented real examples of respect for IHL, the accounts concerned demonstrating that such respect during war carved out space for life, relief and recovery.

To secure enduring respect for IHL and foster genuine support for principled humanitarian action, parliamentarians must harness their collective political resolve, embrace inclusive decision-making, forge partnerships, and cultivate a shared understanding that the defence of the most basic forms of human dignity was at stake. The 151st Assembly should be remembered for reaffirming that commitment and for showing that, across differences, regions and ideologies, parliamentarians were capable of coming together to uphold humanitarian norms and protect principled humanitarian action.

The Secretary General, in his opening remarks, said on the same topic that the world returned in times of crisis to the architecture designed primarily in Geneva to offer protection from the worst atrocities of war. With its long history of encouraging its Member Parliaments to promote respect for

IHL, the IPU had in 1993 established its own committee devoted to that very issue. Since that time, the Committee had monitored accessions to and ratifications of the core IHL instruments and other instruments of relevance, followed their implementation, conducted fact-finding missions, liaised with the ICRC and the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) – its key partners on the issue, and guided other areas of the IPU's work, including through its regular reports to the Governing Council.

The IPU had also been at the forefront of political support for the development of important humanitarian disarmament instruments, including the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Indeed, it had called for the elaboration of those instruments and actively mobilized support through its Member Parliaments for their ratification and entry into force.

The IPU looked forward to continuing its important collaboration with the two special partners mentioned, thanks to which its IHL-related work had grown alongside the engagement of its Member Parliaments in the subject. It also looked forward to the results of the ICRC's Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law, a vital endeavour that it was keen to support.

At the current Assembly, in addition to the General Debate, an open session to be held by the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law on safeguarding humanitarian action in times of armed conflict would provide a valuable opportunity to discuss the role of parliaments in that domain. All delegates were also encouraged to participate in the IHL-related side events organized and to visit the ICRC's virtual reality stand for a glimpse into the impact of armed conflict on those most affected by it.

IHL was integral to most aspects of the IPU's policy goals and an important consideration in the Organization's approach to disarmament and non-proliferation. With the interplay between gender and armed conflict also of particular relevance to its work, it was confident that more gender-sensitive parliaments would lead to the adoption of more domestic laws and policies that took into account the humanitarian needs of women and girls and effectively tackled conflict-related sexual violence.

As well as their role in the ratification of IHL-related treaties, parliaments must use their oversight to ensure unfailing adherence to the humanitarian norms established accordingly, guarantee accountability for IHL violations, and advocate and legislate for humanitarian action to save lives, alleviate suffering and restore human dignity to those most affected by armed conflict. Although constituting a route towards overcoming the division, violence and mistrust prevailing in an increasingly insular and fragmented world, humanitarian action was under threat, highlighting the need for more concerted efforts to deliver aid to all those caught up in conflict and other disasters.

All those issues and more would be explored in the General Debate with the ultimate aim of advancing the humanitarian agenda in line with the fundamental responsibility to protect fellow human beings, especially the most vulnerable. The 80th anniversary of the United Nations was a golden opportunity to reform and reinforce the multilateral system and safeguard basic humanitarian values.

Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, providing in line with customary practice a gender perspective on the topic of the General Debate, said that the humanitarian framework built over decades was endangered by the violent displacement of a rules-based order by an order based on power, transactional politics and clientelism. Humanitarian crises were particularly harmful to women and girls, but gender-responsive humanitarian action was not a "women's issue"; when that action worked or failed for women, it worked or failed for everyone. Humanitarian norms and values must be upheld without compromise and IHL implemented through a gender lens, with full parity in decision-making also essential. As to gender-responsive humanitarian budgeting, it was an investment towards breaking cycles of violence, preventing instability, and fostering a recovery that benefited all.

Along with the advancement of a multisectoral and inclusive humanitarian agenda, greater solidarity with women was imperative. Current crises were associated with climate disasters, food insecurity and the rise of new weapons systems and technologies, all issues to be addressed with women at the table and with gender equality a central focus. For their part, parliamentarians must discharge their responsibility to build peace, promote democracy and protect women, more of whom were needed in parliaments and politics. In their fight for humanitarian values, norms and laws, parliamentarians must be guided by parity, equality and sustainability.

Ms. J. Sierra (Uruguay), Member of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians, providing also in line with customary practice a youth perspective on the topic of the General Debate, said that among the more impacted by war were the millions of youth growing up in armed conflict and facing daily violence that robbed them of their safety and futures, with their education disrupted and rising humanitarian needs more difficult to meet. Too often in crises, youth were spoken about but not with.

The goals set in United Nations (UN) Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on youth, peace and security remained unmet, and the growing gap between representation and demographic reality produced weakened institutions and crisis responses. When feeling excluded, young people found other ways to be heard, often through protest.

Young parliamentarians called on parliaments to enhance youth participation in decision-making and peacebuilding, and to safeguard education and employment for young people – all non-negotiables in preparing youth for their future and societies for sustainable peace. It was furthermore crucial to uphold the fundamental rights of young people and to protect vulnerable and marginalized youth in particular. Hope for the future nonetheless remained, even in the darkest hours of raging conflict. All must play their part in ensuring unhindered humanitarian assistance, respect for IHL, and a just and sustainable peace. The present and future of young people the world over could not wait.

Mr. P. Krähenbühl (Director-General, ICRC), keynote speaker, expressing gratitude for the IPU's long-standing commitment to humanitarian principles, said that those principles were under great strain in the face of wars being normalized and often treated as inevitable. The theme of the General Debate demanded prompt action to preserve human dignity in war and translate principle into protection, as well as the courage to invest in mechanisms to much better prevent and resolve armed conflict. Law, politics and commitment had long shaped efforts to reduce suffering and, as a long-standing IPU partner, the ICRC continued to provide technical support, operational experience and first-hand accounts from the field to ensure that laws and budgets protected people when it most mattered.

Currently, there were over 130 armed conflicts worldwide affecting millions of lives. In Gaza, the recent ceasefire was welcome but all too fragile and insufficient to erase the months of immense devastation and its consequences. Indiscriminate warfare and extreme restrictions on humanitarian aid had rendered life unliveable and stripped it of dignity. The practice of hostage taking – prohibited under IHL – had caused profound suffering for families and survivors, and thousands of Palestinian detainees remained in custody.

In the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, large-scale drone and missile attacks were killing civilians far from front lines, infrastructure was being deliberately destroyed, and many thousands of civilians and military personnel were reported to the ICRC as missing.

In over two years of conflict in Sudan, civilians faced relentless death, displacement and destruction, including of health facilities, most of which were no longer functioning. In Myanmar, decades of conflict had left communities vulnerable, movement restricted and access to services strangled, a situation worsened by the 2025 earthquake. In Afghanistan, mines and unexploded ordnance continued to maim and kill. In the Syrian Arab Republic, thousands of missing persons – only a fraction of the true number – were registered with the ICRC, and the electricity and water systems had collapsed.

Conflicts were proliferating and intensifying; funding for humanitarian response was shrinking; access to people in need was blocked by insecurity and administrative impediments; aid workers faced arrest, expulsion and attack; hospitals and ambulances were rendered inoperable; medical staff were deliberately targeted; water and power systems were struck; and explosive remnants remained long after the shooting had stopped.

The ICRC responded with mutual, impartial and independent humanitarian action, providing medical care, tracing missing persons, protecting detainees, supporting hospitals and water systems, clearing explosive remnants and engaging in confidential dialogue with parties to secure access. Those operations saved lives and restored dignity but were increasingly difficult when the commitment to uphold humanitarian norms was weakened.

The Geneva Conventions had been negotiated to place clear limits on what belligerents might do and to strengthen protection for civilians. IHL distinguished fighters from non-combatants, restricted means and methods of warfare, and preserved a minimum of humanity amid violence. Its protective framework, however, was subject to multiple pressures and was endangered by three principal threats, specifically: widespread violations and complacency; selective application and permissive interpretation of rules; and a reluctance to ratify, implement or remain bound by IHL instruments. Such short-term thinking had long-term consequences and further lowered the bar, with dehumanizing narratives acting as an enabler of violations and abuse and weakening IHL norms, which were bulwarks against legal backsliding.

Parliaments must act to counter those threats, reaffirm their commitment to IHL and, as a strategic imperative, ensure sustained peacetime investment in IHL through its integration into legislation, doctrine and training. Real preparedness demanded political courage and practical measures, including to: enact and update legislation; embed qualified legal advisors in operational planning; require documented legal reviews of new weapons; and maintain independent oversight and accountability mechanisms. Ultimately, the cost of neglect was far higher than the modest investments needed to prevent and mitigate harm.

In 2024, together with the ICRC, six founding States had launched the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law, which was intended to reverse the trend towards lack of IHL compliance and convey a simple but urgent message that, in war, humanity must prevail. Over 90 States had since joined the initiative and some 130 had engaged in the initial consultations, with a global high-level meeting planned in 2026 to consolidate recommendations and convert political momentum into measurable commitments.

Key messages emerging from the consultations to date included the need to reaffirm IHL's centrality, focus on protection, consolidate cooperation, make IHL a political priority, and strengthen national implementation and accountability. To support the initiative, parliaments were asked to allocate resources for IHL capacity-building and national implementation, integrate IHL into domestic law and military training, and advocate for their country's formal endorsement and active participation in the initiative.

The ways in which wars were currently fought raised questions about the fate of IHL and humanity itself. The Global Initiative offered a real chance to restore political priority to IHL, with parliamentarians uniquely placed to translate the related international commitments into domestic realities through the actions mentioned.

Parliaments were needed to lend their voice, political courage and leadership towards breaking a vicious cycle in which wars were normalized, glorified and casually treated as almost inevitable, with the enemy dehumanized and the pledge of "never again" repeatedly made and too soon forgotten. Common humanity should not be the exception but the norm. Without immediate action, however, today's brutality risked becoming the baseline of future conflicts.

The Vice-President, thanking Mr. Krähenbühl for his presentation, said that it had been a true privilege and pleasure to welcome him to the Assembly.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on the theme *Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis*

(A/151/3-Inf.1)

PRESIDING OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENT

Ms. S. Gafarova (Azerbaijan), commencing the General Debate, said that her country's recent signing of a peace agreement with Armenia showed that even long-standing conflicts could be resolved through political will and dialogue. With consistent efforts and international support, Azerbaijan had overcome its own humanitarian crisis precipitated in the early 1990s by its conflict with Armenia, successfully meeting the urgent needs of its displaced population following the restoration of its territorial integrity. Thanks to large-scale reconstruction and rehabilitation projects since implemented, people were now returning to resume their lives, which was testament to the country's strong political will and humanitarian commitment. Landmine contamination, however, remained a pressing challenge, threatening lives, delaying reconstruction and causing severe environmental damage. Humanitarian demining was therefore both a safety measure and an act of environmental restoration. In rebuilding its liberated territories, Azerbaijan was integrating sustainability and green principles into every development stage.

Another humanitarian issue concerned the fate of Azerbaijanis who had gone missing during the years of conflict. In addition to organizing international conferences on humanitarian demining, an issue constituting its national Sustainable Development Goal 18, Azerbaijan had established the Baku Dialogue on Missing Persons as a valuable platform for sharing ideas, experiences and good practices. Once a recipient of humanitarian assistance, it was now a donor country delivering humanitarian, financial and technical aid to many scores of countries. Such efforts reaffirmed its conviction that peace, humanitarian action and environmental sustainability were inseparable and that a safer, greener and more humane future for all could be built only through solidarity and shared responsibility.

Ms. N. Mutti (Zambia) said that her country's long-standing commitment to humanitarian principles was anchored in its values of peace and respect for human dignity. Host for decades to refugees from neighbouring countries and beyond, Zambia remained steadfast in fulfilling its treaty obligations in that domain. Its Parliament played a critical role in advancing humanitarian action through measures taken in five key areas. First, it was strengthening the legal framework to enhance the country's humanitarian response and disaster management, support accountability and enable effective crisis action. Secondly, through dedicated committees, it was using its oversight function to ensure that humanitarian responses were properly accounted for and reached the intended targets in a timely fashion. Thirdly, it provided budgetary support for humanitarian action and advocated for increased allocations to social protection, healthcare and disaster preparedness. Fourthly, it promoted inclusivity and rights-based approaches through policies centred on vulnerable groups, whether women, children or persons with disabilities, and championed child protection, gender-responsive laws and psychosocial support in emergencies and disasters. Lastly, as a strong supporter of multilateralism and a party to key conventions, it continued to ratify other international instruments and collaborate with regional organizations to harmonize disaster responses and early warning systems across borders.

Parliaments were uniquely empowered to legislate, allocate resources and amplify the voices of the vulnerable. Zambia reaffirmed its commitment to upholding humanitarian principles and ensuring that humanitarian action became a central pillar of governance and was not simply an afterthought. Parliaments must stand together for humanity, dignity and peace.

Mr. F. El-Fayez (Jordan) said that the horrific conflicts currently killing and displacing huge numbers worldwide included the heinous aggression of the Israeli occupying State against the Palestinian people. In taking effective measures to ensure full Israeli compliance with the Gaza peace plan, the international community must seek to end the war, address its catastrophic consequences, protect the Hashemite custodianship of Muslim and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, stop settler attacks in the West Bank, and unite efforts for the immediate delivery of adequate humanitarian aid to alleviate the famine in Gaza.

Along with adherence to humanitarian standards, the facilitation of emergency aid delivery to crisis areas was a moral duty and was fundamental to building more just and secure societies. In today's increasingly cruel, chaotic and hateful world, ethical and humanitarian considerations were key to concerted parliamentary action to support victims of conflict and disaster, without discrimination or distinction of any kind. Jordan was among the most responsive in global relief efforts and prided itself on its moderation, centrism and respect for other nations' policies. Its King's Amman Message called for love, tolerance and acceptance of others while also emphasizing the shared values of the heavenly religions and rejecting hatred, extremism and racism in the interest of fostering a humane society free from violence, killing and destruction. Jordan provided humanitarian aid around the globe, including to Gaza on a continuous basis from the outset. As to world peace, its achievement was questionable given the trillions allocated to military spending.

Mr. N.O. Peet (Ecuador) said that, in addition to saving lives, humanitarian action was about restoring hope in a tragic world where survival was the dream. Every war ignored, every border closed and every word of hatred tolerated led to a loss of humanity. A small country with a huge heart, Ecuador had chosen to move forward and welcome thousands of Colombian and Venezuelan refugees in the belief that human dignity was non-negotiable and was to be defended. Transnational organized crime had turned the country into a battlefield, but the courageous response of its young politicians demonstrated that authority could be restored without losing humanity. Ecuador had recognized the existence of a non-international armed conflict, designated criminal groups as terrorist organizations, and introduced policies to protect victims and uphold the rights of the innocent. Without security, there were no rights and without rights, security became abuse.

His Parliament had worked to combat fuel trafficking, illegal mining, and organized crime as part of establishing the rule of law in furtherance of human development. It had also built a national agenda based on five pillars, namely security, social development, economic growth, environment, and infrastructure. Humanitarian crises, organized crime and climate change were borderless problems requiring borderless solutions. The world needed moral courage, brave leaders, and parliaments conscious of democracy. Deeply convinced that the future belonged to the most compassionate and not the most powerful, the young leaders in his small country were governing with a strength and humanity that gave rise to new hope.

Ms. T. Narbaeva (Uzbekistan) said that, in her country, protection of the rights of all citizens and strict adherence to humanitarian principles were a policy priority. Systematic measures were being implemented, national programmes developed to support those in need in crisis situations, and special attention paid to women, children and persons with disabilities. With respect to migration issues, including internal migration and protection of the rights of citizens abroad, Uzbekistan was actively participating in international humanitarian initiatives in such areas as housing, healthcare, education and social assistance, reflecting its commitment to the principles of humanitarianism and international solidarity. It also provided humanitarian assistance, including education and vocational training, to the people of Afghanistan. The Uzbek Parliament was closely monitoring those processes and facilitating international cooperation within the IPU framework.

Together, parliamentarians must intensify the exchange of legislative practices and pursue social and digital initiatives designed to provide humanitarian assistance; contribute to promoting and implementing programmes to assist affected and vulnerable population groups through the coordination and efficient distribution of resources; mobilize funds for the implementation of international projects for protecting lives and health in times of crisis; support training for specialists involved in humanitarian projects; and ensure strict compliance with humanitarian standards. All parliaments must work together in their crucial role of strengthening international solidarity, safeguarding citizens, protecting human rights and ensuring the effective implementation of humanitarian programmes.

Mr. H. Gebaly (Egypt), posing pressing questions such as whether the global humanitarian system had escaped the trap of politicization, transcended divisions or garnered public trust, said that the answers were disappointing, especially in relation to the Middle East and Africa. In Gaza, the Palestinian people had for two years been subjected to brutal aggression and grave human rights violations at the hands of the Israeli occupation, which systematically sought their eradication and displacement from their land in a bid to eliminate their just cause. Tantamount to genocide, those practices had generated a humanitarian catastrophe created in plain sight of an international community blatantly engaged in double standards, leaving an unforgettable dark stain on humanity.

Egypt's support for all humanitarian work stemmed from its culture of peacebuilding through humanitarian diplomacy aimed at strengthening global humanitarian solidarity as a fundamental pillar for achieving peace, security, stability and sustainable development. Among other things, Egypt was a major contributor to UN peacekeeping operations and a provider of technical and humanitarian programmes. It offered safe haven and dignity to millions of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, who were guaranteed the same basic services as citizens. In its concerted efforts to end the Israeli aggression against Gaza, Egypt had consistently pursued the political and diplomatic tracks towards a ceasefire agreement eventually signed in Sharm El-Sheikh, supplying in the meantime a large proportion of the aid delivered to Gaza and of those volunteering humanitarian support. Given the escalating crises worldwide, the global humanitarian system should be urgently reviewed to improve response efficiency.

Mr. M. Dick (Australia), noting that the death toll for humanitarian workers in 2025 was poised to be the highest on record, said that weapons now posed the greatest threat to such workers, who risked their own lives to help others in crisis. Where humanitarian workers were unable to operate safely or prevented from operating, the consequences for civilian populations could be devastating. With conflicts and natural disasters on the rise, the world's capacity to respond to the increased humanitarian need was severely challenged. A collective global commitment to upholding international laws was therefore vital to ensuring accountability and protecting workers serving on front lines. Since 2024, there had been unparalleled violence against aid workers, with over 600 – mostly local staff – killed while on duty.

An Australian-led ministerial group established in 2024 to uphold and champion international law and pursue action to protect humanitarian workers in conflict zones had partnered with humanitarian organizations to develop the new global Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel launched at the recent UN General Assembly. Focused on improved adherence to IHL, safe and unimpeded access and enhanced support for local humanitarian personnel, and strengthened accountability for attacks on humanitarian workers, the declaration had been endorsed by 100 countries, with all others and the IPU Member Parliaments in particular encouraged to follow suit. In addition to advocating with their governments to that end, parliamentarians must work to ensure proper IHL implementation under domestic law, IHL training for military and security forces, and accountability for government actions in conflicts and crises.

Mr. K. Al Maawali (Oman) said that successive crises were affecting humanitarian efforts and presenting unprecedented challenges for humanitarian workers, amid which States, parliaments and humanitarian organizations played a crucial protective role requiring a sincere commitment to strengthening legislative and communication frameworks. A more effective and comprehensive humanitarian response necessitated stronger partnerships among public and private sectors, civil society and international humanitarian organizations as well as respect for the principles of independence and non-discrimination and the unimpeded delivery of aid to the most vulnerable. Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation, exchanging experiences and pursuing joint legislative and awareness initiatives were essential to ensuring effective IHL implementation and civilian protection, and to guaranteeing international peace. A unified humanitarian vision was also especially vital to the maintenance of human dignity. Through coordination, crises could be transformed into opportunities and a more resilient, just and sustainable future built.

Humanitarian work was a cornerstone of Omani policy, of the values outlined in the Oman Vision 2030, and of Omani national identity. Through its volunteer teams and initiatives, Oman provided relief and humanitarian support where needed, without discrimination or political considerations. It was keen to strengthen its partnerships with international humanitarian organizations to build more effective national and regional crisis management and rapid response capabilities. On another note, the deliberate targeting of humanitarian organizations working in Palestine epitomized the test faced to demonstrate the commitment to humanitarian action, ensure that humanity was not silenced, and show that the value of humanitarian work lay not in funding but in the sincerity of intention and the will to give.

The sitting rose at 13:20.

Sitting of Monday, 20 October 2025

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 14:30 with Mr. T. Tavares-Finson (Jamaica) in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda
(continued)

General debate on the theme *Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis*

PRESIDING OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENT (continued)

Ms. S. Kuugongelwa-Amadhila (Namibia) said that Namibia's history informed its understanding of the long-term implications of armed conflict and the need to maintain humanitarian standards. Since attaining independence, Namibia had ratified international humanitarian legal instruments, including the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, and become a party to the Ottawa Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Given the importance of parliaments in implementing international humanitarian law (IHL), the National Assembly had enacted legislation to safeguard refugees' rights, criminalize war crimes and strengthen legal accountability.

Against a backdrop of military conflicts and attacks on multilateralism, the Geneva Conventions were more relevant than ever and required individual and collective action for implementation. Disrespect and disregard for international law and IHL, particularly by influential members of the United Nations (UN), threatened them. However, their violation reflected collective human inadequacy rather than their ineffectiveness: aid had not reached Gaza because it had been blocked, not because IHL was ineffective. Furthermore, economic sanctions and embargoes on Cuba and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) restricted access to essential services, disrupted development and jeopardized livelihoods. The multilateral system must reform to improve its response to challenges. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) had confirmed that all States had climate and environmental obligations under international law. The international community must honour commitments under the Paris Agreement, and align its activities with the principles of prevention and common but differentiated responsibilities. Despite the fourth Geneva Convention, sexual violence was rampant during conflicts. It hindered the full implementation of the Geneva Conventions and accentuated the need for political will to uphold them. Perpetrators enjoyed growing impunity, fuelling the surge in sexual violence, and must be held accountable.

All States must recommit to upholding the principles of the Geneva Conventions, and those with influence must help end IHL violations in conflicts. Moreover, parliaments must uphold the Geneva Conventions and related instruments through legislative action, policy oversight and international cooperation. Namibia supported the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the UN Secretary-General's campaign for humanitarian disarmament. Only peacefully settling disputes according to the Charter of the United Nations would maintain global peace and security.

Mr. A. Almusallam (Bahrain) said that the 120 ongoing conflicts and the millions of people suffering worldwide were a call for parliamentarians to act. Respect for humanitarian law was a legal and moral imperative; the world must look beyond its political and social divisions. Parliamentarians must develop and adopt laws, support humanitarian action and ensure humanitarian principles were central to their work. He called for the implementation of high-level initiatives to strengthen humanitarian efforts, supported the IPU initiatives to share experiences and best practices among stakeholders, and hoped that those initiatives would provide relief to those most in need without discrimination.

Bahrain had a policy of humanitarian solidarity and respect for IHL. It had implemented national youth protection and empowerment initiatives, and had launched over 85 development projects worldwide to strengthen healthcare and education. Firm in its conviction that the right to human dignity was universal, Bahrain supported all efforts to achieve sustainable global peace – the cornerstone of development and well-being – and sought compromise and coexistence. He called for the implementation of the ceasefire in the Middle East and for sustainable peace based on a two-State

solution, paid tribute to Palestinians for their courage and fight for freedom, and supported the IPU leadership statement on the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and its condemnation of the Israeli attack on Qatar. Greater solidarity and determination to protect humanity was necessary to tackle global challenges, and parliamentarians must speak out.

Mr. S. Nguema Owono (Equatorial Guinea) said that the wars and conflicts in progress worldwide had serious humanitarian consequences. In response, parliaments could adopt multisectoral approaches to tackle humanitarian issues through parliamentary diplomacy, legislate to address the causes of humanitarian crises or mitigate their impacts, and approve budgets. Parliaments could also ensure that governments respected IHL and involved civil society and communities in monitoring humanitarian policies. His Parliament attached great importance to humanitarian issues and promoted IHL compliance. Equatorial Guinea complied with international law, in line with Article 8 of the Constitution, and was committed to upholding the rights and obligations established in the statutes of international organizations. It had also ratified various international humanitarian agreements. Parliament frequently held dialogues nationwide with citizens to promote solidarity with and empathy for people fleeing conflicts and humanitarian crises. The national budget was always approved and included provisions for humanitarian aid.

Mr. J.M. Sama Lukonde Kyenge (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that the General Debate theme reflected global issues concerning solidarity, fundamental rights and human dignity. In Africa in particular, instability, armed groups, geopolitical tensions, natural disasters and inadequate international responses persisted. The theme was especially relevant to his country which had experienced persistent armed conflicts, repeated fundamental rights violations, large population displacements and violence against civilians – particularly women and children – over the previous three decades. Of the 310 million people worldwide requiring humanitarian aid, 21 million were in his country. Given the importance of peace to responding to humanitarian crises, his Parliament requested that the IPU support the Luanda, Nairobi, Washington and Doha processes. He appreciated the IPU Secretary General's visit to his country and Rwanda which aligned with the IPU mandate to uphold peace. His country sought to remove obstacles to peace and all parties, including Rwanda, Alliance Fleuve Congo and the March 23 Movement (AFC/M23), must respect Congolese territorial integrity, withdraw armed groups and cease hostilities. Peace would reunite families and return parliamentarians to their constituencies.

His country had ratified IHL instruments, including the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, and had passed legislation to launch a compensation fund for victims of sexual violence during conflicts; establish organizations to manage humanitarian responses and coordinate between government actors, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs); and create a national solidarity and humanitarian disaster management fund. The Democratic Republic of the Congo welcomed humanitarian and climate change refugees and was due to ratify the Kampala Convention.

To ensure respect for humanitarian norms, it was essential to adopt a consistent and unbiased approach, regardless of location. All victims deserved equal assistance tailored to their circumstances. The IPU Member Parliaments must demonstrate their commitment to human rights and justice, and he called on the IPU to support the recognition of the genocide in his country as economically motivated – a “genocost” – and support transitional justice. The deaths of 10 million people over 30 years deserved attention. He hoped that the 151st IPU Assembly would mark a turning point and strengthen humanitarian action based on respect for norms worldwide.

Mr. D. Zvizdić (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that, according to UN data, there were 120 conflicts worldwide, the most since the Second World War. Some 122 million people had been displaced and over 300 million – of whom 60% were women and girls – required humanitarian assistance. The World Food Programme (WFP) reported that 780 million people were chronically undernourished. Diplomatic efforts to achieve a lasting ceasefire in Gaza, an area experiencing one of the most severe humanitarian crises of the last 80 years, were welcome. The law of the strongest was returning to the international stage which always brought suffering to those who were weaker and deprived of their rights. In parallel, humanitarian funding had decreased by over 20% in the previous two years while humanitarian needs had increased by almost 40% annually. Geopolitical divisions, increasing nationalism and ongoing conflicts were undermining international cooperation. His country had experienced the consequences of failing to uphold international law and understood that all that was necessary for evil to triumph was for good people to do nothing. Therefore, parliaments should fully incorporate IHL into national legislation; ensure governments observe the Geneva Conventions;

support the financing of humanitarian and development programmes worldwide; strengthen civil society; and promote peace, dialogue and tolerance. Trust in institutions must be strengthened, and parliamentary diplomacy must help uphold the principles of international law.

Mr. M. Alyammahi (Arab Parliament) said that IHL had been blatantly violated in recent years, including in Gaza where some two million individuals lived in inhumane conditions and required immediate assistance. Countries that had stopped funding the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) should reconsider given the importance of that Agency in providing humanitarian, educational and health services. Countries, regional and international organizations, and financial institutions should also support the Arab reconstruction plan for Gaza. As the most important parliamentary organization worldwide, the IPU must play a pivotal role in managing the political and humanitarian situations in Gaza. It must speak out, represent the will of the people of the world and protect rights. It should create a task force to (1) support efforts to maintain the ceasefire and respect the peace plan, especially in view of the occupying force's ceasefire violations; (2) support the Arab reconstruction plan and mobilize international support for the upcoming conference on the reconstruction of Gaza in Cairo; and (3) regularly report progress to the IPU. The genocide in Gaza had demonstrated that regional and global stability depended on ending the occupation and creating an independent Palestinian State along the 4 June 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital. It was essential to acknowledge that fact, leverage international momentum and create an independent Palestinian State to end the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe.

Mr. W. Matha (Thailand) said that the 120 armed conflicts, 122 million displaced people and 310 million people requiring humanitarian assistance worldwide in 2025, and the disproportionate effect of gender inequality on women and girls, provided stark reminders of the collective duty to strengthen multilateralism and uphold IHL. The General Debate theme was therefore timely and relevant, particularly following attacks on Thai civilians and infrastructure. Thailand firmly upheld IHL principles and observed its obligations under various international treaties and conventions which represented a shared moral commitment to safeguard the innocent and advance peace and humanity. Thailand remained committed to preserving the long-standing spirit of friendship and mutual respect at the IPU, and was grateful to all parties that had helped de-escalate its tensions with Cambodia. Efforts must focus on reconciliation because violence benefited nobody. The National Assembly firmly adhered to the principles of the United Nations, international law, IHL and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Thailand supported peace and bilateralism in resolving disputes and the IPU provided a constructive platform for dialogue, trust-building and lasting solutions. The National Assembly welcomed the outcome of the General Border Committee meeting, the withdrawal of heavy weapons from the disputed area, joint demining efforts and measures to address cross-border scam operations. Violations of the ceasefire agreement, incursions into Thai territory and the use of human shields were deeply concerning and Thailand opposed the militarization of world heritage sites. Given the increasing threat that scam syndicates posed, Thailand had submitted an emergency item alongside other countries on parliamentary action against transnational organized crime, cybercrime and hybrid threats to democracy and security which he urged all the IPU Member Parliaments to support. Parliaments were vital to reinforcing multilateralism, promoting cooperation and translating humanitarian principles into national legislation. Thailand stood ready to work with parliaments worldwide to safeguard humanitarian norms, strengthen humanitarian action and build enduring peace.

Mr. M. Ndiaye (Senegal) said that conflicts and wars, including in Sudan and Palestine and between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, were disrupting regions, displacing populations, causing health emergencies, impacting food security and the global economy, and testing IHL principles. Peace could not be deferred or fragmented, and there was a collective duty to protect human life, uphold the principle of proportionality, protect civilians and guarantee unobstructed humanitarian access. It was essential to respect IHL – the cornerstone of human dignity – in conflicts. Senegal supported the call to collectively strengthen political commitment to humanitarian norms which was a moral imperative and essential for lasting stability and justice. Given the threats that nationalism and geopolitical fragmentation posed to multilateralism, parliaments must once again become bastions of international cooperation and human rights.

His National Assembly translated international humanitarian conventions into national legislation, oversaw the humanitarian commitments of the Government, guaranteed budgets to protect displaced and vulnerable populations and strengthened parliamentary diplomacy. Those efforts were

part of a longstanding commitment to peace as demonstrated through Senegal's participation in UN, African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) peacekeeping operations.

In view of increasing humanitarian needs and decreasing funds, parliaments must ensure funding for humanitarian causes, protect the work and safety of humanitarian actors, and integrate development, security and human rights policies. Senegal had adopted new laws on transparency, ethical governance and corruption to support the most vulnerable and ensure national solidarity translated into concrete actions. Climate change, social inequality, the marginalization of women and youth, and technological shifts impacted humanitarian challenges and demanded a holistic approach. However, preventing crises and fostering a culture of peace presented the most sustainable solutions. He therefore called for inclusive humanitarian action that considered women, children and displaced people; increased support for local actors and communities to prevent and manage crises; and for synergies between humanitarian action and sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and Agenda 2063. Parliamentary diplomacy must protect the universal values of solidarity, cooperation and shared responsibility. Parliaments could demand respect for humanitarian law, encourage states to honour obligations, and provide a reminder that compassion was an ethical imperative. Through the IPU, parliamentarians must breathe new life into multilateralism, and reaffirm their commitment to assisting those in need and their faith in the Geneva Conventions. Every parliament and citizen contributed to ensuring that human dignity was an inalienable right.

Mr. R. Latorre (Paraguay) said that multilateralism was important for resolving issues but could not supersede national sovereignty, identity and culture. The Paraguayan Constitution protected life from the moment of its conception and renounced wars of conquest, demonstrating a commitment to peace, human dignity and the sanctity of life. Paraguay contributed to peace by providing food to over 100 million people worldwide through a sustainable production model that ensured 40% of its land remained forest. Only those who had experienced war could fully understand its consequences and, following its devastating war in the nineteenth century against Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, Paraguay would always advocate for peace. The signing of the Gaza peace agreement in Egypt was welcome and Paraguay shared in the joy of reunited Israeli families. Multilateral organizations must oversee the implementation of that agreement and safeguard peace in the Middle East. Meanwhile, achieving a just and lasting peace in Ukraine was challenging and increasing tensions in the Taiwan Strait required vigilance. Challenges to multilateralism could only be resolved through more multilateralism. Every nation and people must be heard, and the people of Taiwan deserved representation within the IPU. Paraguay would continue to advocate for peace worldwide.

Mr. S. Dorji (Bhutan) said that, in view of global challenges, the General Debate theme was timely and profound. The Bhutanese Constitution guaranteed human dignity, equitable development and a safe and healthy environment, while the national philosophy of gross national happiness prioritized well-being, compassion and equality within national policies. Bhutan had launched the De-suung, a volunteer programme that underpinned the national humanitarian response to fires and floods and provided community services; the Gyalsung national service to prepare youth for civic duty and humanitarian engagement; and the Pelsung to strengthen long-term national security, resilience and preparedness. The Gelephu Mindfulness City harmonized ecology with the economy and spirituality.

As a carbon-neutral nation, Bhutan prioritized forest conservation, watershed management and disaster risk reduction. Free basic education, universal healthcare and support for women, children and rural communities remained central to its humanitarian and development visions. Peace was inseparable from humanitarianism and he therefore invited delegates to attend the Global Peace Prayer Festival in Bhutan. Parliaments were responsible for upholding humanitarian norms through laws, policies and oversight, and parliamentarians should protect the vulnerable, strengthen preparedness and response systems, mobilize resources and foster civic participation. Bhutan stood ready to work with the IPU and international partners to strengthen humanitarian frameworks and advance decisiveness and compassion during crises. Parliaments must ensure that laws uplifted, protected and empowered citizens and fostered trust within institutions. He hoped that the current Assembly would renew commitment to building a world of peace, security and hope for all.

Ms. A.T. Didiza (South Africa) said that upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action during crises entailed protecting the most vulnerable, especially women, children and people with disabilities, and preventing humanitarian crises. The IPU had developed mechanisms in that regard. Noting the fragility of peace and the enduring importance of humanitarian norms, she

welcomed conflict resolution efforts worldwide and urged all parties to respect and uphold peace agreements as a moral imperative. Dialogue was the cornerstone of lasting peace. South Africa's history demonstrated that peace required justice, accountability and compassion. South Africa stood in solidarity with those suffering armed conflict and remained dedicated to upholding humanitarian norms which resulted from war and suffering, and reflected the global community's promise to ensure human dignity. Current IHL violations undermined the rule of law and threatened human dignity. Repeated disregard for the principles of distinction and proportionality had prompted South Africa to collaborate with five States and the ICRC to launch the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to IHL. Noting the concerns of the ICJ and UN bodies about war crimes and collective punishment, she called for unobstructed aid delivery in all armed conflicts and foreign occupations to prevent famine.

The failure to uphold IHL was a legal and moral issue. Therefore, parliaments must (1) ensure national laws aligned with international obligations; (2) exercise robust oversight, demand transparency in military operations, scrutinize defence budgets and ensure IHL training for armed forces; (3) work with civil society and international organizations to remove barriers to aid delivery and protect humanitarian workers; and (4) translate outcome documents and summit declarations into tangible results. Regarding the latter, parliaments must increase women's participation in peacebuilding and climate strategies, legislate for gender-responsive climate policies, support women-led initiatives and ensure that women were central to recovery and resilience efforts. The strength of humanitarian norms lay in their legal foundation and universal application. It was essential to recommit to the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.

Ms. S. Aumeeruddy Cziffra (Mauritius) said that Mauritius was democratic and advocated for peace. After 57 years, the British Government had recognized Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago. International solidarity had been essential in that struggle involving public international law and IHL, and she thanked those countries that had supported Mauritius. Her country therefore supported all humanitarian action worldwide and she urged African countries, particularly those in the Indian Ocean, to provide humanitarian support to Madagascar. She also supported calls for parliaments to translate international treaties into national legislation.

Mr. S.S. Ayaz (Pakistan) said that global challenges were complex and the international security architecture was under unprecedented strain, demanding renewed commitment to humanitarian norms and values. Pakistan remained firmly committed to upholding IHL and was proud of its long-standing tradition of promoting humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. As a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, Pakistan continued to advance civilian protection, thereby strengthening IHL compliance, and advocate for apolitical humanitarian assistance in all armed conflicts. Although the Gaza ceasefire plan offered some hope, the world's silence as an innocent population had endured two years of collective punishment was a stain on its conscience. The humanitarian catastrophe in the occupied Palestinian territories demanded decisive and coordinated international action and he called for hostilities to cease immediately, unhindered humanitarian access, and a just and durable solution based on international law and UN resolutions.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir continued to endure illegal Indian occupation and, for over seven decades, had been denied their right to self-determination which numerous UN Security Council resolutions recognized. The ongoing restrictions, demographic changes and the suppression of civil liberties represented grave and persistent violations of IHL and the Geneva Conventions. Earlier in 2025, Pakistan had responded to a direct and unprovoked act of aggression from India with measured, precise and unwavering resolve, reaffirming its commitment to peace and the defence of its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Indian attempts to undermine the Indus Waters Treaty were equally concerning, threatening regional stability and shared humanitarian resources. Indian-sponsored proxies in Afghanistan continued to carry out acts of terrorism in Pakistan which threatened regional peace and security. Pakistan had responded with targeted and proportionate operations to protect civilians and borders, and continued to exercise restraint while urging neighbours to prevent such terrorism. Pakistan sought only mutual respect and cooperation – not escalation – in the shared fight against terrorism. Pakistan was also particularly vulnerable to climate change, despite producing less than 1% of global emissions. The devastating floods that had struck Pakistan demonstrated that climate change was a current humanitarian crisis requiring global solidarity, fair financing and technology transfers from those responsible to those most affected.

Those conflicts and climate change had become tipping points for humanitarian catastrophes and they impacted ordinary people the most. Parliamentarians were morally and politically responsible for ensuring that humanitarian norms were always upheld, civilians were never targeted or deprived of essentials, and collective action was guided by a sense of justice and empathy and the rule of

international law. True humanitarianism restored dignity, ensured accountability and built resilience. Pakistan had sponsored UN Security Council resolution 2788 (2025), reflecting its beliefs in diplomacy, dialogue and multilateralism. Parliamentarians were key to translating those beliefs into action by ensuring respect for IHL, protecting humanitarian actions from politicization, and integrating the humanitarian development and climate resilience agendas.

Mr. F. Jitoko (Fiji), welcoming peace in Gaza and Palestine, said that the General Debate theme compelled delegates to consider issues that were as devastating as conflicts but attracted less attention, such as natural disasters, forced migration and displacements, climate-induced crises and the erosion of fundamental human rights. Fiji grappled daily with the harsh realities of climate change but had found strength in international solidarity and humanitarian law which prioritized human needs over political interests and safeguarded the most vulnerable.

To uphold humanitarian norms, parliamentarians must align domestic legislation with international human rights standards and IHL. Fiji had ratified the nine core international human rights treaties and upheld its obligations through domestic legislation. Its forward-looking environmental laws underpinned the national climate strategy and upheld international obligations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement. In particular, the Climate Change Act set Fiji on the path to producing zero emissions by 2050. The Government had championed the concept of the Pacific Ocean as the ocean of peace and the Leaders Meeting at the 54th Pacific Islands Forum had endorsed the Blue Pacific Ocean of Peace Declaration. The ban on single-use plastics in Parliament and the introduction of e-parliament initiatives reflected a broader commitment to climate-conscious governance under the Pacific Inter-Parliamentary Association. During crises, it was essential to protect democratic principles and use emergency powers transparently and in line with human rights. Parliament had strengthened legislative capacity, citizen engagement and inclusive representation, and the national budget ensured financial support for the vulnerable, climate-affected communities and aid organizations.

Fiji's humanitarian approach involved strengthening democratic institutions, promoting transparency, ensuring marginalized groups shaped policies and addressing climate-driven displacements. Regarding the latter, stronger legal protections, safe migration pathways and climate justice were necessary. The Fijian Parliament supported the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and would work with the parliaments of fellow SIDS to champion equity and resilience.

Mr. A. Nasri (Algeria) said that the General Debate theme was particularly important given worldwide threats to peace that must be tackled urgently. There was a collective responsibility to uphold IHL to ensure stability, peace and security. However, doing so required political will, respect for human rights and humanitarian support for civilians during crises. Attacks on humanitarian workers, such as in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories, violated IHL. There was a collective duty to support the United Nations and the multilateral system in order to work in a more balanced manner, show more solidarity and ensure that the international system upheld every nation's right to develop in a secure environment.

Algeria had signed the Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel and its foreign policy was based on non-aggression between neighbouring and sovereign States. It had been among the first countries to provide aid to neighbouring countries in need. The establishment of the Algerian International Cooperation Agency for Solidarity and Development, which supported people living under occupation, including Palestinians and Sahrawi refugees, demonstrated Algeria's belief in diplomacy to settle disputes. States must not intervene in the domestic affairs of other States and the right to self-determination of all people must be respected. It was to be hoped that the Assembly would adopt resolutions that would help end extreme violence, cross-border crime and terrorism which were a threat to development, peace and stability in the world. He called for respect for IHL principles in the face of the Israeli authorities' abuses and attacks on Gaza and Arab states, and for the implementation of a two-State solution to establish a Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. A. Simonyan (Armenia) said that 113 countries had sent humanitarian aid following the devastating 1988 earthquake in Armenia, demonstrating that international solidarity and humanitarian action could transcend borders. Armenia had sent peacekeepers to Kosovo, Afghanistan and Lebanon, and would continue to strengthen its humanitarian capabilities and provide protection wherever necessary. In September 2023, some 100,000 displaced Armenians from Karabakh had crossed into Armenia. The Government had responded with compassion and resolve, demonstrating that even small countries could uphold humanitarian principles.

Humanitarian work was inseparable from the pursuit of peace. In that regard, Armenia and Azerbaijan had signed a joint declaration at their meeting in Washington D.C. and negotiated the Agreement on Peace and the Establishment of Inter-State Relations. Armenia would work with the United States of America and mutually determined third parties to create a framework for the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity which stemmed from the Crossroads of Peace plan to connect Armenia with neighbouring countries through infrastructure. However, Armenia sought the release of the detainees that remained in Azerbaijan and to discover the fate of numerous missing persons. The humanitarian crises in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan and Haiti, which particularly impacted civilians, reminded parliamentarians that they must defend human dignity. Human rights were universal and should never be protected selectively. Dialogue and peace must replace discord and war, and empathy must guide parliamentarians' actions.

Ms. C.D. Cudjoe-Ghansah (Ghana) said that armed conflicts, climate disasters, displacements and pandemics continued to erode human dignity and global stability. In 2025, 305 million people globally would require urgent humanitarian assistance, some 190 million of whom would experience life-threatening needs, which was a sobering call to action. The principles underpinning humanitarian norms – humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence – must be safeguarded and strengthened in the light of political interference in aid deliveries, attacks on humanitarian workers, the rise of non-State armed actors, donor fatigue and the escalating impacts of climate change. No nation was immune to disasters and civilians, particularly in Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan and Burkina Faso, paid the highest price. In Ghana, the 2023 Akosombo Dam spillage had displaced over 40,000 people. Upholding humanitarian norms demanded political will, coordination and sustainable investment in resilience. It was essential to strengthen IHL compliance, promote accountability for IHL violations and scale up crisis prevention measures. Parliaments played a unique role in that regard. In Ghana, Parliament ratified international conventions, monitored disaster responses, allocated emergency funds and advocated for affected communities nationally and globally. Ghana remained committed to multilateralism and parliamentarians must continue to advocate for principled humanitarian action, protect the vulnerable, and ensure timely and fair responses.

Mr. N.P. Dahal (Nepal) said that the impacts of man-made and natural disasters, armed conflicts and climate change were increasing, while instability and corruption had intensified the crisis in governance and in moral and legal norms. The loss of Nepalis who could have been saved with timely assistance in conflict zones, such as in the Middle East, had deeply shaken Nepal. In such situations, parliaments must protect and promote humanitarian values, and the international community must strongly support emergency humanitarian actions. The national IHL committee had drafted a proposal for the Geneva Conventions implementation bill. Although Nepal was not yet a party to the ICC, its penal code aligned with the Rome Statute by addressing crimes against humanity and ensuring accountability in accordance with international standards. The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions had accredited the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal with "A" status and the Federal Parliament had launched a system to promote technology-based civil rights.

Nepal had learned from natural disasters, including the 2015 earthquake and climate-related floods and landslides, and prioritized access to humanitarian assistance for marginalized communities, such as women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities. It ensured disaster preparedness, early-warning systems and community-based rescue and reconstruction services, and had established a contingency and catastrophe financing mechanism and a disaster resilience policy. However, global fraternity and goodwill faced multiple threats. Parliamentary diplomacy could mitigate cybercrime, autonomous weapons and artificial intelligence (AI) misuse but it was imperative to monitor compliance with humanitarian laws, learn from best practices and strengthen international solidarity through the IPU. Nepal had served in UN peacekeeping missions, understood the importance of negotiations in securing peace in armed conflicts, and had amended and implemented the national transitional justice law.

The Federal Parliament would be key to ensuring good governance, social justice and inclusive democracy following the recent anti-corruption movement. He called for the international community's support in holding elections to the House of Representatives in March 2026 and in rebuilding infrastructure, and paid tribute to those who had lost their lives during the protests. He called on the IPU to provide diplomatic, social and economic support to tackle climate change which was jeopardizing the Himalayan ecosystem despite Nepal's negligible contribution to global warming. Nepal stood with the IPU and would support efforts to protect humanitarian law through coordinated legislative works, strengthen parliamentary diplomacy and promote proper AI use.

Mr. O.U. Ngwu (Nigeria) said that the world was in crisis, and the 310 million people in need looked to lawmakers for help. Nigeria was rising to challenges, such as conflict, floods and displacement, and was committed to developing laws that protected the most vulnerable and to upholding humanitarian principles. It understood that the true measures of national strength were compassion and protection for the weakest. The National Assembly had legislated to protect women, children, the oppressed and people with disabilities, and the Constitution enshrined humanitarian principles. Nigeria had also established the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction and the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons to provide hope and timely assistance during disasters. It had stood with partners such as ECOWAS, the Red Crescent, the WFP and the United Nations, and spread the message that climate change drove displacement, corruption deepened suffering, and that only collective courage could provide solutions. Those who served, volunteered and risked their lives to save others were silent heroes. It was essential to end wars which devastated families and had become a global absurdity. Parliaments must ensure people-centred policies and a world that favoured mercy over war.

Mr. J. Ntakirutimana (East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)) said that, in the light of increased humanitarian needs and a profound geopolitical crisis, parliaments must reaffirm their commitment to IHL, safeguard humanitarian action and mobilize parliaments as stewards during crises. Humanitarian principles were essential to protecting dignity when people were most vulnerable.

The conflict in the Middle East highlighted the urgent need to protect civilians and ensure humanitarian access in war zones. With efforts underway to broker peace, parliamentarians must translate IHL into robust domestic legislation, ensure accountability, and guarantee safe and transparent aid deliveries and essential services to those most affected, especially women and children. Parliaments must protect humanitarian efforts during crises by ensuring policies focused on health, food security, education, water, sanitation and climate resilience, regardless of budgets or security concerns. They should protect aid routes, ensure safe access for aid workers, prevent interference in relief work, use diplomacy, and bring together civil society, faith groups, businesses, academics and youth to work on humanitarian responses. A humanitarian forum would help to coordinate planning, protection and funding alongside youth- and women-led initiatives. Humanitarian aid should reach those who suffered the most during crises – women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, religious minorities and political opponents – and should not be politicized. National and regional laws should prioritize those groups, ensure fair aid distribution and prevent aid misuse. Parliamentarians must receive training on IHL, humanitarian diplomacy, budget oversight and crisis responses. Parliaments should draft regional statements and work with the United Nations and other global partners to uphold humanitarian standards and gain support. All humanitarian actions and laws should integrate gender analysis and protection measures.

The EALA remained committed to IHL and principled humanitarian action, and stood ready to lead a regional, inclusive and gender-sensitive approach to crisis response.

Mr. S.M. Ould Errachid (Morocco) said that the General Debate theme reflected the IPU commitment to issues that mattered to humanity, and the need for institutions to preserve their own value. The world was experiencing profound crises, leaving millions – particularly women and children – in need and causing IHL violations. Palestinians were currently experiencing blatant international law violations that prevented them from living dignified lives. Morocco remained committed to peace, had repeatedly called for an immediate ceasefire, rejected the displacement of Palestinians, and called for immediate access to humanitarian aid and medical assistance. Morocco had therefore welcomed the United States President's announcement of a ceasefire and appreciated mediators' efforts to agree a comprehensive and permanent peace plan.

Parliaments and governments were collectively responsible for upholding humanitarian norms, including IHL. Morocco had adopted a comprehensive and practical approach and various initiatives, and was committed to international peace and security. It had established a centre for peace studies and had participated in UN peacekeeping missions. Although the General Debate theme reflected parliamentarians' duty to protect people during crises, the IPU could become a forum for misguided claims delivered under the guise of helping refugees and the most vulnerable. In the Tindouf refugee camps, where inhabitants had been deprived of their most basic rights for decades, colonialism was disguised as humanity. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) could not conduct a census and inhabitants could not access aid which was a blatant violation of humanitarian norms and laws. In contrast, Morocco preserved the dignity of Western Saharans by ensuring that they fully enjoyed their rights and participated in their own governance through a democratic process. The Western Sahara was a place of freedom and development and it exemplified Moroccan initiatives

to reach a political solution with international support. Morocco remained committed to working with the IPU and international and regional partners to achieve a more equitable and fair future in which people lived in dignity and solidarity.

Mr. A. Farrugia (Malta) said that parliamentarians had gathered to shoulder their responsibilities to their people, the principles of humanity and history. Human suffering was deepening worldwide and the most basic rules of humanity were often disregarded. Humanitarian norms were the most fundamental expression of civilization. Although IHL and human rights law upheld humanity, they were fragile and required proper enforcement. Parliaments therefore had a solemn duty to fulfil international obligations by legislating, allocating resources for humanitarian action and holding governments accountable. They reminded the world that no ideology, calculation or interest justified abandoning human dignity. As Chair of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, he had assisted the former Deputy Speaker of Afghanistan, Mr. A. Paiman, who had sought refuge in Pakistan following the Taliban takeover and now faced deportation. It was to be hoped that the case would be resolved swiftly. Every life mattered and therefore the law must be enforced in a manner that was fair, dignified and humane.

To address the immense humanitarian challenges outlined in the General Debate concept note, words must lead to action and strategies. The IPU could establish a parliamentary task force for the protection of humanitarian workers in conflict zones that would design strategies, monitor their implementation and harness collective expertise. Parliaments must legislate to incorporate international obligations into national law, ensure governmental oversight and allocate budgets to safeguard humanitarian action even in times of austerity. The IPU must assume its convening role and work with the ICRC, the United Nations and regional parliamentary assemblies to uphold humanitarian norms and safeguard humanitarian action. He thanked the ICRC for its intervention to secure the release of hostages held by Hamas. Those partnerships connected law, coordination and political will, and the IPU must give that connection strength and continuity. Protecting human life in conflicts was the most basic act of justice: to defend the weakest was to defend the essence of humanity.

Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka (Poland), Vice-President of the IPU, took the Chair.

FIRST SPEAKERS FROM DELEGATIONS

Mr. P. Bakovic (Slovenia) said that, given the rise in modern armed conflicts, international law and IHL were crucial to safeguarding human dignity and preventing further civilian suffering. Recently, Slovenian humanitarian assistance had increased fivefold. Following reports of humanitarian violations in Gaza, Slovenia had banned the import, export and transit of weapons linked to Israel in its territory and had sanctioned two Israeli ministers, signalling that it defended humanitarian law and that civilian protection was central to its decisions. It had strongly advocated for the safety of humanitarian workers and their unobstructed access to populations in need, and had signed a memorandum of understanding with the ICRC guaranteeing at least five million euros to support ICRC work on IHL until 2030. Through the Global Alliance to Spare Water from Armed Conflicts and the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to IHL, Slovenia shared its experiences and best practices and helped foster a global culture of respect for humanitarian law.

It was particularly important to remain committed to humanitarian principles at a time of increasing geopolitical tensions and fragmented diplomacy. The UN Humanitarian Reset initiative was therefore welcome and represented a vital step towards creating a more inclusive, accountable and effective humanitarian system. Parliamentarians were responsible for scrutinizing government decisions, ensuring compliance with international obligations and advocating for policies grounded in human rights and humanitarian principles. They must actively oversee and shape policies on humanitarian aid and IHL to ensure that aid met the needs of those most affected and did not serve political interests. Respect for humanitarian law and aid delivery was a moral imperative and underpinned the world's shared humanity. It was necessary to act collectively in a spirit of solidarity, responsibility and humanity to maintain trust in the multilateral system.

Mr. R. Parmessar (Suriname) said that Suriname was built on diversity, tolerance and mutual respect. Its people shaped a nation in which cultural diversity was a cherished strength. It upheld humanitarian values in its way of life and the national interreligious council comprised representatives of all major faiths to promote dialogue and cooperation between Government and civil society. The election of its first female president reaffirmed that equality and inclusion were the cornerstones of humanitarian governance. Empowering women, protecting minorities and giving a voice to the

marginalized strengthened peace and resilience. To mark 50 years of independence, Suriname would hold a national heritage month in August 2026 demonstrating what humanitarian coexistence could look like. It expected to start oil and gas production in 2028, through which it hoped to build strong and transparent institutions while preserving its carbon-negative status through its 93% forest cover.

Parliaments must ensure that humanitarian assistance remained impartial and accessible, that the rule of law prevailed in emergencies and that social protection systems reached those most in need. Legislation, budgetary oversight and public dialogue could help implement humanitarian principles into everyday life. Suriname stood ready to work with all IPU Member Parliaments to strengthen humanitarian action, promote dialogue and safeguard human dignity everywhere.

Ms. S. Codina (Andorra) said that the 120 ongoing armed conflicts, more than 300 million people requiring aid and almost 122 million displaced people worldwide were a moral failure for parliamentarians and global society. The law of the strongest was undermining the principles of international law and respect for IHL, including the Geneva Conventions. Hospitals, medical staff and humanitarian corridors were no longer safe, and the targeting of emergency personnel demonstrated a loss of humanity. Increased nationalism had undermined trust in global institutions, eroded political will and cut humanitarian aid. Any response should be multisectoral and responsive, and should address gender-based violence, displacements and climate challenges to help the most vulnerable. As citizens' representatives, parliamentarians must take the initiative and change the global situation. Andorra had demonstrated that ethical beliefs superseded geographical size by strengthening its commitment to IHL. First, it had strengthened its legislative framework to tackle humanitarian crises. The adoption of a draft law to offer temporary protection on humanitarian grounds sent a clear message that showing solidarity was an inherent duty within democracies. Second, Andorra had contributed to international cooperation and development programmes, donating over 360,000 euros in 2025 to civic organizations for projects focusing on education, healthcare, gender equality, the protection of the vulnerable and peace. Third, Andorra continued to work with and fund international organizations to strengthen international cooperation, sustainable development and peace. Andorra's commitment to IHL was firm, and parliaments must legislate to protect IHL and oversee governments. No country could overcome the global crisis alone; parliamentarians should therefore collaborate to preserve humanitarian funding and ensure that short-term security concerns did not compromise IHL commitments.

Mr. Tian Xuejun (China), noting the consensus at the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament regarding the importance of multilateralism, said that armed conflicts occurred frequently, and climate change and natural disasters exacerbated the plight of developing countries. A minority of countries were politicizing humanitarian issues, thereby worsening humanitarian situations. The civilian casualties and unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza were particularly concerning. Legislatures should uphold the spirit of international humanitarianism, help those experiencing crises and collaborate to tackle global humanitarian issues.

China proposed the Global Governance Initiative to advocate for sovereignty, equality, the rule of law, multilateralism, and a people-centred and action-oriented approach to building a more just and equitable global governance system. China stood ready to work with the international community to reform the governance of global humanitarian issues, and enhance the current international system to improve its humanitarian response. All countries should respect and fulfil their IHL obligations, ensure universal and uniform IHL application, and reject double standards and selective IHL application. Humanitarian assistance should be provided according to the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, and humanitarian issues should not be politicized. Countries should increase development investments and the international community should intensify work towards the 2030 Agenda to address poverty and underdevelopment, both of which contributed to humanitarian crises. Developed countries should take greater responsibility for providing timely support to developing countries. China actively supported, participated in and contributed to international humanitarian efforts. It addressed international and regional issues, facilitated peace talks, promoted political settlements, provided timely assistance following natural disasters, and supported the work of the United Nations and international humanitarian agencies. It would continue promoting dialogue, bridging differences and promoting cooperation to advance peace, development and sustainability. The National People's Congress stood ready to cooperate with parliaments worldwide to address global humanitarian challenges.

He objected to Mr. Latorre's countering of the One China principle. Taiwan was an inseparable sovereign territory of China and the Chinese Government was the only legislative government in China. Moreover, the principle was a basic norm within the international community.

Mr. H.R.H. Babaei (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, in view of the multifaceted crisis facing the world, there was a moral and collective responsibility to uphold humanitarian principles. Global powers must not hold that responsibility hostage. Almost 80 years after the end of the Second World War and the signing of the Charter of the United Nations and the Geneva Conventions, the world had repeated past mistakes with catastrophic consequences. Human rights violations, a crime against humanity and a genocide continued in Gaza, the West Bank and occupied Palestine with certain Western powers' support while international institutions remained silent. If the international community could not ensure accountability, the consequences would spread across borders. Global oppression and aggression were such that the United States President's opportunistic, bullying and arrogant behaviour regarding the recent Gaza ceasefire was viewed positively. The ceasefire represented a shameful confession for the occupying regime and good news for the perseverant and oppressed people of Gaza. The Islamic Republic of Iran supported any initiative to end the war, genocide and occupation; expel the occupying forces; restore Palestinians' fundamental rights including the right to self-determination; and establish an independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds as its capital. Regional States would no longer be deceived by the Zionist regime and the United States of America, and history would judge any complicity in that deceit harshly.

Parliamentarians could either defend humanitarian principles and international law or witness the collapse of the global legal system. It was not possible to promote human rights in one part of the world and ignore human rights abuses elsewhere. The latter amounted to complicity with those abuses. By ending such hypocrisy and freeing international institutions from oppressive powers' interests, lasting peace and security could be ensured. The world needed to restore trust and multilateralism, and ensure justice and accountability. The Zionist regime, with the support of the United States of America and some European countries, relentlessly and openly committed crimes that went against the ideals of the IPU. The Islamic Republic of Iran and its citizens had grown resilient following the economic sanctions that the United States of America had imposed on them.

Mr. C.-I. Corendea (Romania) said that the increasing number of people requiring assistance and the unprecedented violations of IHL and human rights were concerning, and parliamentarians should act with greater urgency and unity. Humanitarian action was an obligation under international law and a moral imperative. Romania was a party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols and the 1954 Hague Convention, and had recently joined the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to IHL, demonstrating its commitment to multilateralism and to defending IHL. It had also signed the Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel.

Given the importance of ensuring predictable and diversified funding for humanitarian action in crises, Romania had allocated millions of euros to humanitarian aid in 2024. It also possessed internationally recognized experience in disaster risk reduction and emergency management through its department of emergency situations and participation in UN and European Union (EU) peacekeeping missions. Parliament had ratified two agreements on the privileges, immunities and legal status of the ICRC and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) following the opening of the IFRC country office in Bucharest. To promote long-term resilience, Romania linked humanitarian aid to development and strengthened cooperation between national and local emergency management actors. It had signed cooperation protocols with institutions across the world. Romania had established a national IHL day and, following the publication of its voluntary report on domestic IHL implementation, was preparing a second report. During crises, parliaments must protect humanitarian principles, ensuring the needs of the most vulnerable were met while safeguarding humanitarian funding. They must collaborate to ensure that humanity shaped decisions. Multilateral and interparliamentary cooperation were essential to upholding humanitarian norms and principled actions.

Ms. B. Kolm (Austria) said that the suffering of over 300 million people worldwide requiring humanitarian assistance was mostly man-made, and the number and complexity of crises had increased dramatically. They impacted civilians the most, particularly in Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan. Meanwhile, IHL principles, which there was a legal and moral obligation to uphold, were being eroded. Austria considered humanitarian action a shared responsibility and stood in solidarity with the international community. Solidarity and coordinated national action were key to ensuring stability, resilience and human dignity. While the division of labour fostered economic growth, stability and wealth, the winners of the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2025 – Mokyr, Aghion and Howitt – claimed that growth must be defended and could only be achieved through collaboration. Their emphasis on an open intellectual culture and institutional flexibility supported competitive, dynamic and discovery-driven institutional ecosystems. Austria remained

committed to multilateralism, peacebuilding and humanitarian cooperation and worked closely with international organizations, including the United Nations and the ICRC. Austria's policy of permanent neutrality ensured active, principled and unbiased engagement; fostered dialogue; and enabled it to call out humanitarian law violations impartially. Humanitarian action was not charity; rather, it upheld justice, defended common humanity and preserved the global moral compass. Only cooperation could ensure that peace, dignity and compassion remained stronger than the forces seeking division.

Ms. R. Kirova (Bulgaria) said that the global humanitarian sector was under enormous strain. Armed conflicts caused immense human suffering and displaced populations, crises were increasingly difficult to resolve, political support and funding for humanitarian activities were decreasing, and political tension, crime and illegal migration were on the rise. It was therefore crucial to implement humanitarian norms to preserve human life and social stability. The United Nations had provided hope and a platform for dialogue and peace since its establishment. Effective law enforcement was necessary to deliver humanitarian aid and coordinate peacebuilding efforts.

Bulgaria was a party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. The first comprehensive implementation review had revealed that national legislation and measures aligned with the Conventions. In addition, Bulgaria implemented all international humanitarian standards and had ratified most international humanitarian instruments. The ongoing war in Ukraine and the crisis in the Middle East demonstrated that humanitarian norms must never be taken for granted. Bulgaria had welcomed over 160,000 Ukrainian citizens and the Government worked closely with local communities, NGOs and international partners to provide humanitarian aid domestically and internationally. Bulgaria actively contributed to EU and UN humanitarian initiatives, supported civil protection missions and shared its expertise in disaster response and refugee integration. Solidarity was a responsibility rather than a matter of generosity.

Ms. M. Byrne (Ireland) said that Ireland was fully committed to applying and developing IHL, as demonstrated during its term as an elected member of the UN Security Council during which it had consistently called for IHL compliance and accountability for IHL violations. It was essential to prioritize the prevention of food crises which were driven by conflict, instability and climate change. Irish Aid worked with development and humanitarian partners while Irish embassy teams implemented food, agriculture and nutrition programmes and partnerships to tackle food crises and chronic hunger. Although the world produced enough food, one in eight people did not have enough to live healthy lives which trapped them in lifelong poverty spirals and reduced resistance to diseases. Ireland had increased support for nutrition interventions across development and emergency responses, focusing particularly on preventing and treating undernutrition among children, and had pledged an additional two million euros to the WFP to deliver food to Gaza. Although the ceasefire and aid deliveries were welcome, the events that had occurred were a stain on humanity. Denying civilians food and risking famine should not be war tactics and must stop. Other nations must collaborate to reduce food insecurity globally, end needless suffering and support the WFP as the best-placed organization to deliver food to Gaza.

Ms. G. Ngendanganya (Burundi) said that Burundi had recently experienced armed conflict, natural disasters, internal and external population displacements, the arrival of Congolese refugees and the impacts of climate change. It was working with national and international actors to protect vulnerable populations, guarantee impartial aid access and provide crisis support, and had worked with the WFP and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) following recent floods. Meanwhile, UNHCR supported the repatriation and reintegration of Burundians, and the World Health Organization (WHO) and Doctors Without Borders had supported vaccination campaigns. Burundi participated in regional crisis management initiatives; supported the humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence; and engaged in peacekeeping missions, including in Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Parliament must oversee governmental action, including at the local level, and would require governmental reports on humanitarian crisis management and hold hearings with ministers. It ensured the appropriate use of emergency funds and international aid, had developed adapted legislation, and had voted on budgets for humanitarian action, civilian protection and the Burundi Red Cross. It would oversee the implementation of humanitarian budgets and international commitments, raise awareness among civilians and international partners, and work with humanitarian actors.

Mr. Y. Mollaberdivev (Turkmenistan) said that Turkmenistan's declaration of 2025 as the international year of peace and trust demonstrated that the international community supported its policy of peace and humanitarianism and its initiatives to strengthen international cooperation to

achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Turkmenistan contributed to upholding humanitarian norms and promoting humanitarian action in times of crisis. The Constitution held that Turkmenistan's most valuable asset was its citizens; Turkmenistan therefore protected their rights, freedoms and interests through legislation and international standards. The country's policy of permanent neutrality – grounded in the principles of humanity, solidarity and respect for human rights – remained key to its humanitarian policy. It had incorporated those principles into national legislation on international humanitarian assistance in extraordinary circumstances, on the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan, and national action plans on human rights, child protection and gender equality. Turkmenistan had been the first country in the region to legislate on refugees and accede to the 1951 Refugee Convention and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. The 2019–2024 national action plan to end statelessness had been implemented and, alongside UNHCR and other international organizations, the Government had protected refugees' and stateless persons' rights. Turkmenistan had granted citizenship to some 32,000 stateless residents and residence permits to over 5,000 foreign nationals and stateless persons. It was the first and only Central Asian country to have been elected a permanent member of the UNHCR executive committee and the Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov Charitable Foundation for Assistance to Children in Need of Guardianship cooperated with UNICEF, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and other international organizations.

Mr. G. Volski (Georgia) said that, given the complex global security landscape and increased humanitarian needs, it was vital to promote peace and international security and to provide unified responses and collective measures. Following the wars in the 1990s and 2008, Georgia had one of the highest rates of internally displaced people per capita globally. The Government promoted human rights and fundamental freedoms for all citizens, including those in occupied regions, regardless of ethnicity. It had launched a peace initiative to promote engagement, trust and socioeconomic opportunities for conflict-affected populations, and some 1,500 people from occupied territories received free healthcare annually. Internally displaced people could access housing and financial assistance for temporary housing, small business grants, and requalification and training programmes. The ICRC's neutral implementation of the programme for missing persons could serve as an example for elsewhere. Georgia had opened Ukrainian-language sections in schools to welcome over 1,600 Ukrainian students and continued to assist some 28,000 Ukrainians. Moreover, it had sustained economic growth. However, those achievements would be lost if major powers did not reorient the global agenda towards peace and cooperation.

Mr. T. Utikere (New Zealand) said that New Zealand had a history of providing humanitarian support domestically and internationally, particularly over the previous five years. Following Cyclone Harold, the Royal New Zealand Air Force had surveyed damage, assisted in medical evacuations and transported humanitarian supplies to Vanuatu and other countries. Following the submarine volcanic eruption north of Tongatapu, New Zealand had provided humanitarian funding and deployed aircraft to survey damage and deliver aid to Tonga. A Royal New Zealand Navy ship had sailed to Nuku'alofa to provide potable water and transport a team of hydrographers and divers to survey shipping lanes and infrastructure. Following the magnitude 7.3 earthquake that had struck Vanuatu in 2024, the New Zealand Defence Force had provided aid, equipment and disaster relief staff. Communities in New Zealand had increasingly provided humanitarian assistance, with each contribution impacting recipients. Such actions demonstrated that one did not have to look far to find individuals and organizations that were willing and able to provide aid. He urged other parts of the world to consider where they could have a humanitarian impact.

Ms. A. Lakrafi (Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF)) said that the world was currently one of pain and hope. Although not the quickest or most spectacular solutions, dialogue and diplomacy would ensure stability and Geneva provided the ideal setting to remind the world that human dignity was a universal right. Crises in Haiti, between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, and in Gaza, Sudan, Lebanon, the Sahel and elsewhere were claiming civilian lives. There could be no peace without justice, and no justice without respect for human rights.

The APF supported all peace initiatives and welcomed efforts made under the auspices of Egypt, Qatar, Türkiye and the United States of America towards a sustainable ceasefire. The peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan paved the way for a sustainable normalization in relations and proved that dialogue was possible despite years of conflict. Peace was built slowly, through trust and institutions. The aforementioned crises demonstrated that there could be no stability without legitimate democracies, and no peace without respect for human rights. The APF endeavoured to support official political processes, strengthen weakened parliaments and promote

public policies founded on dignity, justice and solidarity, and stood ready to support Madagascar if requested to do so. Respect for humanitarian norms would protect humanity and demonstrate that upholding humanitarian law was a duty in war. By protecting humanitarian action, parliamentarians could honour their mandate to protect lives everywhere.

Ms. D. Bühler-Nigsch (Liechtenstein) said that parliamentarians had gathered to defend humanitarian norms and protect dignity as both came under increasing threat. As a small non-militarized nation, Liechtenstein understood the importance of international law for peace and security. It firmly upheld the central role of the United Nations in safeguarding the multilateral order. However, as the wars in Ukraine, Sudan and Gaza continued, confidence in the United Nations must be restored and parliaments must mobilize political will and demand leadership. Daily violations of the Geneva Conventions must never be normalized. Accountability was therefore essential, and the ICJ and ICC must be protected from political interference and sanctions.

The world also faced new challenges, including the use of AI in warfare which must be subject to international rules, and increasing nationalism and geopolitical rivalries which weakened the collective response to suffering and decreased humanitarian budgets. In 2024, Liechtenstein had increased its official development assistance by almost 10% to support projects in crisis regions, and it contributed over one million Swiss francs annually to the ICRC. Crisis responses must prioritize the needs of women and girls. Humanitarian policy must connect the rule of law, development, climate action and gender equality. Liechtenstein firmly supported dialogue and peaceful solutions, and had approved multi-year reconstruction support for Ukraine focusing on humanitarian demining, education and the rule of law. Parliaments worldwide must defend the non-negotiable principles of humanity, the rule of law and solidarity through accountability, leadership and cooperation, and ensure that humanity remained the strongest force in global politics.

Ms. M.M. Ortiz Diloné (Dominican Republic) said that her country remained committed to multilateral efforts to respect and apply IHL. In the global context of crises and conflicts, nations must continue defending multilateralism, peace and human dignity. Parliaments must translate IHL and humanitarian norms – a noble pillar of the international order – into laws, policies and budgets. They could review and harmonize legislation to ensure that serious violations were sanctioned according to international standards, and establish a parliamentary IHL and human rights convention. They could promote parliamentary training and awareness alongside the ICRC and the United Nations to strengthen national humanitarian responses. They must ratify international instruments and allocate resources to strengthen participation in international forums and humanitarian missions. Her country remained committed to IHL and would continue to ensure dialogue, solidarity and respect for international law.

A delegate from Rwanda, speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo was internal and the Congolese Government was responsible for protecting civilians. The Democratic Republic of the Congo provided a safe haven to the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, a genocidal armed group that posed an ongoing existential threat to Rwanda. The principle of territorial integrity was paramount and mattered to both countries. Rwanda remained committed to the ongoing peace processes, including the Washington peace deal signed in June 2025.

A delegate from India, speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that Jammu and Kashmir had joined India legally and irrevocably and Pakistan had no right to comment on internal Indian matters. Pakistan illegally and forcibly occupied Indian territories, which it should vacate, and sought to sabotage peace and development and destabilize the region through cross-border terrorism. Since the signing of the Indus Waters Treaty, there had been technological advancements, demographic changes, climate change, a drive for clean energy and the persistent threat of cross-border terrorism. The Treaty preamble stated that it had been concluded in a spirit of goodwill and friendship but unrelenting cross-border Pakistani terrorism interfered with India's ability to use the Treaty as per its provisions.

A delegate from Algeria, speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that Morocco had colonized a whole territory, despite the Special Political and Decolonization Committee of the UN General Assembly. Moroccan claims about Algeria, which had hosted Sahrawi refugees for more than 50 years, were unjustified and unacceptable. Morocco hampered humanitarian agencies' efforts to deliver aid and, given its responsibility for the tragedy, had no political or legal authority to discuss the Sahrawi. International organizations and NGOs could access the refugee camps and provide aid.

A delegate from Morocco, speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Sahara was and would remain Moroccan. Over the previous 50 years, Algeria had sought to destabilize his country by training terrorist groups in Tindouf, despite Moroccan efforts to secure peace and reach a solution with Algeria. Morocco had held democratic elections among Saharans, and the Sahrawis lived in their territory. Morocco had chosen international legality and had given the Sahrawis the right to self-determination. That was the solution to the conflict which democratic forces supported.

Mr. C. Lohr (Switzerland), welcoming delegates to International Geneva, said that many people were enduring the impacts of armed conflicts, climate change and disasters which continued to harm the most vulnerable, particularly women, children and displaced people. Parliamentarians must protect humanitarian values and support those providing aid. Switzerland strongly believed in multilateralism. More could be done to protect human rights and dignity. He hoped that the IPU Assembly would help share ideas, build partnerships and renew commitment to international law, humanitarian action, peace, cooperation and shared IPU values. He invited all delegates to a Reception offered by the Swiss authorities.

The sitting rose at 18:40.

Sitting of Tuesday, 21 October 2025 (Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 09:00 with Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka (Poland), Vice-President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda (continued)

General Debate on the theme *Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis* (A/151/3-Inf.1)

PRESIDING OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENT (continued)

Mr. J.C. Mabuza (Eswatini) said that the theme of upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis compelled the observation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To leave no one behind required humanitarian and development actors to work together to address the root causes of crises, guided by a human rights-based approach. The specific needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls in crises, including protection from exploitation and violence, should be taken into account in humanitarian assessment and protection.

In the context of the 80th anniversary of the detonation of nuclear weapons in Nagasaki and Hiroshima, the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons was a humanitarian imperative. His country had piloted a nuclear and radiation safety bill in that regard. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) remained relevant through its humanitarian mission to provide assistance and protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and international violence.

In Eswatini, a collaborative stakeholder approach was taken to humanitarian action in times of crisis. A national disaster enhancement unit was responsible for providing food, water, shelter and medical care, and support was provided based on need, regardless of ethnic origin, gender or ideology. Asylum-seekers and refugees were encouraged to integrate, and they lived peacefully alongside the host community. Collective efforts were needed at the local, national and global level to uphold humanitarian norms and support humanitarian action.

Ms. J.N. Kumba (South Sudan) noted that the IPU remained one of the few enduring forums for multilateral dialogue and collective reflection. Multilateralism was indispensable to address complex global challenges and South Sudan valued its membership of the IPU and other multilateral mechanisms. The consequences of humanitarian crises were felt most acutely in vulnerable States like her country, which had experienced years of conflict; every humanitarian emergency threatened to reverse gains, deepen inequalities and erode public trust.

South Sudan hosted approximately 650,000 refugees – the majority of them from Sudan – and had opened its borders to those in need of protection and ensured free movement for humanitarian workers in compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL). The protection of human life and dignity must remain at the centre of governance and international cooperation. Her Government had strengthened its legislative and oversight function to ensure that international law was reflected in the national legal framework and relevant laws and policies were under review. Laws governing the operation of humanitarian organizations had been amended; other efforts included the establishment of a parliamentary alliance for food security and nutrition, and a parliamentary caucus on water, sanitation and hygiene. Efforts to implement the peace agreement were on track.

Mr. J.F.N. Mudenda (Zimbabwe), in a context of violations with impunity of the principles of distinction, proportionality and humanity, called on parliaments to uphold humanitarian norms through parliamentary diplomacy and dialogue. The African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa represented progressive leadership in humanitarian protection on the continent, while the Southern African Development Community (SADC) protocol and regional development plan emphasized disaster preparedness, mutual assistance and coordinated humanitarian responses.

Despite developments towards peace in the Middle East, including the ceasefire agreement, the situation remained dire, particularly given the inconsistent and selective application of humanitarian norms and flagrant violation of IHL. The international response had been paralysed by geopolitical and

economic considerations, with United Nations (UN) resolutions ignored and its agencies attacked. Some nations were complicit through their silence and inactivity. The conflict in Eastern Europe should cease and it was to be hoped that the efforts of President Trump of the United States of America would stop that war. Utmost respect for humanitarian norms was also needed in Africa's hot spots, particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan and Madagascar. The IPU must advocate determined action for humanitarian norms and the United Nations must champion their application in all conflict zones.

Mr. R.R. Rahmani (Afghanistan) said that he welcomed humanitarian assistance following earthquakes in his country's eastern provinces, and emphasized the need for continued support. The sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan had been threatened in the past six months by Pakistani airstrikes and the Israeli regime's aggression in other countries, which he strongly condemned. The deportation of Afghan refugees from neighbouring countries had caused a migration crisis and he called on the IPU Member Parliaments to promote humanitarian cooperation and diplomatic engagement to ensure the voluntary, dignified and safe return of Afghan refugees.

The restrictions on women and girls – half of society – in Afghanistan contradicted fundamental human rights and the justice-based teachings of Islam, and jeopardized the society's future. Economic crisis and widespread poverty remained grave challenges since the rise of the Taliban regime. Sustainable peace could only be achieved through the participation in decision-making of all ethnic groups, social classes and political and civil actors, without discrimination. National dialogue and a legitimate political framework were needed to hold transparent and inclusive elections. He urged the international community to demonstrate its support for the people of Afghanistan through words and action.

FIRST SPEAKERS FROM DELEGATIONS (continued)

Mr. C. Cajado Sampaio (Brazil) noted that a failure to observe humanitarian law and abuses of humanitarian operations were weakening the multilateral system, while financial deficits in the global humanitarian sphere would limit the presence of the ICRC in territories where the observance of humanitarian law required a neutral, compassionate presence. Neutrality and nationality must be preserved; the international order had been founded on law and diplomacy – not strength – to serve peace and development.

Brazil had taken on a leadership role in initiatives relating to international monetary law and the commitments made at the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. A bilateral dialogue with the United States of America on humanitarian issues, migration and refugees had been launched in April 2024, and the integration policies of Brazil for displaced populations had been recognized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Constitution of Brazil required the National Congress to ratify international treaties, therefore guaranteeing the observance of humanitarian law. The Brazilian National Congress had introduced responsible budgeting for social resilience, health and education, and vulnerable groups, such as women, victims of violence and Indigenous populations, were recognized in law. The humanitarian and climate agendas required an integrated approach.

Ms. M. Valente (Angola), in a context of armed conflicts around the globe and millions of displaced persons, called for collective action for the human lives behind the figures. The 1949 Geneva Conventions were the moral consciousness of humanity in war, which was threatened by the decline of multilateralism, the reappearance of nationalism and the erosion of trust in international institutions. The defence of humanitarian norms was an ethical and political imperative. Her country's experience of war and reconstruction meant that it understood the value of peace, cooperation and solidarity, and remained committed to IHL and cooperation, and the strengthening of humanitarian action. The ICRC Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law and the UN campaign for humanitarian disarmament and action against landmines were therefore welcome.

Multilateralism was essential to promote mediation and cooperation among peoples. Parliaments should harmonize national legislation with IHL and guarantee transparent financing for humanitarian aid and promote education for peace. Parliamentary credibility was a fundamental asset of multilateral diplomacy; parliaments should lead by example and reject hate speech in favour of dialogue and reconciliation. Dialogue, cooperation and solidarity among nations would protect humanitarian norms, alleviate suffering and build a future of peace and dignity for all.

Ms. S. Atallahjan (Canada) emphasized that humanitarian action and IHL were essential in the context of the highest number of armed conflicts since the end of the Cold War and low levels of resources for peace and conflict prevention. Underfunding of protection had left people at greater risk of violence, including exploitation and gender-based violence. Combating gender-based violence was part of her Government's Feminist International Assistance Policy and gender equality was integrated in most of Canada's bilateral development assistance.

Parliamentarians could raise the importance of humanitarian action at parliamentary sittings by asking questions to ensure evidence-based decisions on foreign assistance, and through consideration at parliamentary committees. As donor countries grappled with economic concerns, support for foreign assistance was dwindling; parliamentarians could share the value of foreign assistance during humanitarian crises with their constituents. Dialogue between parliamentarians was essential to learn about how to promote humanitarian action and offer the support needed. Action was needed to end wars, prepare for the future of climate change and help those in crisis. She encouraged all delegates to engage in meaningful discussion with colleagues.

Mr. E. Chia (Singapore) reaffirmed the commitment of Singapore to upholding and advancing IHL, which had guided its foreign policy since independence. His country had acceded to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and contributed actively to humanitarian causes through voluntary contributions, multilateral frameworks, conferences and partnerships.

The principles of IHL were integrated into all levels of training and operation of the armed forces. Modern warfare and emerging technologies presented new challenges to IHL. His country had participated in international research and conferences on the application and evolution of IHL in a context of lethal autonomous weapons, artificial intelligence (AI) and cyber operations; IHL must remain relevant, responsive and rooted in its humanitarian purpose.

He called on all parties to conflicts to uphold international law and IHL, and protect civilians and civilian infrastructure, particularly hospitals and medical personnel. The principles of distinction and necessity preserved shared humanity in war. He called for delegates to affirm what united them and return home as advocates for humanity, compassion and the rule of law.

Mr. Le Tan Toi (Viet Nam) said that the world faced complex crises that threatened peace, stability and development, and raised questions about humanitarian values, shared responsibility and compassion. Viet Nam had a longstanding tradition of humanitarianism that was evident in its development policy and strategy and was aligned with international norms and commitments on human rights, humanitarian principles and sustainable development. Viet Nam participated in global efforts to address humanitarian crises, combat climate change, prevent epidemics, protect vulnerable groups and promote gender equality.

Parliaments should strengthen national legal frameworks to protect individuals in emergencies and crises, including through legislation on disaster risk management, refugee assistance, the protection of vulnerable groups, and access to humanitarian aid. Relief, recovery and post-disaster reconstruction needed adequate resources, with the participation of civil society organizations, businesses and local communities encouraged. Stronger oversight was needed of the implementation of international humanitarian commitments. Foreign policy and national security strategies should reflect humanist values and contribute to peace, cooperation and sustainable development. Cooperation between parliaments must also be strengthened; they should promote dialogue and share experiences. The protection of humanitarian standards was a legal and moral duty for every nation and leader, and a shared responsibility of the international community.

Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine) stressed the importance of humanitarian norms and action in times of crisis and war. Russian aggression had turned Ukraine into a war zone and one of the most mined places on earth. Since 2014, the Russian military command had endeavoured to break every rule of IHL, resulting in the wounding and killing of civilians and the unprecedented destruction of civilian infrastructure, including energy infrastructure. The Russian Federation weaponized humanitarian aid, targeted civilians and had massacred prisoners of war to cover up their torture. No international investigation of that incident had been possible because the Russian Federation had refused to cooperate with the United Nations and the International Criminal Court. In addition, at least 19,500 children had been removed illegally from Ukraine as part of a genocide against the Ukrainian people.

The Russian aggression against Ukraine must stop. She called on delegates to support the peace formula set out by President Zelensky. Parliaments across the world should support the initiative to establish a special tribunal for the crime of aggression and the IPU should adopt a resolution to that end. She called on delegates to exercise their political will and stand together for what was right.

Mr. S. Njie (the Gambia) said that, as conflicts displaced millions and natural disasters devastated communities, the moral foundation of the world was being tested as never before. Humanity must choose compassion, solidarity and action. He reconfirmed the commitment of the Gambia to humanitarian law and action, which was grounded in the Constitution, reflected in the law and demonstrated through action at home and abroad. The domestication of international human rights conventions shaped the protection of the vulnerable and their application was ensured through oversight mechanisms and training.

Humanitarian action had been seen in practice in the Gambia during the 2022 flood crisis and in efforts to offer shelter, food and medical aid to refugees fleeing conflict in neighbouring countries. His country supported the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom, dignity and self-determination. He condemned in the strongest possible terms the destruction of homes, hospitals and humanitarian corridors by Israel, and breaches of humanitarian law. While he welcomed efforts to broker a peace deal between Israel and Palestine, peace could not be built on occupation, dispossession or the denial of justice. He called on the Assembly to ensure that humanitarian aid was not criticized, that IHL was enforced without discrimination and that parliaments everywhere held their governments to account.

Mr. B. Ouch (Cambodia) observed that the true measure of any nation lay in its respect for the Geneva Conventions and human dignity. His nation had suffered greatly and had achieved peace and reconciliation through immense sacrifice. It must be acknowledged that the border between Thailand and Cambodia was clearly anchored in binding international instruments that had been reaffirmed by the International Court of Justice, while a 2000 memorandum of understanding had established the Thai–Cambodian Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary. Only through the faithful observance of those instruments could true peace be secured.

The contributions of China, Malaysia and President Trump to establishing a ceasefire agreement with Thailand, on 28 July, were appreciated. Peace along the shared border remained fragile, however; Cambodian villagers continued to face displacement, intimidation and threats of eviction; 18 Cambodian soldiers remained unlawfully detained; and the imposition of domestic law in disputed communities undermined the 2000 memorandum of understanding. Cambodia had defended the Temple of Preah Vihear, which had been threatened by bombing, and had respected the ceasefire and cooperated with the ICRC, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Cambodia extended the hand of friendship to Thailand in the interests of achieving sustainable peace.

Ms. A.T. Didiza (South Africa) took the Chair.

Mr. A. Neofytou (Cyprus) observed that the international community needed to transform the recent agreement reached in the Middle East into a durable peace, which would require transparency and sustained political will from all parties. Parliamentarians must call for accountability and results.

Humanitarian principles were increasingly sacrificed for narrow national self-interest; in that regard the Cyprus problem remained an open wound. Two days previously, the Turkish Cypriot community had rejected a two-State solution by electing a new leader that believed in a solution based on UN Security Council 2771 (2025) and a bicomunal, bizonal federation. The past should be studied to avoid the repetition of mistakes. It was to be hoped that the new leadership and the stance of the Greek Cypriot community would lead to a solution.

Lasting peace could not be built on injustice, occupation or the denial of basic rights. Geopolitics must not overshadow fundamental human values. Sovereignty must be respected, international law defended and the innocent protected in every meaningful sense. Parliaments were not passive observers of war; it was time to react with urgency, unity and humanity.

Mr. E.M. Goerling Lara (Argentina) said that IHL was vital to peace, stability and confidence among nations. The protection of humanitarian action required recognition of the impartiality of humanitarian workers – they must not be placed under military or political pressure and must be allowed to carry out their life-saving work. The fight against terrorism was an additional challenge, since terrorist groups that deliberately flouted international law tended to attack civilians and threatened peace and stability.

Parliamentarians had a responsibility to strengthen national frameworks, promote understanding of IHL and human rights, and ensure that humanitarian aid was independent of ideological or political considerations. Health workers should be protected. The Argentine National Congress ensured the provision of training on IHL and human rights at all levels of the State, and had an institutional culture of respect for the law. Parliamentarians should emphasize the importance of multilateral action to face current challenges like armed conflict and terrorism, and of solidarity and the exchange of information. Defence of humanity was a sign of moral strength – the protection of life and human dignity should be placed before political considerations.

Ms. C. Roth (Germany) emphasized that, after the Second World War and Auschwitz, it was important to say never again. War was a tool of politics and dehumanization. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Conventions were being broken repeatedly. Fundamental humanitarian norms were under attack as the climate crisis and armed conflict combined, leading to displacement and humanitarian crisis, with women and girls carrying the heaviest burden. Binding humanitarian power was needed through strengthened international law. Protection of the planet and of people were joint priorities, not separate tasks.

Parliamentarians could turn global norms into national law, hold governments accountable for their humanitarian commitments and ensure that aid funding was not the first victim of budget cuts. They could defend multilateralism when others turned to nationalism. At the IPU, north and south were not divided and all could learn from each other. Initiatives to strengthen IHL needed political will and concrete action. Humanitarian commitment started before a crisis erupted, with education, equality, climate justice, a free press, a strong civil society and laws that protected the most vulnerable. The Geneva Conventions should be revived and parliamentarians should act as the voice of those who were not often heard.

Mr. S. Soendergaard (Denmark) observed that parliamentarians were not at the IPU as representatives of their governments and were at liberty to disagree; that was democracy. Most of the Danish population, like other populations, were disgusted by the wars and human-made disasters taking place around the world. Joint efforts were needed to resolve disagreements based on internationally recognized rules and conventions, and for the global application of the rule of law. The international system was not perfect; parliamentarians must reform and strengthen it. Major issues included non-participation in the International Criminal Court and the attack launched against it by the United States of America.

The United States of America had also shown its lack of respect for the international legal order by threatening to take control of Greenland – an autonomous territory of Denmark. If the Greenlandic people wished to secede from Denmark, that would be accepted under the right to self-determination; occupation by another country, however, was a fundamental breach of international law, as seen in the Russian occupation of parts of Ukraine and the continued expansion of illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. He called on parliamentarians to stand together for international law and the international legal order before it was too late.

Ms. B. Muzhaqi (Albania) said that, as a young parliamentarian, she noted that the IPU was meeting in Geneva – the birthplace of humanitarian law. Yet, the limits set out in the Geneva Conventions were being violated with impunity. The protection of human dignity was a moral obligation and a measure of national strength, and part of the Albanian national character. That had been demonstrated in World War Two, the war in Kosovo in 1999 and in 2021, when Afghanistan had faced uncertainty; humanitarian aid began with the simple gesture of opening the door. Albania stood in solidarity with the Ukrainian people, and defended the principles of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity that underpinned international law. Recognizing the diplomatic efforts led by President Trump in some of the world's most fragile regions, she recalled that leadership was measured not just in power but in the courage to pursue peace.

Parliaments should not be bystanders to humanitarian crises but moral and political anchors that turned commitments into law and compassion into public policy. Behind humanitarian tragedy lay the crisis of trust in multilateralism. She called for stronger parliamentary diplomacy to monitor compliance with humanitarian law, and joint fact-finding missions and cross-border collaboration to restore credibility to multilateral action.

Mr. B. Karapejovski (North Macedonia) noted that his country remained firmly committed to IHL and had demonstrated that commitment by granting protection to refugees on many occasions. The magnitude of contemporary challenges demanded a comprehensive parliamentary response and

the reaffirmation of multilateralism and the rules-based international order. Parliaments had a moral duty to safeguard IHL; national interest must never be invoked as a pretext to undermine those obligations. Parliamentarians should use their legislative and oversight powers to translate humanitarian norms into domestic frameworks and ensure that their governments upheld international commitments and maintained transparency and accountability.

His country worked closely with international organizations to address statelessness and assist vulnerable populations, and stood ready to contribute to global efforts to uphold humanitarian norms and the rules-based international order. As a small nation that had experienced hardship, the power of solidarity and international support were clear. A holistic approach was needed to humanitarian action – its safeguarding required political will as much as financial support. Parliamentary diplomacy had a decisive role to play in reinforcing multilateral values, bridging divides, fostering dialogue and amplifying the voices of the most vulnerable. Parliamentarians must use their legislative power to foster a culture of humanity.

Mr. R. Gamarra (MERCOSUR Parliament (PARLASUR)) expressed his conviction that gathering in person at the Assembly demonstrated a commitment to solidarity. The world was connected yet increasingly divided. Technology could bring people together quickly but its misuse, the distortion of the truth and the blurring of the line between true and false was evident in the media, politics and the collective consciousness. Corporate groups with vested interests used the press to take control without democratic elections and journalism was used as a commercial tool to manipulate and lie, which undermined honour, trust and institutional credibility.

Digital manipulation destroyed reputations, distorted the perception of international affairs and polluted global decision-making. It was absurd that plain truths were denied. Human pain was used to manipulate and weaken governments rather than to find solutions. A legal framework was needed to protect the real freedom of the press and condemn the criminal use of lies and misinformation. Defending humanitarian norms also meant defending the truth, as without truth there was no justice, and without justice no sustainable peace. To remember those who built peace, he called for President Trump to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Ms. J. Pejović (Montenegro) recalled that, growing up in the Balkans in the 1990s she had learned that evil was always the same. Her grandmother had sent bags of flour to Bosnia by bus as humanitarian aid, despite hunger at home and the mocking of others, and had taught her never to set division between us and them. Evil hid behind flags, religion and borders, and justified cruelty as strategy or defence; it called the starvation and killing of children collateral damage, yet no explanation could justify such actions.

Members of parliament had no excuse; they must act, since silence and neutrality did not stop evil but supported it. The past should provide guidance towards peace, not more violence. Parliamentarians must stop revenge. Every person in the room could and should do more; when asked in the future what parliamentarians did, no one would be able to say that they did not know.

Ms. H.P. Manyeneng (Botswana) noted the formidable challenge of upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in the current global environment. The theme for discussion spoke directly to the founding values of Botswana – compassion, solidarity and respect for human dignity. Peaceful elections – which Botswana had held in October 2024 – fostered a culture of peaceful coexistence among citizens, reduced conflict and stimulated economic growth and the promotion of human rights.

Humanitarian challenges transcended borders and every crisis was a test of shared humanity. In many conflict zones humanitarian access had been obstructed and aid had been weaponized. The IPU Assembly provided a platform for parliamentarians to translate global humanitarian norms into national policies and legislative frameworks. Parliamentarians could amplify the impact of humanitarian efforts by raising awareness in their constituencies. The Assembly could also foster inter-parliamentary cooperation on humanitarian issues by sharing best practices, coordinating advocacy and developing common strategies to address cross-border challenges. Regional collaboration was a powerful means to address shared humanitarian concerns. Botswana condemned attacks on aid workers and obstructions to humanitarian access, and advocated for multilateral solutions and global cooperation to address global challenges.

Mr. M.A.O. Ba Sarra (Yemen) said that his country had been exhausted by more than 10 years of war. The Houthi militias, supported by the Iranian regime, had stolen 70% of the country's resources, which had led to unprecedented human suffering. Yemen was grateful, however, for the

support of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. He called on parliaments around the world to: investigate the crimes perpetrated by militias and the human rights violations against Yemeni parliamentarians; exert pressure on the Houthi militias to stop targeting essential infrastructure; help Yemen to export its crude oil by restoring its ports; encourage oil companies to return to Yemen; and encourage investment in its ports, agriculture and fisheries.

He welcomed American and Arab efforts to achieve peace in Gaza and called on the IPU to shoulder its humanitarian responsibility. History would remember the positions taken. He called on all to recognize an independent Palestinian State and award it a permanent seat at all international organizations; stop all military dealings with Israeli entities and business dealings with companies and individuals that supported Israel; immediately implement the relevant decisions of the International Criminal Court; condemn attacks against parliamentarians, activists and media personalities who had participated in the freedom flotilla; and call for the unconditional release of all detainees. He condemned the Israeli attacks against Qatar.

Mr. A.R. Al Nuaimi (United Arab Emirates) noted that the upholding of IHL guaranteed dignity around the world. The United Arab Emirates believed in a shared humanity that must move past divisions to focus on human suffering. That suffering was due to a lack of respect for international law and treaties, which made it difficult to settle disputes.

Humanitarian action must be depoliticized and parliamentarians must focus on those human beings who were suffering from hunger, fear and a lack of access to basic services. The international community did not need to agree on everything but must find common ground and ways of working together. That should start with the definition of “human” and should centre on humans. The peace and security of every country was a shared responsibility and cooperation was needed to ensure development and future prosperity for all. Parliamentarians should take a moment to consider their approach to the values of the IPU, and their role with respect to their peoples and all nations.

Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation) said that the nurturing, by France, the United Kingdom and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, of neo-Nazism in the Baltic States and Ukraine, and disregard for Russian rights to self-determination and security had caused geopolitical crisis. Israel and several Western nations had similarly disregarded rights to self-determination and security in Palestine. UN General Assembly resolution 181 (II) of 1947 must be fully implemented.

Russian parliamentarians supported humanitarian efforts and were finalizing a federal law on the legal status of the Russian Red Cross. Parliamentarians should implement humanitarian standards through national legislation, as had been done in the Russian Federation, by including the provisions of the Geneva Conventions in military regulations and establishing legal responsibility for their violation, and introducing humanitarian law teaching for military personnel, diplomats and lawyers.

He agreed that violations of humanitarian law were a cause of concern; the Kyiv regime had blockaded water and energy supplies to the Crimea and had committed grave violations of the Geneva Conventions. The Russian authorities communicated with the ICRC on the reunification of Ukrainian children with their families – the figure provided by the Ukrainian delegation concerning disappeared children was a lie – and dialogues were being held on the exchange of prisoners of war and humanitarian access.

Ms. J. Simanovska (Latvia) emphasized the danger of dehumanization. Climate change brought social insecurity and increased competition for resources. Colonialism and the doctrine of Lebensraum had demonstrated the dangers of dehumanization, and they had been condemned. She wondered, however, what had been learned from those experiences. The core of imperialism was the idea that one group was worth more than others and that idea returned whenever oppressors dehumanized those who they aimed to subjugate. The pattern was repeated in conflicts across the world; it was evident in the Russian aggression in Ukraine and the suffering in Gaza.

Attempts to manipulate societies used the same first step, by labelling a group of people as a disease, animals or filth. The words spoken by parliamentarians – as representatives of nations – could heal or harm. Parliamentarians must recognize and oppose hate speech. All people were equal and nations had a right to self-determination. In the digital world, the rules were not set by democratic institutions and algorithms amplified hate speech in the name of profit. She called for joint efforts for democracy to prevail online, with rules set by society.

Ms. M.D.C. Alva Prieto (Peru), speaking as a Peruvian parliamentarian and a representative of the IPU Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), underscored the importance of effectively implementing the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols thereto. Her country

had appointed a multisectoral body on the Geneva Conventions, had introduced training on IHL and had adopted laws to protect people in times of armed conflict. Institutional frameworks needed to be strengthened so that nations could meet their international commitments and those who risked their lives to help victims of conflict must be protected. Parliamentarians had an obligation to do all they could for a culture of peace and the protection of humanity.

The Peruvian Congress of the Republic remained committed to working with other parliaments, the IPU and the specialized bodies to strengthen the humanitarian architecture and move towards a world where respect for IHL was not the exception but the rule.

Mr. F. Hamilton (United Kingdom) asserted that IHL was the foundation of peace and dignity in international relations. The targeting of civilians, obstruction of humanitarian aid and erosion of humanitarian law was unacceptable. The IPU consistently approached humanitarian issues through the lens of human security; the protection of people was as important as the security of States. The greatest threats to security were often attacks on civilians, displacement, climate-related disasters and the silencing of democratic voices. Peace was only sustainable when the rights, safety and dignity of individuals were protected.

The Parliament of the United Kingdom was proud to support the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law. Domestically, it held government to account on aid budgets, foreign policy and humanitarian priorities. There was a strong consensus on defending humanitarian values and regular engagement with counterparts across the world. He called on every parliament represented at the Assembly to strengthen oversight of their government's compliance with humanitarian obligations, defend humanitarianism, ensure aid reached those most in need and demand accountability when rules were broken. Funding, coordination and political will for humanitarian action should be reinforced and the voice of parliaments should be amplified through the IPU to support the United Nations.

Ms. S. Gafarova (Azerbaijan) took the chair.

Mr. D. Diallo (Burkina Faso) noted the efforts taken by the Secretary General and the President of the IPU to promote peace and stability, globally and in the Sahel region. Terrorist attacks, cross-border crime and mass displacement had devastated social services and exacerbated precarity in Burkina Faso and the Sahel region. In that context, humanitarian action was an essential pillar of national resilience and he noted the courage of humanitarian actors. The rules set out in the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols thereto were part of the foundations of national culture; their manipulation for political ends was deplorable. Respect for those rules must not be subject to the geopolitical interests of the great powers.

In his country, frameworks for humanitarian action and collaboration with humanitarian actors had been introduced to ensure human-centred interventions. The international community must gather its efforts, resources and commitment to fight for a future in which human dignity prevailed over violence and solidarity triumphed over indifference. He called on parliamentarians to think of the Sahel in their discussions and to seek greater support for collective efforts for peace and security in his country.

Mr. I. Malenica (Croatia) recalled the fundamental shared responsibility to uphold humanitarian norms and support humanitarian action. Those norms were not just abstract values but the foundation of humanitarian crisis response and ensured that the dignity of each human being was not lost. Humanitarian workers were beacons of hope; humanitarian efforts must be supported and humanitarian organizations must be able to act without obstruction. Croatia had received humanitarian help during its Homeland War and therefore particularly valued the efforts of humanitarian workers.

Humanitarian aid went beyond the delivery of food and medicine; it also involved rebuilding lives and reconnecting communities. All had a responsibility to help and contribute to human dignity, through donations, volunteering, raising awareness or political advocacy. The catastrophe in Gaza was an example of what happened when humanitarian norms were not respected. Aid must reach all those in need, without discrimination. The Assembly provided an opportunity to extend solidarity, call for support for those in need and advocate for greater access to humanitarian assistance and respect for humanitarian rights by all actors in crises.

Mr. X. Iacovelli (France) highlighted the need to reactivate States' political commitment to humanitarian action and IHL. In France, that commitment took the form of a multi-year humanitarian strategy. Humanitarian principles were flouted by States that targeted civilians and humanitarian

workers during conflict, and attacked by the budget cuts of UN organizations. IHL must be applied, including in new domains such as cyberspace. France was part of the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law that had been launched by the ICRC in September 2024. Humanitarian action must be adapted to contemporary challenges and priorities, including by better integrating climatic and environmental aspects, and the rights of women and girls.

Since 7 October 2023, France had mobilized for the population of Gaza by supporting the United Nations and its agencies and providing direct aid; immediate unhindered access for humanitarian aid must be demanded. France also provided humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. Humanitarian action must be accompanied by the political will to resolve and prevent conflicts. All parliamentarians at the Assembly should commit to peace and join efforts to that end.

Mr. Fujii Kazuhiro (Japan) welcomed the agreement reached on the first phase of the plan to end the Gaza conflict and urged all parties concerned to implement that agreement in good faith. The tragic situation in Ukraine must also be brought to an end without delay. No compromise should be made on adherence to the principles of distinction, precaution and proportionality, and humanity enshrined in IHL. Japan had embedded, supported and implemented IHL. Since his country had suffered the world's first nuclear attack and its decades-long impact, which must never be repeated, he reminded the world of the inhumanity of nuclear weapons. Political positions differed, yet the ethical and legal principle of protecting human life and dignity was a universal value that must be shared by all nations. Parliaments were the last bastion of peace; parliamentarians must reaffirm the importance of IHL and urge their governments to uphold its principles.

Mr. P. Comissario Afonso (Mozambique) noted the relevance of the theme for discussion in a time of humanitarian crises, the root causes of which were armed conflict and natural disasters. Since independence, his country had known humanitarian crises due to external aggression, natural disasters and terrorism; extreme weather events were a frequent and growing concern. His Government was working with other States, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations to tackle the humanitarian crisis.

Legislators had a responsibility to create a better world, free from humanitarian crises, and to translate political will into the resolve to promote respect for IHL; its principles and norms should be translated into national laws and politics. To address humanitarian crises, parliamentary diplomacy could promote multilateralism and the Charter of the United Nations, deepen solidarity and broaden the scope of international cooperation. Parliamentarians must assume their collective responsibility to protect the most vulnerable and ensure that humanitarian responses met the needs of displaced populations, especially women and young persons.

Mr. E. Đerlek (Serbia) emphasized the shared understanding that IHL was not merely a legal instrument but the moral compass of humanity, and that the protection of individuals was an imperative for States and the entire global community. A globalized world was more interconnected and more powerful but also more vulnerable. Given the sorrow of witnessing human suffering on any continent, parliamentarians and States must join efforts, despite their differences, to be part of the solution. Respect for humanitarian law depended on parliaments, as the voice of the people and guardians of the rule of law. The IPU consistently reminded its Member Parliaments that respect for IHL was an obligation for all.

By the end of May 2025, nearly 300 million persons worldwide had been in need of humanitarian assistance and protection. Multiple crises had been marked by systematic violations of IHL and, with respect to climate change, 2024 had proven to be the hottest year on record. Parliamentarians had a moral duty to act as the voice of those who could not speak and of all who suffered, and must recall that respect for human dignity was the foundation of every civilized State and a responsible international order.

Ms. R. Abouras (Libya) said that, in a context of violations of IHL and the highest number of armed conflicts since the end of the Second World War, and the resulting displacement of persons, the Geneva Conventions were supposed to shield humanity, yet hospitals, healthcare workers and innocent civilians were being systematically targeted. Strengthening IHL and guaranteeing its implementation without exception was a political and moral responsibility, as was strengthening multilateral cooperation to support humanitarian action, protect humanitarian workers and guarantee access to humanitarian aid.

Since humanitarian crises did not occur in a vacuum, but were fed by poverty, extremism and inequality, she called for a comprehensive approach to stability that linked development, peace and justice. In response to the situations of the Palestinian people and people in Sudan and Ukraine, the

international community should shoulder its responsibility, put an end to double standards and take concrete measures to protect civilians and their rights to live in freedom and independence. Parliaments had a historic responsibility to protect humanitarian norms through their legislative and oversight roles. Libya had developed a national strategy on immigration and displacement, based on international norms, and called for support in that regard.

Ms. D.-T. Avgerinopoulou (Greece) underlined that, although the world faced more than 120 armed conflicts, attention was limited to the few that dominated global headlines. The Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols thereto, and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child were binding treaties; UN Security Council resolutions were similarly binding. Greece stood firmly for the implementation of public international and humanitarian law, and was ready to participate in the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip.

The IPU Assembly represented the entire political spectrum and its voice, when united, was powerful; a call to end atrocities and violations of humanitarian law would be heard. Preventive diplomacy and fact-finding missions were needed. Parliamentarians should call for ceasefire and dialogue, and the ratification and implementation of humanitarian agreements, and advocate for accountability mechanisms, peace and nation-building, and the protection of humanitarian access. The political means and collective intelligence needed to end atrocities, stop conflicts and restore peace, democracy and prosperity existed. The humanitarian and environmental agendas should be bridged and, given the vast gaps in humanitarian and climate finance, innovative financing mechanisms should be promoted. Legislative frameworks must integrate environmental protection, disaster risk reduction and human security goals.

Mr. S. Watagala (Sri Lanka) said that humanitarian action played a critical role in crises, with national and international humanitarian action particularly crucial when a crisis occurred in developing countries. The history of Sri Lanka demonstrated the importance of humanitarian norms and actions in conflicts, natural disasters, health emergencies and economic shocks, such as the 2004 tsunami, civil war and economic crisis. The Government, international organizations, civil society groups, community organizations and ordinary citizens had all contributed to humanitarian action in those situations. The Government was the first to have been elected by all communities in the country and was trying to move forward by achieving reconciliation between ethnic communities. Although immediate relief, such as food, shelter, clothing and water, were critical during a crisis, it was just as essential to address communities' long-term needs.

Mr. A. Koponen (Finland) emphasized that human dignity must remain at the heart of efforts to uphold humanitarian norms, while ensuring that assistance was effective, and led to lasting recovery, not dependency. As the world faced increasingly complex crises, humanitarian aid was not merely charity but a moral and legal obligation, grounded in the principles of humanity, impartiality and independence. Development cooperation should empower countries to build resilience, good governance and economic self-reliance through a focus on education, employment security and on strengthening local communities.

Humanitarian workers must be protected and given unhindered access to those in need. He called for accountability for attacks against humanitarian personnel and action to combat disinformation that undermined their work. He emphasized the nexus approach that linked emergency relief to reconstruction and long-term development, with real results from investment and no loss of aid to corruption, bureaucracy or failed projects.

Not all actors respected international law and humanitarian norms. The blatant violations of humanitarian principles in the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine were unacceptable. Humanitarian action defended the essence of humanity; protecting civilians, upholding the rule of law and helping communities regain independence would build a more stable and just world.

Ms. M. Bartos (Hungary) noted that crises emerged or deepened due to a combination of factors, usually in a context of existential disputes, and could be deliberately provoked. Preventive diplomacy and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were therefore key, alongside help at the systemic level. Time was of the essence in crisis prevention and management, and parliamentarians had a key role to play in that regard.

Humanitarian aid could not be provided according to set templates, since each community in need and each country providing assistance was different. Hungarian best practice emphasized that support for women, children and other vulnerable groups was a humanitarian responsibility and a peace-making task. The Hungarian Government focused its limited resources for international

humanitarian and development assistance on Christian communities that suffered discrimination and persecution. The approach was not exclusionary; assistance was extended to other religious and non-religious groups, with a focus on solidarity with the community in need and supporting the community's priorities. Experience had shown that direct support for Christian communities and institutions contributed to peaceful coexistence among religions.

Mr. A. Almodóbar Barceló (Spain) observed that compliance with IHL was the dividing line between civilization and barbarity. His country remained committed to international agreements and to strengthening the multilateral mechanisms that implemented them. Parliamentarians must ensure that humanitarian principles were not subject to short-term political objectives, and that resources reached those most in need without discrimination, delay or misuse. Spain had evaluated the impact of assistance, in coordination with international organizations, to ensure tangible outcomes in the field.

Parliaments should protect women, children, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities and displaced communities, and humanitarian responses should be inclusive and reflect the diverse impact of crises. In an interconnected world, crises required complex, coordinated responses; parliaments must promote coordination between governments, civil society, the international community and the private sector. Immediate responses should be combined with efforts for resilience and sustainable development.

Humanitarian funding, which was subject to the economic and political pressures that challenged multilateralism, must not be cut or politicized, and he supported mechanisms for transparency, effectiveness and continuity. By protecting the most vulnerable, parliamentarians strengthened international cooperation and respect for IHL and contributed to a fairer world.

Ms. F. Öncü (Türkiye), speaking as a parliamentarian and a person with a disability, recalled the commitments set out in the Charter of the United Nations, to uphold international peace and security, and respect and protect human rights, and in Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions, to respect IHL and protect civilians and humanitarian personnel. The UN Security Council had consistently reaffirmed the obligation to protect civilians and had emphasized the need to protect persons with disabilities in armed conflicts.

One in five children worldwide lived in a conflict zone. It was the collective responsibility of humanity to ensure permanent peace and ensure a dignified life in Gaza. Across Ukraine, Yemen, Sudan, Somalia and Myanmar, the right to life of women and children continued to be directly threatened. The international community's response must go beyond the delivery of humanitarian assistance to ensure accountability, end impunity and provide safe humanitarian access and psychosocial support. Türkiye met those responsibilities in Gaza, through the delivery of humanitarian aid, and across Africa, by providing food, medicine and infrastructure. Parliamentarians had a moral duty to raise their voices for human dignity and a future where every child could live in peace.

Mr. A. Lydeka (Lithuania) expressed serious concern at gross violations of IHL; it was unacceptable that civilians, civilian objects, humanitarian workers and journalists were targeted, and that women and girls continued to suffer disproportionately in armed conflicts. Lithuania supported accountability for such violations, and called for the protection of humanitarian and medical workers, and adequate funding for the humanitarian system.

Urgent measures were needed to address the humanitarian situation in Gaza, particularly the food crisis, and ensure access to humanitarian aid. All parties must comply with their obligations under international law. Efforts to drive out and deport Ukrainians, including thousands of children, from their homes, and to annihilate the Ukrainian identity recalled the mass deportations of Lithuanians carried out by the Soviet Russian regime in 1941–1952, and were violations of international law and the rights and freedoms of children.

He condemned the instrumentalization of immigrants for political purposes by the Belarusian authorities since 2021, and similar acts by the Russian authorities. Lithuania had filed a case against Belarus at the International Court of Justice in that regard and called on international organizations to urge the Russian and Belarusian authorities to comply with their international legal obligations on immigration.

Mr. D. Caggiani (Uruguay) noted that the world faced similar challenges to the horrors of war that had led to the founding of the Geneva Conventions, with attacks on civilians and humanitarian workers, forcible displacement and almost 310 million persons worldwide in need of humanitarian assistance. Parliamentarians must reaffirm their commitment to IHL; translate international norms into national laws; exercise oversight to ensure that governments met their international commitments;

allocate appropriate resources and promote education and awareness-raising. In times of crisis, parliamentary diplomacy should be a tool for inclusion, solidarity and cooperation, and parliamentarians should challenge narratives that justified violence and demand transparency on aid delivery. A multisectoral response was needed to guarantee IHL, with humanitarian policy taking into account issues such as sustainable development, human rights, health, gender equality and youth empowerment, and investment made in those areas. More must be invested in peace and development and less spent on war and extermination. Parliamentarians should strengthen humanitarian action and protect humanitarian financing. Humanitarian crises required a collective response; history showed the devastating consequences of inaction.

Mr. M. Hadid (Palestine) said that, as long as the occupying force of Israel continued to violate international instruments, parliaments had a moral and legal responsibility to call for the recovery of the Palestinian people's right of return and right to self-determination, and an independent Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital. While the outcome of the New York Conference and the Sharm El Sheikh ceasefire agreement were welcome, he called on all parliaments to protect the two-State solution as the only guarantee of ending occupation and achieving peace and stability in the region.

The International Court of Justice advisory opinion of July 2024 should be implemented and humanitarian assistance must be allowed immediate entry into the Gaza Strip. The occupying force bore full responsibility for the human loss and destruction that it had perpetrated and must fulfil its obligations under international law, particularly given the cost of reconstruction. The world's silence in the face of the ongoing illegal occupation and the political, humanitarian and health crises in the Gaza Strip was saddening; a genocide was being committed and the Gaza Strip had become uninhabitable.

He called for parliamentary action to hold the perpetrators of war crimes to account and ensure entry into Palestinian territory for an international fact-finding mission. He appreciated the efforts of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the ICRC in Palestine. Concerning the West Bank, illegal settlements should be criminalized and commercial dealings with settlers stopped. The arming of Israel must also stop. An inability to achieve results did not exempt parliaments from their moral obligations; they must protect international law and prevent genocide, and should recognize the creation of an independent Palestinian State.

A delegate from Türkiye, speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that it was regrettable that some speakers continued to politicize the platform of the IPU. The presence of Turkish forces on the island of Cyprus was based on the international treaties of 1960 and the rights and obligations of Türkiye as a guarantor power. UN Security Council resolutions did not describe Turkish intervention in 1974 as an invasion or the continued presence of Turkish troops as an occupation.

He had been present during the presidential elections of 19 October 2025, which had demonstrated the commitment of the Turkish Cypriot people to democracy. Their outcome should serve the peace, stability and prosperity of the Turkish Cypriot people and the island as a whole. Türkiye would continue to stand by the Turkish Cypriot people and support their peace, welfare and development in line with its historical, legal and humanitarian responsibilities.

A delegate from Pakistan, speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that she wished to respond to the baseless and misleading remarks by Afghanistan, whose credentials as a parliamentary delegation were dubious since there was currently no parliament in that country.

Pakistan had been the victim of cross-border terrorism and unprovoked actions aimed at destabilizing the border, which belied the neighbourly relations between the two countries. While Pakistan had exercised its right of self-defence along the border, and had inflicted heavy losses on Taliban forces, all possible measures had been taken to prevent collateral damage and protect civilians. Pakistan valued dialogue and a mutually beneficial relationship with Afghanistan and urged the Afghan Taliban authorities to honour their commitments to the international community and address security concerns by taking action against terrorist entities, including the Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan and the Balochistan Liberation Army.

Pakistan had generously hosted more than four million Afghan refugees for four decades and continued to facilitate legal avenues for Afghans to enter Pakistan.

The sitting rose at 13:10.

Sitting of Tuesday, 21 October 2025

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 14:30 with Mr. M. Dick (Australia), in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda (continued)

General Debate on the theme *Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis.* (A/151/3-Inf.1)

FIRST SPEAKERS FROM DELEGATIONS

Mr. A. Teshager Gessesse (Ethiopia) said that, at a time of weakening respect for international humanitarian law (IHL), parliaments had both a moral and political duty to safeguard humanitarian principles, strengthen multilateralism and ensure adequate support for humanitarian action. Upholding humanitarian norms was not only a legal obligation but an ethical imperative.

Ethiopia had long supported IHL, having acceded to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. Those commitments were reflected in Ethiopia's Constitution and national laws. Through judicial reforms, the country was working to strengthen accountability, fundamental rights and access to justice in humanitarian contexts.

Ethiopia maintained an open-door policy for refugees, currently hosting 1.1 million primarily from neighbouring countries in crisis. Its 2019 Refugees Proclamation granted refugees fundamental rights, such as work, education and healthcare, and those rights were further reinforced by its national digital identification programme which facilitated refugee access to essential services. Together, those efforts offered a model of inclusive humanitarian response and showed that humanitarian action must be integrated with development and peacebuilding, guided by national ownership and international solidarity.

Parliamentarians were uniquely positioned to uphold humanitarian norms by legislating in alignment with IHL, securing budget allocations for humanitarian response and refugee protection, and ensuring transparency and accountability in aid delivery. Parliamentary diplomacy must be used to foster dialogue, prevent conflict and strengthen multilateral cooperation.

Through national legislation, regional cooperation and multilateral engagement, it was possible to build societies that protect life, dignity and peace even in difficult times. He called on delegates to reaffirm their commitment to protecting civilians, respecting IHL and ensuring impartial, neutral and compassionate humanitarian action. By cultivating a sense of a shared humanity, it was possible to transcend differences.

Mr. F. Mussoni (San Marino) said that, in a world experiencing unprecedented levels of violence and instability, respect for IHL was both a legal obligation and a moral and civil imperative. San Marino, faithful to its long-standing values of neutrality, humanity and solidarity, supported all initiatives aimed at promoting respect for humanitarian norms and protecting civilians, and called for humanitarian action to be carried out independently, impartially and safely. In times of crisis, the defence of fundamental humanitarian principles must not be sacrificed for short-term political or security considerations; rather, it was precisely in times of crisis that respect for human dignity became the true measure of civilization and of the credibility of international institutions.

In a multilateral system that was currently under strain, the role of parliaments, as the voice of the people, guardians of democratic values and a bridge between local communities and the international sphere, was essential. Parliamentarians must translate the principles of IHL into national legislation, ensure adequate resources for cooperation and humanitarian aid, counter disinformation and promote the centrality of human dignity.

Although a small country, San Marino firmly believed in multilateralism and parliamentary diplomacy as tools for peace and cooperation. It voiced strong support for the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law, which sought to renew respect for humanitarian norms, strengthen action and provide concrete support to humanitarian workers. Today's global crises – from armed conflict to climate disasters, health emergencies and food insecurity – demanded a collective commitment based on solidarity, cooperation and shared responsibility.

Mr. S. Rachkov (Belarus) said that, as a founding member of the United Nations and party to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, Belarus recognized the central role of IHL in maintaining international peace and security. The country ensured the faithful implementation of humanitarian norms, actively participated in humanitarian activities and promoted the dissemination of knowledge relating to IHL.

To fulfil its obligations, the Government of Belarus had established a commission to implement IHL in national legislation and was supported in its humanitarian work by the Belarusian Red Cross Society. He expressed hope that the full status of the Belarusian Red Cross Society, currently suspended due to a politicized decision, would soon be restored. Belarus had developed an effective system for delivering humanitarian assistance, guided by a Presidential Decree, and had provided aid to 34 countries through means ranging from sending rescuers to providing humanitarian supplies and financial support.

Belarus' humanitarian activities were not merely goodwill gestures but examples of responsible engagement in solving global problems. Not only did they foster mutual understanding and trust between States but also demonstrated the country's commitment to mercy, compassion and humanitarian principles as a central element of the country's foreign policy.

Mr. C. Van de Sanden (Netherlands) said that humanitarian values were not merely policy choices but fundamental principles that must never be compromised, even in times of war, disaster or despair. While artificial intelligence (AI) could make humanitarian action more effective, for instance by improving relief efforts, predicting disasters and helping reunite families torn apart by conflict, he warned that without ethical safeguards it could also increase suffering. Serious risks included its role in spreading disinformation, enabling repression and undermining the distinction between human and machine as well as truth and falsehood. There was also growing concern about the use of AI by States to influence democratic elections, erode trust in institutions and weaken the rule of law.

Parliamentarians had a duty to ensure that technological progress served humanity. In doing so they must be guided by three principles: responsible innovation rooted in human rights and humanitarian law; transparency and accountability to keep human judgment at the centre; and equal access irrespective of who owned the data.

Empathy must remain at the core of humanitarian action, guided by the understanding that every life and every person mattered. AI could support humanitarian work but could never replace moral courage; parliaments must ensure that innovation upheld human dignity.

Mr. N. Jridi (Tunisia) said that, in light of the world's mounting crises, including ongoing armed conflicts and violence, serious and effective action was needed nationally, regionally and internationally to reinforce humanitarian norms, confront violations of international law and strengthen parliamentary and governmental diplomacy. Although the Geneva Conventions formed the cornerstone of IHL, recent developments had exposed shortcomings in the multilateral system's ability to address major humanitarian challenges. In particular, he questioned the effectiveness of the United Nations (UN) Security Council in preventing grave violations of human rights.

He strongly condemned the atrocities committed by the Zionist regime against civilians in Gaza, including genocide, starvation and forced displacement, as well as repeated attacks in the West Bank. While Tunisia welcomed the recent ceasefire agreement and commended the Arab, Islamic and international efforts that made it possible, the international community must ensure its sustainability and hold perpetrators accountable. He reiterated Tunisia's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause and their legitimate national rights, including their right to an independent, fully sovereign Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital. The unjust attacks on the Islamic Republic of Iran and the aggressions violating the sovereignty of Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Qatar were also condemned.

Noting that the UN Security Council had failed to take effective measures to address the escalating violence in the Middle East, which was unacceptable, he emphasized that international law and human rights treaties must adapt in the face of evolving challenges. In that context, strengthened bilateral and multilateral parliamentary cooperation was needed. Meaningful progress could only be made by restoring the rights and dignity of all people facing oppression.

Mr. Jae Ok Yun (Republic of Korea) emphasized the importance of a multilateral approach to strengthening respect for IHL, noting the key role of parliaments in approving governmental humanitarian plans, establishing legal frameworks and ensuring effective international cooperation. He outlined the Republic of Korea's legal and policy framework, including the Overseas Emergency Relief Act (2007), a revised humanitarian assistance strategy and a comprehensive implementation

plan for international development cooperation. Those initiatives aimed to deliver timely assistance to crisis-affected regions as well as to facilitate their rapid recovery, while upholding core humanitarian principles, such as humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.

Humanitarian action must be guaranteed both nationally and internationally even amid political and economic pressures. The Republic of Korea, even while facing such pressures, had continued providing humanitarian aid in conflict-affected regions such as Ukraine, Sudan and the Gaza Strip, working closely with international organizations such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN World Food Programme. Those efforts demonstrated the country's commitment to placing human life over political interests.

Effective humanitarian action required an inclusive, multisectoral approach, engaging governments, parliaments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector. In that spirit, the Republic of Korea had forged public-private partnerships with domestic non-governmental organizations, focusing on early recovery, disaster risk reduction, refugee support and responses to gender-based violence in conflict situations.

He concluded that upholding humanitarian norms in times of crisis was an obligation, not an option, and reaffirmed his country's commitment to strengthening humanitarian action through legislation, policy development and multilateral cooperation.

Mr. L.F. Mendoza Jiménez (Costa Rica) said that Costa Rica, as Latin America's most stable democracy and a nation that had abolished its army in 1948, carried the moral authority of a country dedicated to peace. It consistently urged the international community to reject the use of force, uphold IHL and resolve conflicts through dialogue, consensus-building and respect for international law. Supporting multilateralism was key to addressing global crises.

Costa Rica's Legislative Assembly regularly demonstrated its commitment to humanitarian principles through legislative action and firm support for human rights worldwide. The national Committee on International Humanitarian Law, established in 2024, was tasked with integrating international standards into national legislation and promoting education and training in the area.

Humanitarian relief must be delivered wherever needed, as an ethical and moral duty, in accordance with the capacities of countries and partners. With dignity and human rights guiding its work, the IPU must continue fostering dialogue, advancing global humanitarian financing and adapting humanitarian norms to present-day realities.

Mr. E. Tulfo (Philippines) said that the international community must not accept as the norm the many crises plaguing the world, whether conflict, food insecurity or climate disasters. The problem was not the absence of humanitarian rules, many of which were defined in frameworks such as the Geneva Conventions, but the lack of compliance and collective will. He called for stronger protection of vulnerable groups, including women, children and the elderly, and for accountability for violations of IHL. Inaction in the face of suffering was a huge injustice.

The Philippines renounced war as an instrument of national policy and upheld peace, justice and cooperation, as was enshrined in its Constitution. It supported the full, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance to civilians in Gaza while remembering innocent victims of violence in Israel, and welcomed the Israel– Hamas peace plan. Likewise, his country called for a cessation of hostilities in the Russia–Ukraine conflict, urging all parties to pursue genuine dialogue towards a just, peaceful and lasting solution consistent with the Charter of the United Nations.

The Philippines had recently co-hosted the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on International Humanitarian Law where it had affirmed its commitment to strengthening regional cooperation on translating humanitarian principles into effective action. Seeking a seat on the UN Security Council in 2026, the country pledged to uphold the rule of law, advance the peaceful resolution of conflicts and ensure the protection of civilians in all circumstances. Respect for IHL should be operational and enduring rather than aspirational and sporadic.

Ms. L.M. Merkesdal (Norway) underscored Norway's unwavering commitment to upholding international humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action amid a global environment where IHL was increasingly violated. The blatant disregard for basic protections in conflict zones, including attacks on hospitals, obstruction of aid and targeting of humanitarian workers, were not only legal failures but moral ones. Humanitarian principles must be defended by governments, civil society and individuals alike.

Norway was actively supporting humanitarian organizations in countries such as Ukraine, Sudan and Palestine. It continued to fund the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and other unfairly accused UN agencies, even as others

suspended support, insisting that humanitarian action must not be politicized. Stressing the importance of accountability, she recalled Norway's role in referring the situation in Ukraine to the International Criminal Court and in initiating a request for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on whether Israel's obstruction of humanitarian aid to Palestinians had violated international law. The country also supported initiatives to galvanize political commitment to international humanitarian law, including the Australian Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel.

Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium) said that in 2025 more than 300 million people required urgent humanitarian assistance – a sharp increase since 2019 – driven not only by conflict but also by climate disasters, health emergencies and displacement. Yet resources were shrinking and political will was under strain. The discussion around safeguarding humanitarian action must go beyond abstract declarations and become practical, realistic and feasible.

Humanitarian action was not the exclusive domain of international organizations; it was also the responsibility of national and regional governments. Indeed, national and regional governments were first responders – the ones who initiated requests for international assistance, established legal frameworks, managed budgets and worked closely with local partners. They oversaw the entire response from disaster preparedness to recovery, and without their leadership, responses risked being fragmented and ineffective. In that spirit, the Government of Belgium had a dedicated humanitarian budget and supported the delivery of emergency aid through local organizations such as the Red Cross, Caritas and Doctors Without Borders.

While humanitarian principles were universal, resources were finite. As such, humanitarian commitments must be rooted in what parliaments could realistically endorse and finance. Politicians must be honest and transparent with citizens about how funds were spent and what impact was expected. Overpromising led to disillusionment and mistrust.

Multilateral cooperation remained important for humanitarian aid, but without responsibility and funding, it was meaningless. With global systems strained by rivalry, mistrust and bureaucracy, many regions preferred to rely on trusted local partners. To maintain the credibility of international aid, projects must demand traceability and results while adhering to the principle of subsidiarity and contributing only where it added value.

He identified three key tasks for parliamentarians: holding governments accountable for their commitments, supporting the most vulnerable and protecting the humanitarian space. Ultimately, the strength of humanitarian action lay not in grand statements but in practical, feasible and well-funded commitments taken by national and regional governments, with international frameworks supporting rather than replacing those efforts.

Mr. P.K. Senam Bolouvi (Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)) said that, at a time of profound strain, with more than 120 armed conflicts worldwide and 310 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, parliamentarians must act as guardians of human dignity and advocates for the most vulnerable. West Africa, in particular, was grappling with multiple overlapping crises – terrorism, forced displacement, food insecurity and climate disasters – leading to 12 million people displaced or stateless.

He outlined four core priorities for collective parliamentary action. First, IHL must be incorporated into national legislation. To that end, ECOWAS was working hard to harmonize legal standards across its members, recognizing that a crisis in one State affected the entire region. Second, humanitarian relief must be safe and unhindered. While political disputes, bureaucratic barriers and insufficient financing often compromised operations, humanitarian financing should in fact be treated as both a moral duty and a strategic investment in stability. More resources and transparency were needed in the allocation of humanitarian aid. Third, responses must be holistic and inclusive, integrating humanitarian assistance with sustainable development efforts such as food security, climate adaptation and gender equality. Lastly, since crises transcended borders, solidarity and responsibility must be strengthened at the regional and global levels.

He urged the IPU to ensure that humanitarian action was never selective nor politicized, calling for parliamentary diplomacy and ethical leadership grounded in dignity. Only through shared effort and solidarity would it be possible to overcome the crises of today and build a more stable, humane and just future for all.

Ms. S. Nyirahamibana (Rwanda) recalled Rwanda's own tragic history, highlighting the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in which over one million people had been killed. The experience had shaped Rwanda's firm commitment to protecting human life, dignity and humanitarian norms. Rwanda

was party to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols and had integrated IHL into its Constitution, national laws and policies. It was also one of the largest contributors of peacekeeping troops and police, whose contingents were well-trained in IHL and protection of civilians.

Institutional mechanisms were in place to ensure full implementation of Rwanda's international obligations, including a committee on international humanitarian law comprised of members from key government ministries, such as defence, justice, the interior and health. In addition, the country was hosting more than 120,000 refugees from the Great Lakes region of Africa, providing them with access to essential services.

Although many countries had made a commitment to respect IHL, violations persisted across the globe. The gap between commitment and practice showed the urgent need for stronger enforcement, effective domestic legislation and collective political will. She concluded by urging parliamentarians to go beyond ratifying conventions and translate commitments into tangible actions. Through legislation, oversight and parliamentary diplomacy, it was possible to ensure full respect and implementation of IHL.

Mr. F. Chahuan (Chile) said that the IPU's founding mission had been to build bridges where others erected walls, placing human dignity at the centre of global political action. Over a century later, the mission remained urgently relevant as the world faced more than 120 armed conflicts. Peace could not be imposed; it must be constructed on justice, respect for international law and the commitment of parliamentarians.

The IPU existed to ensure parliamentarians raised their voices in the face of violations of international law, which were not just legal offences but direct threats to peace. Central to the IPU's role was defending the human rights of parliamentarians themselves, who were often persecuted, imprisoned or silenced for fulfilling their democratic mandates. He cited the case of Marwan Barghouti, a Palestinian parliamentarian imprisoned for over 20 years, as emblematic of broader injustices that denied an entire people their right to self-determination. The IPU was urged to launch a global campaign for Barghouti's release as a demonstration of its commitment to parliamentary rights and representative democracy.

Consistency in the protection of human rights was needed alongside measures to prevent double standards. International accountability mechanisms, such as the International Criminal Court, must be leveraged in response to violations such as forced displacement, collective punishment and systematic abuses, as experienced in Gaza and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

He reaffirmed the importance of a two-State solution between Israel and Palestine, stressing that lasting peace required recognition of the inalienable rights of Palestinians, including the right of return, the right to self-determination and the right to a sovereign State. The IPU community was encouraged to recognize the State of Palestine as a full member of the parliamentary community. Doing so was not a symbolic act but a practical step towards peace.

The IPU must continue to defend human rights, promote peaceful solutions to conflict and work to strengthen the UN system, including through Security Council reform. True global peace could only be achieved when all peoples had a place, and building it required moral courage, beginning with parliamentarians speaking out against injustice.

Mr. C. Seneamatmontry (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that the world was facing unprecedented humanitarian crises, with conflicts displacing millions and leaving women, children and other vulnerable groups at risk. Those realities highlighted the urgent need to strengthen IHL.

In Laos, the legacy of war remained tangible through unexploded ordnance which continued to threaten lives and hinder development – a stark reminder of the long-term humanitarian consequences of war. As a result, clearance of unexploded ordnance had been made a national priority and designated as the country's Sustainable Development Goal 18 (SDG 18).

Reaffirming its commitment to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, his country had undertaken constitutional and legal reforms to align governance with humanitarian principles. IHL was not only a legal obligation but a moral duty binding all nations together. He expressed solidarity with all people affected by crises and commended humanitarian workers who risked their lives helping others.

Parliaments had an important role to play in translating humanitarian norms into national legislation, oversight and resource allocation. By adhering to the principles of distinction, proportionality, precaution and humanity, parliaments could help to alleviate suffering and foster peace, stability and sustainable development. Three key areas should be prioritized: (1) strengthening multilateralism; (2) adopting laws that protected vulnerable populations living in conflict in line with international principles; and (3) promoting parliamentary diplomacy to build trust and cooperation during crises.

Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland) stressed the urgency of upholding humanitarian norms at a time when over 310 million people required aid and more than 122 million were forcibly displaced amid a sharp rise in global conflicts. Switzerland, with its long-standing humanitarian tradition, neutral status and role as depositary of the Geneva Conventions, was a staunch defender of IHL and multilateralism as the only path to effective and viable solutions.

Recognizing that Geneva's unique ecosystem of over 160 humanitarian and human-rights organizations must be protected despite decreasing international funding. Switzerland had contributed significant resources (CHF 2 million) to maintain its role as a global humanitarian hub. Other actions included assuming the presidency of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for the year 2026 and remaining active in other multilateral bodies, including as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Political commitment alone was insufficient; parliamentarians must act by adopting laws, ratifying treaties and approving budgets that prioritized humanitarian norms and action in crisis. He called for stronger cooperation through the IPU and other parliamentary platforms, emphasizing that humanity required concrete action, not rhetoric, and that parliaments must remain the guardians of shared values and principles. Taking action on the matter at hand was a moral, legal and political imperative.

Mr. D. Laouingamaye (Chad) said that IHL was a major priority for Chad, which had welcomed thousands of refugees from neighbouring States and adopted key legislation on asylum and the protection of internally displaced persons. Those laws guaranteed fundamental rights such as access to healthcare, education, justice and freedom of movement, and had been recognized by UNHCR. However, Chad's 2025 humanitarian response plan remained severely underfunded at only 17%, the responsibility for which lay with donors, government and aid organizations. As a party to all major international humanitarian conventions, he reaffirmed Chad's dedication to advancing respect for IHL and outlined efforts to strengthen humanitarian monitoring.

Mr. C.A. Rendón García (Mexico) warned that the global system, built to foster cooperation and prosperity, was under strain, with trade barriers, technological fragmentation and geopolitical polarization increasingly undermining multilateralism. History showed that peace and prosperity advanced only when nations stayed open to commerce, dialogue, innovation and trust – an openness that parliamentarians had a duty to defend. Predictable and cooperative trade relations were therefore essential; without them, sustainable development and climate progress were impossible.

He cautioned that the resurgence of protectionism was producing harmful collective consequences: higher prices, slower growth and deepening inequality. While legitimate concerns existed about security, competitiveness and industrial policy, every barrier to trade ultimately became a barrier to opportunity.

Mexico believed that open markets, paired with fair regulation and environmental responsibility, remained the most powerful engines of shared prosperity. New economic trends such as nearshoring, technological innovation and the global energy transition offered new pathways for cooperation, but only if countries resisted the impulse to weaponize interdependence. Parliamentarians must not only legislate but rebuild trust among nations and dismantle barriers.

Ms. L.R. Magnúsdóttir (Iceland) said that unhindered access to humanitarian assistance was both a legal obligation and a moral duty. Yet, respect for IHL had deteriorated in recent years, with civilians, hospitals, schools, aid workers and journalists increasingly targeted – an unacceptable trend that undermined the foundations of peace.

She welcomed the recent ceasefire in Gaza which gave hope for lasting peace. With two million people lacking basic infrastructure and famine looming, there was an urgent need for full humanitarian access and international support for reconstruction. Iceland, which had recognized Palestine as a State in 2011, believed such recognition was an important step towards restoring Palestinian sovereignty and enabling the participation of Palestinians in the reconstruction process.

The war in Ukraine, which remained unresolved, continued to inflict profound suffering, particularly on children who had been taken from their families – an act that violated IHL, including the Geneva Conventions. Iceland condemned such actions and supported international efforts to ensure the safe return of those children to their families. Indeed, protecting children in war was central to advancing peace.

Other crises were also ongoing, including in Africa, where conflict, famine and poverty persisted. Even as global humanitarian needs grew, funding was declining, and political obstacles often prevented aid from reaching those in need. Humanitarian assistance must remain impartial, non-discriminatory and guided by need alone.

Noting that Iceland's foreign policy had always been grounded in peace, human rights and international cooperation, she underscored the vital role of parliaments in ensuring governments honoured their international commitments, for instance, by adequately funding humanitarian security and introducing national human rights legislation. Compassion was humanity's strongest tool for overcoming hatred, and listening to those who suffered was the first step towards peace.

Mr. F. El-Fayez (Jordan) took the Chair.

Ms. M. Tender (Portugal) said that in times of crisis, whether armed conflict, natural disaster or public-health emergency, upholding humanitarian norms was not only a legal commitment but a moral imperative rooted in the values of democracy and multilateralism. Parliamentarians must reaffirm their commitment to IHL and to the core principles of humanitarian action: humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.

At a time when multilateralism faced political and economic pressures, humanitarian obligations must not be compromised. There was a need for stable and predictable humanitarian funding, protection of humanitarian organizations and the guarantee that short-term national security concerns would not undermine long-term international commitments. Humanitarian responses must prioritize the most vulnerable, including women, children, minorities and displaced populations.

Noting the interconnected nature of today's crises, parliaments must legislate preventively and in an integrated manner. Defending humanitarian standards was ultimately about defending human dignity, multilateralism and peace – commitments central to Portugal's approach.

Mr. N.J. Mohamed (Malaysia) said that humanitarian norms were not merely legal frameworks but the embodiment of a shared humanity. Parliamentarians had a vital role in ensuring that those principles translated into impartial and effective real-world action. The scale of today's humanitarian challenges was unprecedented, as seen in Myanmar, where 22 million people were in need of assistance, and in Sudan where a quarter of a million people had been forced to flee. Those challenges were compounded by increasing attacks on humanitarian workers with 385 killed across 20 countries in 2024.

Recognizing the vital importance of humanitarian values in responding to natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, Malaysia had strengthened its disaster management laws in line with international standards, improved coordination between government and civil society, and provided humanitarian assistance regionally, including recent deployments to the Philippines. It had also convened a meeting of foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) urging swift aid to Myanmar. Although not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention, Malaysia hosted nearly 200,000 refugees.

Upholding humanitarian norms required collective political will. He called on the IPU to strengthen legal protections for humanitarian workers, safeguard vulnerable populations and use parliamentary diplomacy to resolve conflicts before they escalated.

Expressing deep concern over the situation in Palestine, he condemned Israeli actions, including its attacks on the peaceful humanitarian mission, the Global Sumud Flotilla. He called for full respect of IHL, unrestricted delivery of humanitarian aid and efforts to hold Israel accountable. Malaysia welcomed the ceasefire agreement between Hamas and Israel but remained alarmed by continued attacks in the occupied Palestinian territories. Swift and comprehensive implementation of the agreement was imperative, as was the establishment of an independent Palestinian State based on the pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. The tragedy in Gaza represented not just physical destruction but an attempted erasure of culture, identity and heritage – an effort to extinguish the Palestinian civilization. While AI could support reconstruction by documenting damage and preserving cultural memory, rebuilding must be guided by ethics and human emotion, be led by Palestinians and shaped by their culture and wisdom. Reconstruction of Palestine was not a humanitarian favour but a global obligation.

Ms. A.K. Uznańska-Wiśniewska (Poland) said that the post-Second World War international order, built on the promise that borders would never again be redrawn by force, was under severe strain. Multilateralism was in retreat, tyrants were being appeased, and the rules of war were no longer respected. She cited the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation as a defining example of those challenges, highlighting deliberate attacks on civilian infrastructure, the use of torture and the forced Russification of Ukrainian children, alongside persistent attempts to delegitimize Ukraine's sovereignty while dehumanizing its people.

The actions of the Russian Federation echoed the troubling genocidal patterns of the twentieth century, from the Holocaust and Srebrenica to Rwanda and Darfur, with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine already warning that the actions might constitute the crime of incitement to genocide. Ukraine was defending not only its own sovereignty but the moral architecture of the international system built after 1945.

The Russian propaganda machine continued to flood the world with denial, confusion and moral fog, leaving many States hesitant to confront the country's crimes. However, given its actions not only in Ukraine but also in Georgia, Chechnya, the Balkans, Moldova, the Syrian Arab Republic and Libya, such impunity must end, and the International Criminal Court's arrest warrants for Putin must be enforced. Poland, fully aware of the global threat posed by imperialist Russia, viewed steadfast support for Ukraine as the best strategic investment in a peaceful future.

Speaking from her own experience as a humanitarian aid worker in Ukraine, she observed that humanitarian action, though vital, could easily become a way for governments to brush over underlying issues and evade their responsibilities. True peace required a commitment to justice, not just aid. Parliamentarians, as the voice of the people and guardians of conscience, were duty-bound to uphold IHL and demand accountability for attacks on civilians and aid workers.

Mr. A.O. Abshir (Somalia) said that, as a nation long affected by conflict, displacement and natural disasters, Somalia deeply understood the value of humanitarian principles and IHL, deeming them matters of survival, dignity and hope. The country had taken concrete steps to institutionalize humanitarian protection, including enacting laws to safeguard the rights of refugees and internally displaced persons and establishing the National Commission for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons to promote protection, assistance, self-reliance and integration. A signatory to the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, Somalia had aligned its legislation with global humanitarian standards and collaborated with the United Nations, the African Union (AU) and other regional organizations to strengthen coordination, transparency and accountability in humanitarian operations.

Despite ongoing challenges such as climate-induced displacement, economic shocks and resource constraints, he urged the international community to protect humanitarian funding, uphold IHL and reaffirm multilateralism as the cornerstone of collective action. Upholding humanitarian norms was both a moral duty and a shared global responsibility. In times of crisis, the principle of collective humanity must guide action, ensuring compassion, protection and dignity for all.

Mr. S. Doueriy (Mauritania) lamenting the rising number of armed conflicts and the broader social, economic and political challenges facing the world today, emphasized the urgent need for international cooperation and collective solutions. He strongly denounced the brutal violence against civilians in Gaza, including women and children, and criticized the inability of the international system to translate resolutions and declarations into meaningful action on the ground. The situation in Gaza was not a local phenomenon but a reflection of a failed international system. Protecting the rights of Palestinian people, including the right to a sovereign Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital, was essential to achieving peace in the Middle East. Parliaments must condemn Israeli attacks in Gaza and urge their governments to uphold international humanitarian norms, ensuring that those principles were more than mere words.

Mr. P.F. Casini (Italy) said that compliance with humanitarian principles and support for humanitarian action were not theoretical concepts but urgent political and moral imperatives. Recognizing the ongoing humanitarian tragedy in Gaza and the suffering of Israeli families following the attacks on 7 October 2023, it was clear that IHL was increasingly under threat. The erosion of humanitarian norms was evident not only in the Middle East but globally, for instance in Ukraine, Sudan, Myanmar and the Sahel.

Violations of humanitarian law were never justified; neither the fight against terror nor national security concerns could be a pretext for attacks on civilians. At a time marked by a lack of faith in multilateralism, parliaments had a critical role as bridges between divided societies and governments. They must reassert the pivotal role of multilateral cooperation as well as the role of international institutions such as the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and humanitarian agencies in protecting civilians and ensuring access to aid.

He welcomed the recent Israel-Hamas ceasefire agreement as a crucial window of hope. The release of Israeli hostages in exchange for Palestinian detainees along with the signing of declarations of intent represented important steps towards reconstruction and the establishment of a provisional government in Gaza. However, the real challenge was in translating those pledges into

concrete action, for instance, by rebuilding infrastructure, restoring security and addressing trauma. To achieve a just and lasting peace, effective and transparent supervision mechanisms must be established. Parliaments and the IPU could play an important role in that regard.

Mr. R. Khosla (Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH)) said that, in a world marked by deepening divides and growing crises such as conflict and climate shocks, the multilateral system was under strain and the global collective commitment to IHL was being tested. Highlighting the particular vulnerability of women, children and adolescents, he noted that disruptions in funding for maternal, newborn and child health programmes as well as in sexual and reproductive health services had caused a humanitarian crisis among those populations. Women, children and adolescents must remain the heartbeat of any credible humanitarian response.

Parliamentarians had a critical role in translating humanitarian principles such as humanity, neutrality and impartiality into concrete national action, even in times of crisis. They must ring-fence funding for women's, children's and adolescents' health even amid economic and political pressure, and maintain oversight to prevent short-term political or security interests from undermining long-term humanitarian commitments. Furthermore, it was important to adopt multisectoral, inclusive approaches that recognized health as both a humanitarian and development imperative inseparable from education, nutrition, social protection and technological innovation.

He applauded the leadership of South Africa in spearheading discussions within the IPU on the health rights of women, children and adolescents. It was important to galvanize parliamentary action in that direction by strengthening financing and advancing progressive laws, including on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Action rooted in courage and solidarity was needed to ensure that crisis response, whether in law, budget or practice, upheld the health and well-being of vulnerable populations.

Mr. D. Mwapinga (Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR)) emphasized the urgency of upholding humanitarian norms amid worsening global crises, including conflict, displacement, climate shocks and food insecurity. Humanitarian principles must be reaffirmed, not as optional ideas but as binding moral and legal obligations rooted in international law. He highlighted the central role of parliaments in crisis response through legislation, budget allocation and government oversight, and stressed the need for humanitarian leadership that was homegrown and people-centred but globally supported. The FP-ICGLR was working with partners such as the IPU, the AU and the United Nations to strengthen humanitarian governance and ensure that international aid aligned with national priorities and reached those most in need.

Although the Great Lakes region had long experienced conflict and displacement, it remained resilient, with parliaments and governments having demonstrated great courage in confronting the root causes of instability, from illicit exploitation of natural resources to weak governance and social exclusion. The African experience showed that humanitarian crises were not confined by borders and that solidarity was a source of strength.

He called for equal protection for all lives, whether in Gaza, Sudan, Ukraine or the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, urging parliamentarians to choose compassion over indifference, justice over impunity and cooperation over isolation. In doing so, they would reaffirm that the world still had a conscience. The strength of humanitarian norms lay not in the text of treaties but in the courage of actions, including sustained humanitarian financing, respect for the neutrality of humanitarian workers and protection of civilians and infrastructure.

Ms. E. Scolaro (World Health Organization (WHO)) said that health was often the first casualty in crises, with attacks on health workers and facilities, disruptions to essential services and collapsing health systems leaving vulnerable and displaced populations without life-saving care. Upholding humanitarian norms therefore required protecting health workers and ensuring uninterrupted access to health services.

The WHO and the United Nations had been founded on the belief that global cooperation was the only alternative to global conflict, and the WHO Constitution had been the first international legal instrument to affirm health as a fundamental human right. In a divided world, health must remain a bridge for cooperation and dialogue, enabling nations to work together towards a shared goal.

She outlined three priorities for parliaments: (1) incorporating IHL into national legislation with a view to safeguarding health workers and facilities; (2) combatting misinformation to preserve public trust and strengthen emergency response; and (3) ensuring sustainable, predictable and flexible financing for resilient health systems. Parliaments played a vital role in ensuring that health was prioritized in national budgets and in holding governments accountable for international commitments.

She expressed appreciation for the WHO's partnership with the IPU, including through the new Committee on Health, and invited all parliamentarians to the 2026 Global Parliamentary Dialogue to be held within the framework of the next World Health Assembly.

Ms. D. Bergamini (Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)) expressed strong support for the ceasefire in Gaza, urging all parties to turn it into lasting peace, and called for swift delivery of life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable. In addition to Gaza, she drew attention to other major crises, including in Sudan, Ukraine, Myanmar and the Sahel.

Global humanitarian action was nearing collapse due to severe funding shortages and insufficient personnel, even as millions depended on it and more than 100 conflicts continued worldwide. It was deeply concerning that members of the UN Security Council, who should be champions of IHL, were among those violating it, for instance, through their attacks on civilians. As the ICRC President had warned, the boundaries of warfare were being pushed in ways that heightened human suffering and fuelled new security threats. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to ensure respect for IHL, demand accountability for violations, and protect aid workers and medical staff.

PAM Member Parliaments would continue to support bold and innovative initiatives to implement IHL, speaking out in international forums and backing accountability mechanisms. In the face of rapid technological change, it was important to clarify the application of IHL in relation to autonomous weapons systems and other emerging technologies.

Ms. B. Blossel (UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health) said that the crises plaguing the world were not only political crises but profound health crises. Despite the protections enshrined in the Geneva Conventions, hospitals continued to be bombed, health workers targeted, and life-saving aid obstructed, destroying health systems and disrupting essential health services. Since 1990, the exposure of women and girls to conflict had more than doubled, with severe consequences, including higher maternal mortality and gender-based violence. It was clear that violations of IHL were directly fuelling illness and death.

Upholding humanitarian norms must therefore include safeguarding the right to health. Parliamentarians had a crucial role to play in that regard through legislation, oversight and budget decisions. The work, however, could not be done alone but required partnership, knowledge-sharing and collective will.

She outlined three priorities championed by UNITE: (1) investing in resilient health systems as the foundation for humanitarian action, primary healthcare and emergency preparedness, with local health workers as the first line of defence in times of crisis; (2) protecting health workers and humanitarian personnel; and (3) ensuring inclusive responses that addressed the needs of women and young people – often the most affected but also among the most powerful agents of recovery and peace. Upholding humanitarian norms was ultimately about protecting lives and preserving humanity.

Mr. M. Lassouaoui (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)) said that, over the past two years, the war in Gaza had brought about an unprecedented erosion of humanitarian norms, marked by prolonged inaction and impunity. Over 63,000 children have been killed or injured, and more than 380 UNRWA staff, including teachers, doctors and counsellors, had lost their lives. Most UNRWA facilities, including schools and health clinics, had been damaged or destroyed, and famine persisted not due to scarcity but because humanitarian aid delivery had been obstructed. Even after recent ceasefires, UNRWA continued to be denied entry to deliver critical humanitarian supplies such as food and medicines, which should never be subject to negotiation.

He condemned Israeli legislation and coordinated disinformation campaigns targeting UNRWA, which set a dangerous precedent aiming to undermine the agency's humanitarian and development role for Palestinian refugees. Israel's actions were not just attacks on UNRWA but on the Charter of the United Nations, international law and fundamental humanitarian principles.

Despite those challenges, UNRWA remained committed to providing support and currently held enough food, blankets, tents and medicines to sustain the population. He stressed the need for large-scale humanitarian access to restore healthcare and education.

The blatant disregard for IHL in Gaza must never be allowed to happen again. There was a window of opportunity to end the conflict and reaffirm the two-State solution, but it required a collective commitment to upholding humanitarian principles and law. He called on the international community to ensure accountability, advocate for unimpeded humanitarian access, protect the rights and dignity of Palestinian refugees and defend UNRWA's mandate, not only in Palestine but in the wider region, including through reliable financial support.

Mr Y. Galeazzi (Sovereign Order of Malta) said that, as a sovereign entity and global humanitarian actor with diplomatic relations with 115 countries and permanent observer status at the United Nations, the Sovereign Order of Malta provided emergency medical aid, disaster preparedness and reconstruction support to those in need without distinction of religion, nationality, origin or age.

The year 2025 had been a deadly year for humanitarian workers, who were sometimes deliberately targeted. There was an urgent need to end violations of IHL, support victims and ensure justice and accountability for all. Humanitarian assistance must be provided in accordance with the principles of neutrality, impartiality, independence and humanity.

The Order had participated in the Second Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue held in Rome earlier that year where the work of its hospital in Bethlehem and other activities in the West Bank had been presented. He welcomed the Marrakesh and Rome communiqués, which recognized the essential role of parliamentary and religious diplomacy in fostering dialogue, cooperation and trust between communities.

The ceasefire in Gaza was also welcomed, and the Order stood ready to deliver humanitarian aid to the region. It had likewise maintained a continuous presence in Ukraine, delivering humanitarian and refugee support since the start of the conflict. Parliamentarians must hold governments accountable for their humanitarian obligations.

SECOND SPEAKERS FROM DELEGATIONS

Ms. V. Lee (Singapore) reaffirmed her country's strong commitment to upholding a rules-based multilateral system and to advancing IHL. As a small but globally connected nation, Singapore understood that collective security and shared humanity were intertwined. Although not directly affected by major crises, it contributed to resolving them through diplomacy, capacity-building and consistent voluntary contributions to UN agencies and humanitarian organizations.

Singapore aimed to foster safe and effective cooperation among humanitarian actors, governments, civil society and international agencies. Its humanitarian efforts, including overseas deployments of aid workers and armed forces to support victims of violence and displacement, were grounded in empathy as much as policy.

Humanitarian action must be inclusive, drawing on the strengths of diverse groups, including young people, the private sector, technology and local communities. Effective partnerships had proven to be key to saving lives. Ultimately, it was the principle of shared humanity that must guide every crisis response.

Mr. O. Parrilli (Argentina) wished to highlight two significant challenges to democracy. The first was the global shift towards consumer-based capitalism, which had concentrated wealth in the hands of large corporations and exacerbated social inequality. The situation had created a democratic deficit with citizens feeling increasingly disconnected from political institutions failing to address their daily needs. The second was the use of judicial systems and media to prevent political opponents from participating in elections. Examples cited included the disqualification of Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva from elections in 2018 due to false allegations, and the barring of former Argentine President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner from parliamentary elections in 2025.

Item 2 of the agenda

Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda (A/151/2-P.2 and P.3)

Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka (Poland) took the Chair.

The Chair said that the Secretariat had received two requests for emergency items. The first request, submitted by the delegation of South Africa, on behalf of the African Group, was entitled *Global call for parliamentary solidarity and coordinated action on Madagascar*. The second request, submitted by the delegations of Thailand, Argentina, Chile, Poland and Sweden, with the support of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) and the Twelve Plus Group, was entitled *Parliamentary action against transnational organized crime, cybercrime and hybrid threats to democracy and human security*. A third request had been submitted by a Member of the MERCOSUR Parliament (PARLASUR) – an Associate Member of the IPU – on behalf of a Member of Parliament of

Argentina. However, the request did not comply with Rule 11.1 of the Rules of the Assembly, which required the request to be submitted directly by the Member Parliament or by its delegation. The request was therefore deemed inadmissible.

A video was played explaining the voting procedure for emergency items.

The Chair said that the rules allowed for one emergency item only to be added to the agenda. Each proposal would be considered and put to a vote, with a two-thirds majority required to be accepted. One delegate representing each proposal, followed by one opposing speaker, if any, would be given the floor in sequence before proceeding to a single roll-call vote.

Ms. S. Kuugongelwa-Amadhila (Namibia), presenting the emergency item proposal entitled *Global call for parliamentary solidarity and coordinated action on Madagascar*, said that the unfolding political situation in Madagascar posed a serious threat to democratic governance, regional stability and the rule of law, demanding urgent international attention. The proposal, grounded in international and regional instruments, including the Charter of the United Nations and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, called for strong coordinated international action in Madagascar led by parliaments and support for the work of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). SADC, which was already leading mediation efforts, had the legitimacy, regional insight and diplomatic tools to broker peace. Those efforts could be bolstered through diplomatic engagement and solidarity.

The proposal sought the immediate restoration of constitutional order, the organization of free and fair elections, the protection of human rights and civic freedoms, and the promotion of inclusive dialogue among all stakeholders. Furthermore, it urged accountability for alleged violence against civilians and solidarity with the people of Madagascar, including its elected representatives.

By supporting the proposal, parliamentarians would take a stand for democracy, peace and the rule of law and reaffirm their commitment to preventing a humanitarian crisis, refugee flows and regional instability. It was a timely opportunity to demonstrate the IPU's ability to act decisively in moments of democratic fragility.

The Chair said that no opposing speakers had been registered.

Mr. R. Rome (Thailand), presenting the emergency item proposal entitled *Parliamentary action against transnational organized crime, cybercrime and hybrid threats to democracy and human security*, said that drug cartels, targeted assassinations, disinformation campaigns, weaponized digital technologies and illicit financial flows were just some examples of the cross-border crimes plaguing the world today. Built on fear and deception, those crimes represented a shadow empire powerful enough to corrupt economies, infiltrate politics, erode democratic institutions and enslave lives.

The threat was a hybrid one where crime, corruption and digital warfare converged. It was particularly visible in Southeast Asia, which was seeing a rise in scam compounds. The recent killing of Colombian Senator Miguel Uribe Turbay showed that organized crime was not a distant threat but a direct danger to democracy.

The proposal called on parliaments to close legal loopholes, strengthen anti-trafficking frameworks and ensure responses grounded in human rights, dignity and justice. Confronting those threats required international cooperation and action guided by both resolve and humanity. The nature of democracy was not about how widely injustice was condemned but how decisively it was confronted.

Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation) opposed the proposal on procedural grounds, arguing that it did not meet Rule 11.2 of the Rules of the Assembly, which required emergency items to relate to a recent major situation of international concern. The proposal addressed a general problem rather than a specific recent event. Additionally, it had been submitted only a few hours prior, preventing proper fact-checking and discussion within geopolitical groups, making it procedurally inadmissible.

The Chair said that, according to the Rules of the Assembly, the Steering Committee determined the admissibility of emergency items. The Committee had met that morning and given a positive opinion to the proposal. However, the Russian Federation delegation reserved the right to vote against the proposal should it wish to.

Mr. M. Chungong (IPU Secretary General) said that the two proposals before the Assembly had indeed been examined by the Steering Committee and deemed admissible. According to the Rules of the Assembly, when two or more competing proposals were submitted, a vote by roll call must be held. He explained the voting procedure in line with the IPU Statutes and Rules.

A vote by roll call was taken.

With 743 votes in favour, 138 against and 468 abstentions, the proposal submitted by the delegation of South Africa, on behalf of the African Group, obtained the required two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

With 834 votes in favour, 235 against and 280 abstentions, the request submitted by the delegations of Thailand, Argentina, Chile, Poland and Sweden, with the support of GRULAC and the Twelve Plus Group, obtained the required two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority and the largest number of positive votes cast, the proposal submitted by the delegations of Thailand, Argentina, Chile, Poland and Sweden, with the support of GRULAC and the Twelve Plus Group, was added to the agenda of the Assembly.

The sitting rose at 18:20.

Final Agenda

1. Election of the President of the 151st Assembly
 2. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
 3. General Debate on the theme *Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis*
 4. Special accountability segment on the implementation of IPU resolutions and other decisions
 5. *Recognizing and supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent this practice*
(Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights)
 6. Reports of the Standing Committees
 7. Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 153rd IPU Assembly and appointment of the co-Rapporteurs
 8. Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules
 9. Parliamentary action against transnational organized crime, cybercrime and hybrid threats to democracy and human security
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Emergency item entitled *Parliamentary action against transnational organized crime, cybercrime and hybrid threats to democracy and human security*

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2025

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 09:00, with Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka (Poland), Vice-President of the IPU and President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 2 of the agenda

Debate on the emergency item submitted by the delegations of Thailand, Argentina, Chile, Poland and Sweden, with the support of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Twelve Plus Group, on the theme *Parliamentary action against transnational organized crime, cybercrime and hybrid threats to democracy and human security* (A/151/2-P.3)

The President welcomed the delegates to the debate on the theme of the emergency item on transnational organized crime and cybercrime. She pointed out that those crimes were escalating in the twenty-first century and, together with hybrid threats, undermined international peace and security. It was therefore a must for parliamentarians to actively address such criminality.

Mr. T. Tavares-Finson (Jamaica) took the Chair.

Mr. C. van de Sanden (Netherlands) said that the diplomatic language used in the final text of the draft resolution did not change the principles underlying the original draft. A breach of sovereignty and international law as defined by the draft resolution did not depend on the perpetrator or the names attributed to such breaches to cloak them in ambiguity. Everyone knew whose acts had inspired the current debate. His Government interpreted the draft resolution in the spirit of its original intent, reaffirming that countries must bear full responsibility for hybrid attacks, disinformation campaigns and airspace violations, which were violations of the Charter of the United Nations. In time, it would be remembered which parties were in favour of the principles outlined in the draft resolution and which parties remained silent.

Mr. C. d'Entremont (Canada) said that the increase in disinformation and misinformation campaigns on non-media platforms and social media influenced how populations reacted with their governments, including through steps taken by foreign actors to sway elections. He agreed with the delegate from the Netherlands that the language of the draft resolution should not be diluted. It should incorporate issues relating to the proliferation of disinformation and cybercrime.

Ms. A. Kalmari (Finland), deploring the increase of acts of sabotage in international waters, the airspace and cyberspace, said that parliamentarians worldwide should condemn any deliberate hybrid attacks.

Ms. M. Guerra Castillo (Mexico) said that parliamentarians should develop a modern and coordinated international legal framework to prevent the globalization of impunity so that justice was not limited to the national level. There was a need for laws to be aligned to address criminal offences and for technological and legal international cooperation to punish and prevent organized crime and dismantle the structures that facilitated it. It was necessary to protect young people from being recruited and women from being trafficked, and to ensure that communities did not live in fear. Concerning cybersecurity, a global coordinated response was required, given that the cyberspace was global. Transnational organized crime and cybercrime involved interconnected networks that took advantage of inequality, corruption and legal gaps. Parliamentarians needed to establish model laws on organized crime and cybercrime, mechanisms for the sharing of information and good practices and a parliamentary watchdog for cybersecurity, transnational crime and standards measurable by indicators.

Ms. D. Henkel (Canada), welcoming the draft resolution, said that parliamentarians needed to work together to combat arms, drug and human trafficking, which were interrelated and funded corruption, conflict and the destabilization of States. The draft resolution should emphasize the need for traceability of financial flows and effective beneficiaries to stop those illegal networks at the source. There should be strengthened capacity-building for parliamentarians, equipping them with monitoring mechanisms and ensuring access to information and international collaboration. Parliamentarians needed to share good practices and leverage technology, particularly to monitor crypto assets used for money laundering and illegal funding. The fight against such illegal networks should not undermine human rights and the rule of law and required of parliamentarians transparency, cooperation and courage.

Mr. W.M. Aye (Myanmar) said that the humanitarian consequences and shadow economy resulting from transnational organized crime should be emphasized for the IPU to mount an effective humanitarian parliamentary response.

Mr. R. Parmessar (Suriname) said that while it was useful to combat drug trafficking, it was necessary to assess which countries manufactured chemicals used for drug production and limit the manufacturing of such chemicals to reduce drug production in developing countries. The financial institutions' imposition of higher interest rates on developing countries created inequality and poverty, which led to vulnerability. Foreign interference, such as that by Western Europe in his country, must be prevented, particularly during elections. The IPU Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights should monitor and document attacks against parliamentarians. There should be a mechanism to facilitate the participation of Small Island Developing States in the IPU.

Mr. R. Rome (Thailand) said that all measures taken within the context of the draft resolution should be grounded in international human rights and humanitarian law. Defending democracy, truth and human dignity, the draft resolution reaffirmed that organized crime and hybrid threats required not only government intervention but also legislative vigilance, transnational solidarity and ethical leadership by parliaments. Thailand stood ready to work with all IPU Member Parliaments to ensure that the draft resolution established a framework to protect people, restore accountability and strengthen democracy.

The President, recalling Rule 13.2 of the Rules of the Standing Committees, issued a call for the geopolitical groups to nominate their representatives on the drafting committee, which would be meeting in the course of the afternoon, to finalize the draft resolution *Parliamentary action against transnational organized crime, cybercrime and hybrid threats to democracy and human security*.

Mr. J.C. Mabuza (Eswatini) took the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda
(continued)

**General Debate on the theme *Upholding humanitarian norms
and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis***
(A/151/3-Inf.1)

FIRST SPEAKERS FROM DELEGATIONS AND INVITED ORGANIZATIONS

Ms. M. Cederfelt (Sweden) said that leaders of several countries had chosen war over cooperation, violating their commitment to uphold international humanitarian law (IHL). The Russian Federation's aggressive, unprovoked war against Ukraine was a blatant attack on IHL and the rules-based order established by the United Nations, thereby undermining security for all countries. Her country's top foreign policy priority was to support Ukraine, including by providing military defence, addressing humanitarian needs and ensuring universal access to services. Sweden and its European allies firmly upheld Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and right to self-determination. Aggression should not be rewarded. There must be stability throughout Europe, which called for peace in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Speakers of parliament were invited to attend the Fourth Parliamentary Summit of the Crimea Platform, to be held in Stockholm in November 2025. The President of the IPU, Dr. T. Ackson, was commended for registering for the Summit. Politicians could make a difference through debates and lawmaking and by cooperating with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society and businesses.

Mr. A.S. Thakur (India) said that his country's approach to humanitarian action was shaped by civilizational ethos, strategic interest and an evolving global role on the basis of non-interference, pluralism and regional stability. It was necessary to comprehensively reform multilateral institutions and increase the inclusiveness of global decision making. Governments, international agencies, businesses and other stakeholders needed to enhance their humanitarian support to the United Nations. Global cooperation was key to saving lives and providing safe, sustained and timely assistance to those affected by disasters and conflicts. Highlighting his Government's humanitarian efforts, including training women's forces from several countries, carrying out technical and economic cooperation with developing countries and establishing a national disaster management fund, he underscored that while governments were primarily responsible for aid, humanitarian institutions had the duty to uphold humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. Parliamentarians should recommit themselves to ensuring dignity for all.

Ms. Z.M. Aung (Myanmar) said that her country faced a serious humanitarian crisis because of the military coup and recent natural disasters. The military junta had conducted over 600 attacks during a supposed ceasefire and continued to target civilians, obstruct humanitarian access and weaponize aid. Steadfast in their demand for democracy, the people of Myanmar opposed the illegitimate election scheduled to take place in December 2025, which would exacerbate the crisis and sought to legitimize military rule, although the junta controlled only a minor part of the country. It had imprisoned political opponents and had silenced the media. Parliamentarians were urged to remain neutral, reject the election, reaffirm the IPU's recognition of the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Myanmar's elected representative as the legitimate parliamentary interlocutor, demand the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners, call for immediate humanitarian access across the country, impose comprehensive sanctions, including arms and jet fuel embargoes, and support Myanmar's democratic and ethnic stakeholders in achieving a practical peaceful solution.

Mr. M. Cassayre (International Development Law Organization (IDLO)) said that it was essential to strengthen justice systems and the rule of law, ensure inclusive laws and build trust in institutions to prevent humanitarian crises. It was also necessary to allow humanitarian actors to operate safely and transition towards lasting peace and sustainable development. Vital to IDLO's support to countries to that end, parliaments must translate humanitarian principles into national legislation, ensure that budgets protected those in need, guarantee fair, clear and non-discriminatory laws and promote participatory and transparent lawmaking. IDLO remained committed to working with parliaments and other partners to strengthen legal frameworks and ensure principled governance and inclusive people-centred justice.

Mr. M. Aboueleneen (Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UFM)) said that only sustainable solutions to conflict could effect change. The peace agreement to end the war in Gaza, put forward by Egypt, Qatar and the United States of America at the Sharm El-Sheikh Summit in October 2025, had confirmed that dialogue must prevail. The agreement advanced peace as a humanitarian system based on justice and respect, leading not only to a ceasefire in Gaza, but also to peace and stability throughout the Middle East. He expressed support for the President of Egypt and welcomed the involvement of the President of the United States of America, who had restored peace in the region for the time. All leaders, particularly those of Palestine and Israel, were urged to respect the agreement. Parliamentarians should actively work together to defend real peace and human dignity. They were invited to accept the peace agreement.

Ms. M. Kiener Nellen (Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND)) said that PNND had issued an urgent appeal one week prior to the UN General Assembly for the commemoration of a Nuclear Abolition Day, which had been signed by many organizations and countries. It had called on leaders of all levels of governance to affirm that the threat or use of nuclear weapons was unacceptable; promote specific measures for nuclear-armed States and their allies to deactivate their nuclear forces and adopt policies to permanently prevent nuclear wars; undertake to achieve nuclear disarmament by 2045 and immediately take steps through multilateral negotiation to implement that commitment; cut nuclear weapon budgets and end public and private investment in the nuclear weapon industry; and redirect those funds to strengthen the United Nations, promote peacekeeping and dispute resolution and accelerate measures to address climate change. It was important for the United States of America to accept the offer by the Russian Federation to prolong the New START Treaty to 5 February 2027. Parliamentarians were invited to join PNND by visiting the website pnnd.org.

Mr. R. Hasan (Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States (TURKPA)) said that it was necessary to take concrete steps to apply humanitarian norms and protect the most vulnerable. There should be international cooperation among all governments, parliaments and international organizations to translate humanitarian commitments into effective missions on the ground to safeguard peace, stability and dignity. TURKPA worked with its neighbours in Eurasia, and its policy regarding its neighbours contributed to developing a common approach to problems. It stood ready to deepen its cooperation with the IPU and other parliamentary platforms and to discuss issues of mutual interest, including humanitarian norms, with other international organizations.

Ms. L.M. Espinal (Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPPAL)) said that human rights were under serious threat in Latin America and the Caribbean. Key issues included impunity, abuse of power, lack of access to justice, structural discrimination, forced disappearances and gender violence. The region was home to the world's highest murder rate. Public security had been militarized in certain countries and there was a lack of accountability. Once elected, leaders in many countries disregarded institutional guarantees and undermined judicial independence, thereby creating fertile ground for authoritarianism and systematic violation of human rights. Freedom of expression was under threat in many countries, as journalists and human rights defenders were stigmatized, persecuted and sometimes assassinated. Latin America faced inequality and discrimination that affected historically vulnerable groups, such as indigenous communities and people of African descent. Civil society, international organizations and parliaments should continue to defend human rights. COPPPAL therefore remained committed to strengthening democracy and justice, demanding that States respect the decisions of international organizations and fight against poverty, extreme inequality and food insecurity. Cooperation was necessary to address the root causes of violence and inequality to defend the right of all to a life of freedom and dignity.

Ms. S. Howard (UN World Food Programme (WFP)) said that the world's two concurrent famines, in Sudan and Palestine, were human-induced crises, driven by conflict and compounded by restricted humanitarian access. The WFP needed access and resources, but humanitarian funding had been reduced by about 30% in 2025, and humanitarian principles were constantly attacked. There were already devastating consequences, and further funding shortfalls could push millions more into catastrophic hunger. The IPU was an essential partner, contributing to the delivery of assistance and demonstrating to citizens, by way of its Member Parliaments, the relevance of global solidarity. The Member Parliaments' leadership helped to mobilize the political will needed to secure resources and protect humanitarian principles.

Mr. A.J. Kingi (Kenya) thanked the Organization for standing with Kenya and the rest of Africa as it grieved the loss of recently deceased former Prime Minister Raila Odinga of Kenya, who had been a defender of peace, human rights and good governance. The discussion on humanitarian norms and action was timely. The current crises demanded compassion, resolute political will and coordinated parliamentary action. Kenya pursued parliamentary diplomacy and had integrated humanitarian considerations into its legislative agenda, including to strengthen disaster preparedness and humanitarian assistance and safeguard the rights of displaced and vulnerable communities. The Parliament of Kenya committed to aligning domestic laws with international humanitarian obligations, enhancing oversight to ensure that humanitarian aid reached those most in need, promoting inclusivity by engaging women, youth and marginalized groups in humanitarian decision-making and supporting diplomatic efforts to uphold IHL in all countries. Parliamentarians should reaffirm their shared responsibility to humanity and craft global solutions through solidarity, multilateral cooperation and parliamentary leadership.

Ms. P. Glover Rolle (Bahamas), highlighting that civilians bore the brunt of a record number of armed conflicts, said that it was urgent to uphold norms that protected human dignity. Given that climate events carried environmental and economic consequences that threatened the livelihoods of people in Small Island Developing States, humanitarian action must confront the climate emergency and its humanitarian consequences. As a member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and firm supporter of regional and international efforts to restore peace and stability in Haiti, the Bahamas welcomed UN Security Council resolution 2793 (2025), authorizing UN member states to transition the Multinational Security Support mission in Haiti into a Gang Suppression Force, and called for sustained contributions to the UN Trust Fund. The Haitian crisis was a test of countries' collective humanity.

Humanitarian action should begin with political will. The Bahamas had strengthened frameworks relating to human rights, humanitarian action and resilience, such as by launching a parliamentary human rights committee, ensuring oversight of rights protection and alignment with international standards, including in emergencies, establishing a disaster risk management authority and defining national humanitarian assistance standards. The National Youth Guard was training young Bahamians in international disaster preparedness and relief. The Bahamas also contributed to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

As multilateralism and trust were in a critical state, effective humanitarian action called for the renewal of the social contract of global cooperation, built on solidarity, fairness, shared responsibility, human rights and justice, with a focus on meeting the needs of vulnerable communities. Parliaments should reaffirm their collective resolve to protect the integrity of IHL, champion inclusive people-centred policies and strengthen parliamentary diplomacy. Humanitarian workers worldwide were commended for their courage, compassion and selfless service. Parliamentarians should work collectively to ensure that humanitarian workers could work safely and with dignity.

Mr. J. Nhan-O'Reilly (International Parliamentary Network for Education (IPNEd)) said that education was not given enough attention in the already overstretched and underfunded humanitarian system. Depriving children of education in times of conflict robbed them of a means of receiving food, water and basic healthcare. Drastic cuts to development and humanitarian assistance undermined educational efforts. The majority of refugees globally were hosted in low- and middle-income countries that often struggled to provide education to local children. The international community should support host countries to provide refugees with access to education. Furthermore, there had been a significant increase in the number of reports of attacks on education in recent years. Parliamentarians were urged to bolster humanitarian norms and action and build people-to-people relationships to defend access to education.

Mr. M.H. Djingarey (Niger) said that the Advisory Council for the Refoundation of Niger stood ready to work with other parliaments to achieve global peace, security and stability. The theme of the Assembly demonstrated the importance of humanitarian action to the IPU Member Parliaments. Injustices and crimes should be condemned everywhere, regardless of colour, geography and geopolitical factors, without interference in countries' domestic affairs. In the area covered by the Alliance of Sahel States (AES), namely in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, a proxy war and terrorism were being funded by certain western powers to destabilize the AES countries, resulting in many civilian victims, displacements and the closure of schools and health centres, and undermining the development efforts of the countries concerned. Global peace and stability should not be a luxury. Terrorism and its funding and training should cease urgently to accelerate development. There should be transparent management of resources allocated to humanitarian action and increased investments in terrorism-prone areas for fair and balanced development. The AES called on governments and investors to ensure open collaboration and strong support for their peace and security efforts.

SECOND SPEAKERS FROM DELEGATIONS

Ms. S. Mikayilova (Azerbaijan) said that parliaments must mobilize political will and promote inclusive governance and dialogue across societies based on a multisectoral and equitable approach. They needed to safeguard humanitarian action, ensure the integrity of IHL and reaffirm their commitment to multilateral efforts. Parliamentary cooperation was necessary for rapid response from international organizations and to prioritize humanitarian issues. To that end, the IPU should consider establishing a working group or holding an extraordinary meeting. Azerbaijan remained committed to protecting human rights in conflict situations, by supporting resolutions at international organizations; in 2023, it had hosted an international conference on clarifying the fate of missing persons. Humanitarian work must respect equity and equality and remain free from political influence.

Mr. S. Aleinik (Belarus) welcomed the strengthening of new centres of multipolarity, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and BRICS, and the constructive role played by other organizations, such as the IPU. However, certain forces and political elites impeded the formation of the new world order, disregarded international law, encouraged arms races, waged sanction wars, interfered in other States' internal affairs, sustained active conflicts and obstructed peace initiatives, thereby giving rise to many humanitarian crises. Since its independence, Belarus had pursued peaceful foreign policy. Peace and equal and mutually respectful dialogue were central to inter-State

relations. Against the backdrop of his country's efforts in recent years to launch broad dialogue on security and cooperation in the spirit of San Francisco, Belarus and its partners were working towards developing the *Eurasian charter of diversity and multipolarity in the 21st century* to reduce tensions in the military political sphere and strengthen humanitarian efforts. Parliamentary diplomacy was necessary to enhance mutual understanding, respect, friendship and solidarity.

Mr. A. Gajadien (Suriname) said that the world faced multiple overlapping crises that tested the strength of countries' institutions. As one of the world's carbon negative countries, Suriname continued to protect 93% of its forests. Yet it had to deal with the effects of climate change, which had created an environmental and humanitarian crisis, causing flooding, coastal erosion and the displacement of people in his country. Enhanced international commitment was therefore necessary. There should be stronger partnership for fair financing, such as through the Green Climate Fund and the prioritization of environmental grants over loans, as no country should be in debt due to environmental protection. Parliaments should ensure the transparent and effective use of such resources. Working in solidarity to uphold humanitarian norms was not a matter of charity but justice. His country stood ready to work with all Member Parliaments to take concrete action. Sustained investment in humanitarian and climate resilience was important.

Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia) said that it was lamentable that practices prohibited by IHL decades ago continued to be rampant. Her country had made a voluntary pledge to report on domestic implementation of IHL and remained committed to drafting a declaration for the protection of humanitarian personnel, with a focus on practical steps to protect workers in conflict zones. Highlighting Australia's considerable support to conflict-affected areas in the Asia-Pacific region, she urged countries to contribute as much as possible to close the widening humanitarian funding gap.

Mr. Hwang Hee (Republic of Korea) said that the international community needed to work together to promote cultural exchange and the sharing of culture-related policies among countries to foster shared values, understanding and solidarity, thereby bringing about reconciliation and cooperation in times of conflict. The IPU and parliaments in general should play a leading role in that process. A cultural Olympics should be launched, under the leadership of the IPU and the International Olympic Committee. The Korean Wave, or *hallyu*, was the only instance in which a country had never invaded another country but had spread its culture globally.

Ms. S. Mette (France) said that strict implementation of IHL was necessary, with a particular focus on the principles of distinction and humanity to protect civilians in situations of armed conflict. Her country had mobilized 500 million euros in humanitarian aid in 2025. Humanitarian workers, NGOs and international organizations should be supported, as their work had been undermined by the withdrawal of funding by the United States of America. Her country was carrying out efforts to double its diplomacy budget to meet the needs of its diplomatic humanitarian action. Democracies should prioritize such efforts.

Ms. A. Van Langen-Visbeek (Netherlands) said that as the world's population continued to grow, food and climate goals should be targeted simultaneously and not at the expense of the most vulnerable. As emissions of harmful gases rose with increasing global food demand, an integral approach to climate measures should be adopted, including by changing housing, feed or genetics to prevent negative effects on food production. It was also necessary to implement win-win measures that contributed to the climate and food security, for example by enhancing cow health to extend their lifespan, reduce the carbon footprint and improve the quality of the food produced. There needed to be monitoring of technical solutions, economies of scale and a level playing field.

Ms. M. Guerra Castillo (Mexico) said that upholding humanitarian norms required active parliaments, responsible governments and international communities that stood in solidarity. As support for humanitarian action was a priority for her country, the Mexican Parliament had adopted legislation to ensure the full integration of IHL into the national legal framework, held the State accountable to its international commitments through oversight of the executive, and strengthened the global response to humanitarian crises through budget allocations and the promotion of international parliamentary cooperation. The global migrant situation was alarming. There was a lack of protection for migrants, particularly because certain countries' restrictive policies exacerbated their suffering and forced them to seek dangerous migratory routes. There was an urgent need for a coordinated humanitarian response based on human rights, international collaboration and solidarity. Parliaments

played a key role in ensuring that national laws reflected international standards. The Organization was urged to explicitly include in its discussions the protection of migrants, including those forcibly displaced on account of violence and terrorism, as a global humanitarian priority.

Mr. A. Ekpenyong (Nigeria) said that in the midst of the world's crises, the IPU had shown that parliaments could make a difference. The partnership between the IPU and the World Health Organization (WHO) had strengthened legislators' capacity to respond to health and humanitarian emergencies. The work of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights and the recent call to action for the Sudan crisis had demonstrated what cooperation and political will could achieve. Nigeria's Parliament continued to strengthen the laws and institutions that protected vulnerable citizens. The longstanding farmer-herder conflict, which had displaced thousands and threatened food security, was being transformed into an opportunity for coexistence and rural development through dialogue, community peacebuilding and the implementation of new grazing and land use policies. Nigerians' humanitarian concerns, though complex, were not rooted in religious persecution. The country's Constitution and its parliamentarians' conscience compelled the Government to protect every citizen equally, regardless of faith or background. Simplifying those challenges to a sectarian narrative risked undermining peacebuilding.

Mr. N. O'Donovan (Ireland) said that it had never been more urgent to collectively uphold humanitarian norms. Though not the largest donor, Ireland contributed consistently and hoped to maintain in 2025 its contribution of 310 million euros provided for humanitarian aid in 2024. Its funding was flexible, predictable and principled, designed to meet urgent and evolving needs. Reducing humanitarian suffering was at the heart of Ireland's foreign policy, with a focus on the world's most severe crises. The Irish Government had unwaveringly supported the Palestinian people and their call for an immediate ceasefire, humanitarian access, and just and lasting peace. However, the humanitarian system was under unbearable strain, given the brutality of conflicts and their impacts on civilians and civilian infrastructure, which defied international law and the international community's shared moral duty. Ireland would continue to stand with those in need and insist that compassion and justice must guide the response to human suffering. Parliamentarians should renew their resolve to put humanity at the heart of international politics.

Ms. T. Vardanyan (Armenia) said that humanitarian norms and action were a matter of not only emergency response but also protecting the essence of human nature, including compassion, dignity and peace. After decades of war in the region, Armenia was committed to reconciliation and coexistence with Azerbaijan. While it was not easy, it was the only humanitarian path. Parliamentarians had a duty to prevent crises and should be guided by peace, humanity and solidarity. Armenia stood ready to work with all countries to that end. Peace was possible when built on respect for human rights, recognition of suffering and a commitment to justice. Humanitarian norms should be upheld in each crisis everywhere.

Mr. G. Stojović (Montenegro) said that smaller and developing countries should be frontline actors in the struggle for peace, democracy and human dignity. A country's strength was measured by its dedication to dialogue and the rule of law. In the current complex environment, parliaments tested democracy and played a decisive role in determining countries' responses. Democracy was a means of survival, especially for small countries. Strong, transparent parliaments safeguarded sovereignty, legitimacy and stability, prevented corruption and ensured that humanitarian and development aid reached those in need. Yet global politics were often driven by power rather than principle. The rise of multipolar competition risked sidelining smaller countries and weakening multilateral cooperation. Multilateral forums, such as the IPU, were therefore important because they confirmed that every country had a voice and responsibility in shaping global norms. The IPU Member Parliaments were urged to reaffirm their shared duty to protect humanitarian norms and democracy, and ensure that all countries were on an equal footing.

Ms. A. Erdoğan (Türkiye) took the Chair.

Mr. H. Carneiro (Portugal) said that cooperation was necessary for countries to face challenges and should be built on trust, which could be regained in multilateral discussions, such as at the IPU. Peace and the trust that sustained it required a firm commitment to humanitarian action. No conflict, ideology or national interest justified disrespect for human dignity. Violation of IHL called people's humanity into question and was an acceptance of the idea that certain people were worth less and

could therefore be mistreated or eliminated. Everyone stood to lose when such ideas took hold. Parliaments were essential in transforming commitments into policies, overseeing governments and ensuring that aid reached those in need. Parliamentary diplomacy should be leveraged to strengthen international institutions and bring people together around common values.

Ms. R. Brooking (New Zealand) said that her country's Parliament had recently passed an act on severe weather emergency recovery following a cyclone in 2023, thus enabling local authorities to support their communities swiftly. The act had followed the precedent set by previous governments in response to earthquakes, demonstrating that parliaments of varying political ideologies could act decisively and responsibly in the face of disaster, following which they should undertake post-enactment review. Successive governments in New Zealand remained committed to ensuring that recovery was not simply about rebuilding physical structures but also about people's welfare. Parliamentarians should confront challenges with strength, unity and compassion.

Ms. R. Abed (Paraguay) said that her country championed resilience, peace, human dignity, dialogue and respect for IHL, having ratified and incorporated the Geneva Conventions and all its additional protocols into its national legal order. Women and girls accounted for 70% of victims globally. The world was facing a moral crisis. Crises did not represent empty figures, but events that truly impacted people's livelihoods. Illegal international adoption, in particular, should be recognized as child trafficking. There needed to be a firm response grounded in humanity. Humanitarian norms were a means of defence and justice, which required equality. Parliamentarians must take an active role by adopting laws urgently, exercising oversight consistently and cooperating globally. Parliaments should transform IHL into effective national laws and ensure that humanitarian aid was not undermined by economic or political interests. In its commitment to non-intervention and peaceful solutions, Paraguay advocated for constructive dialogue between China and Taiwan. Taiwan should participate in international forums and its people deserved to be protected. Humanity should remain central to politics to honour the objectives of the IPU.

Ms. S. Najem (Mauritania) said that the ongoing violence was a threat to everyone. It was necessary to find ways to address violence and strengthen peace, security and coexistence. The IPU Member Parliaments should remain committed to IHL. Her country had adopted a strong position on social justice and geopolitical balance, and the current president prioritized people's rights and well-being. In light of the situation in the Sahel, which had driven over 500,000 refugees to her country, Mauritania had strengthened its policy on IHL and human rights, providing assistance to those living under threat. The conflict in Gaza had generated many victims, especially women, and had involved some of the worst crimes against humanity, which should not remain unpunished. Those responsible should be brought before the International Criminal Court. Israel had no respect for human rights or international law. The rules of peaceful coexistence and international law had further been flouted in the attack on Qatar. There should be international pressure to bring the perpetrators to justice. An international fund to support Gaza should be established as quickly as possible.

YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS

Ms. R. Maachaoui (Tunisia) said that there was a new generation of parliamentarians in her country that believed that their voice could make a difference, particularly regarding human dignity and the protection of people in times of crisis. UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which safeguarded women's protection in times of crisis and the need for their effective participation in peacebuilding as an international priority, was not being upheld. In the face of the violations perpetrated by the Zionist entity against women, there was no international conscience or sense of moral priorities to work together to address the issue. It was lamentable to think that women parliamentarians could remain silent, which set a poor example for their children. Parliamentarians were not observers and should speak up and ensure implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

Mr. L. Mendes (France) said that much was expected of international organizations to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The considerable need for humanitarian aid in Ukraine placed a responsibility on parliamentarians. France had been providing constant support since the beginning of the war. In general, growing tensions in urban areas, the proliferation of non-State armed groups and the increased outsourcing of instruments of warfare created unprecedented challenges for the

implementation of IHL. Failure to act was not an option, particularly given the withdrawal of funding by the United States of America, which undermined the global humanitarian architecture. In 2024, a global initiative had been launched at the UN General Assembly by France and its partners to promote respect of IHL. In 2025, the UN80 initiative had been launched to reform the multilateral system, enabling it to deliver flexible aid more swiftly and effectively. The IPU should pay close attention to the reform's schedule. The first proposals within the framework of UN80 would be published by the end of October 2025. Parliamentarians should shoulder their responsibility to protect civilians, in particular, who paid the highest price in wars.

Ms. J. Sierra (Uruguay), deploring the considerable inequalities in South America, said that, to prevent crime and mental health issues, governments should ensure equal opportunities, especially by providing young people with quality work. In light of the increasing levels of violence, parliamentarians had a great responsibility. Young parliamentarians had a meaningful impact on democracy when improving conditions to create a more just world for all.

Ms. M. McCormack (Ireland) said that her country remained firmly committed to the implementation of IHL and to efforts to strengthen compliance, including through its Constitution, foreign policy and during its term on the UN Security Council. It was concerning that some countries did not respect IHL or interpreted it so loosely that the intended protective effect was severely reduced or nullified. IHL should continue to adapt to new developments in armed conflict, including the use of drones and cyberattacks, with the establishment of a robust legal structure to ensure justice and deterrence. Ireland's National Committee on International Humanitarian Law continued to meet regularly, democratized IHL within the State system and was preparing its first voluntary national report on domestic implementation. Within that framework, a national position paper had been published in July 2023 on the application of international law to cyberspace. Ireland's peace process could serve as an example to other regions in conflict. While more needed to be done in terms of reconciliation, it could be achieved only through peace, thereby underscoring the power of respectful dialogue. Parliamentarians were urged to speak up for peace and justice and to condemn and ensure accountability for violations of international law.

Ms. D. Simeonova (Bulgaria) said that strong political commitment to ensure respect for IHL was necessary. Her country remained committed to those efforts, including through oversight of domestic implementation. Humanitarian action should begin with empathy. Since 2023, Bulgaria had doubled its resettlement quota for forcibly displaced persons and had made new pledges under the Global Refugee Forum of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with a focus on children, integration and education. UNHCR Bulgaria had built a network of protection and inclusion centres offering legal aid, education and support to refugees and locals. All countries should pursue efforts to integrate displaced populations. Parliamentarians were uniquely positioned to mobilize political will, challenge narratives and protect vulnerable communities. They should unite across the principle of protection for all and hold violators accountable.

Ms. D. Sammut Hili (Malta) said that protecting humanitarian values was a legal duty and a sign of shared humanity. Her country's foreign policy accorded importance to humanitarian work through its Official Development and Humanitarian Assistance Policy, which supported the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and focused on solidarity, human rights and the protection of civilians' needs. Given that Malta's geographic location made it prone to migration challenges, it worked with international partners to provide shelter, mental health support and integration programmes to displaced persons. The country's Civil Protection Department was key in coordinating emergency response. Humanitarian action should address preparation, community resilience and long-term recovery. Affected communities should have a say in how their lives were rebuilt. Cooperation between countries should ensure honesty, fairness and sovereignty. Parliamentarians must turn humanitarian values into laws and renew their shared commitment to take practical steps to protect the vulnerable and uphold each person's dignity.

Mr. I.B. Ehindero (Nigeria) said that his Government was working to ensure that students in crisis-affected regions received student loans, as education must remain a right, even in times of crisis. Support for vulnerable populations required coordination. There was a lack of access to updated information on donor agencies operating in crisis zones and an urgent need for structured, transparent data-sharing frameworks between humanitarian actors and governments. The IPU Member Parliaments were urged to place young people at the heart of decision-making and peace processes

as equal partners, and to fund their initiatives so that humanitarian norms were upheld in practice. There needed to be continued efforts to build frameworks to respond to, anticipate and prevent crises, while grounding all actions in human dignity and equity.

Mr. K. Tiong (Singapore), underscoring his country's commitment to the rules-based multilateral system with the understanding that IHL protected everyone, said that his Government had consistently provided annual contributions to UNHCR and worked with the Singapore Red Cross to deliver aid internationally. Its armed forces incorporated training in IHL at every level, and the country participated in regional consultations on emerging challenges. Singapore's Parliament had approved a 100% tax deduction for overseas humanitarian donations from 2025 to 2028. Regionally, the country invested in local responders and regular deployments of armed forces. Local capacity was key to humanitarian action. His country also supported the development of developing countries through long-term investments. The Singapore Cooperation Programme served as a platform to extend technical assistance and share governance and systems know-how with other countries and international and regional organizations.

Mr. D. Carden (United Kingdom) said that the gap between what was proclaimed about humanitarianism and what was practised had grown shamefully wide, and closing it required power, legitimacy and political will. Principles endured only when rooted in institutions capable of enforcing them; such institutions drew their strength from democratic consent. Parliaments were essential in that regard because they shaped the political conditions undergirding peace deals. Moral consensus could not substitute political and economic settlement. Multilateralism must be meaningful for taxpayers. That meaningful approach should guide the IPU in addressing the agenda item on illegal international adoption, as well as ongoing wars and growing civil unrest. Lack of democratic consent had made issues of aid and immigration in many developed countries politically divisive and had led to international bodies acting as moral custodians without a mandate. Parliaments could build the democratic consent needed to end wars and meet humanitarian need by addressing the division and polarization sustained by modern online communication and political extremes. Internationalism rested on parliamentarians' capacity to turn compassion into credible action, protect people, including humanitarian workers, and deliver essential aid.

Ms. I. Khalid (Canada) said that all countries were to blame for humanitarian crises, as their democratic systems had been designed to prevent the current state of affairs. It was up to parliamentarians to ensure that democracy, an evolving tool, provided equal opportunities, which was the foundation of prosperity and trust. Excluding young people from democratic systems undermined the innovation, passion and boldness needed to solve current humanitarian challenges. Democracy needed to be recalibrated to address the realities of a changing world. Parliaments should undergird democracy with justice and accountability, empower young people to lead and ensure collaboration and the distribution of power throughout the population. The IPU should put each person's life at the forefront of politics. Human rights must not be politicized.

Mr. I. Novikov (Russian Federation) said that parliamentarians had a shared goal of defending IHL and making it a reality to secure the future of humanity. Russian parliamentarians were always ready to share their experience. Despite facing unprecedented sanctions, the Russian Federation remained a proactive global leader of international humanitarian activities. The country had carried out several emergency humanitarian response operations, and thousands of young Russians were involved in humanitarian initiatives, including Red Cross missions, where they were often unarmed. The young humanitarian workers delivered on the promises enshrined in the Geneva Conventions. Humanity should not simply be a topic of discussion for politicians but manifested by young people.

Ms. H. Hakobyan (Armenia) said that the international community should consider whether it had the will to place human dignity above political divisions. Armenia and Azerbaijan had initiated a peace agreement in August 2025, which, if successful, would demonstrate that long-term conflicts could be resolved by implementing humanitarian norms. However, peace did not only involve agreements but should also be rooted in humanitarian values. To respect IHL, the international community needed to share the obligation of ensuring the rights and safety of displaced persons, protecting cultural heritage and providing humanitarian assistance without discrimination.

Mr. A. Tongjaisod (Thailand) said that his country had not initiated the Cambodia conflict and regretted its occurrence. Peace was a matter of trust, stability and shared humanity and was the foundation of progress. Thailand respected countries' sovereignty and was committed to the ceasefire.

Although decades had passed since Thailand had closed its shelter for refugees fleeing the Cambodian civil war, Cambodian communities in Thailand continued to grow over the years. Despite Thailand's repeated protests, Cambodia had never addressed the issue. The 18 Cambodian prisoners of war in Thailand were being treated in accordance with IHL, including being provided medical attention and giving the ICRC full access to them. They would be released and repatriated upon cessation of the hostilities. Peace must be protected. Thailand remained committed to resolving differences peacefully and in good faith.

Mr. M.A. Zambrano Vera (Ecuador) said that the Ecuadorian National Assembly was one of the youngest parliaments in the world and had an unprecedented number of women parliamentarians owing to certain reforms. Quota policies must be supported by trust and political will. His President's commitment to appointing young people to major positions was therefore commendable. Given that international cooperation was a global imperative, especially as organized crime, terrorism and corruption threatened all countries, Ecuador stood ready to share its experience, strengthen justice systems and build security mechanisms while respecting international agreements and strengthening multilateral mechanisms. Young parliamentarians had the responsibility to ensure that future generations continued to participate in politics.

Mr. W. Soto Palacios (Peru), highlighting that children, the elderly, women and displaced persons bore the brunt of humanitarian crises, said that humanitarian norms were legal and ethical commitments that countries were obligated to uphold. Laws must ensure the protection of civilians, accountability for violations and effective access to humanitarian action. Humanitarianism could not be governed by self-interest. Peru remained committed to promoting IHL and defending human rights, thereby ensuring a life of dignity based on justice and truth. There was concern in Peru and internationally regarding the recent adoption of a law granting amnesty to members of the country's armed forces and national police that had been sentenced for serious crimes against humanity. If the Government deemed the use of force necessary, it should be legal, proportional and reasonable.

The sitting rose at 12:10.

Sitting of Wednesday, 22 October 2025

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 14:30 with Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka (Poland), Vice-President of the IPU and President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

The President drew attention to the second edition of the *Gender-Responsive Assemblies Toolkit*, launched the previous month on the margins of the 80th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly. Drawing on a wide range of institutional experiences and lessons learned, the new edition provided deliberative bodies with a comprehensive framework for embedding gender perspectives into their daily work, including into their legislative processes, institutional structures and decision-making culture.

The Secretary General, Chair of the Global Board of International Gender Champions, said that progress on gender equality could not be taken for granted, noting ongoing pushback against women's rights and the need for continuous action. In that context, he introduced the second edition of the *Gender-Responsive Assemblies Toolkit*, developed in collaboration with International Gender Champions and Women at the Table. The toolkit drew on the real-life experience of institutions across the International Gender Champions network, including the IPU.

Experience had shown that enabling environments fostered shared leadership and decision-making that advanced gender equality. It had also shown that, while commitment from leaders was crucial, progress could only be sustained through institutionalized policies, mindset shifts and intentional measures to lift barriers. The toolkit was both a guide and a call to ambition, setting clear standards for inclusive assemblies and challenging institutions to make parity a living principle, not just a distant goal.

He was proud that many of the examples set out in the toolkit had come from the IPU, which had been a pioneer in the area of gender equality since the 1980s. Measures taken by the IPU included establishing the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, introducing quotas, sanctioning single-sex delegations, taking a stance against harassment and embedding parity into its Statutes and Rules. As a result, women's participation at IPU Assemblies had risen to nearly 40%, transforming not only procedures but the culture of the institution.

Noting that determination anchored in both norms and practice delivered real change, he urged parliamentarians to use, share and adapt the toolkit within their own parliaments and as part of their engagement in multilateral spaces.

Ms. C. Fuentes Julio (Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations Office and other international organizations at Geneva), Member of the Global Board of International Gender Champions, said that the *Gender-Responsive Assemblies Toolkit* was not just a document but a commitment to making inclusion and parity the norm rather than the exception at assemblies. Aligned with General Recommendation No. 40 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems, the toolkit served as a guide to implement the recommendation, providing practical tools to apply before, during and after assemblies with a view to achieving consistent, measurable progress towards parity.

Women must move from mere presence to genuine power. To do so, it was important to bridge the gap between international commitments and domestic implementation, and the toolkit provided guidance on how. Crucially, it fostered a culture of measuring participation and outcomes, ensuring that budgets and programmes were assessed for their impact on women and men. It also encouraged coherence across sectors by integrating a gender perspective into all policies.

The Chilean Senate had recently received the UNDP Gender Equality Seal – the first legislative chamber to receive it – for putting gender equality at the heart of all its work. The country pursued a feminist approach to foreign policy and had been recently re-elected to the Human Rights Council where it had put forward various resolutions to advance gender equality and women's representation. Overall, Chile was of the belief that teams led by women negotiated more effectively and produced more people-centred policies focused on peace and development. The toolkit would help strengthen coherence between Chile's principles and actions.

She urged delegates to use the toolkit not only to run more inclusive assemblies but also to shape better policies, from team preparation and agenda-setting to panel design and gender-sensitive budgeting. Delegates should encourage data collection, celebrate progress and share good practices. The global, long-term exclusion of women from decision-making was both a human rights violation and a loss of collective potential. Bold leadership, intentional measures and collective determination were needed to close the gap.

The President said that the toolkit was a reminder that progress towards equality required not only commitment but the right tools to make that commitment real.

The Secretary General drew attention to two further publications being launched at the current Assembly. The first was a new issue brief entitled *Democratic checks, military balances: Parliamentary oversight in an era of rising military expenditure*. With global military expenditure rising to a record estimate of US\$ 2.7 trillion in 2024, the issue brief called on parliaments to strengthen their scrutiny of defence spending in the interests of transparency, accountability and democracy.

A video about the issue brief was played.

The Secretary General said that the second publication was a toolkit entitled *Welcoming new parliamentarians: Good practices for onboarding and offboarding MPs*. The toolkit had been prepared in partnership with the Association of Secretaries General of Parliament (ASGP) and was designed to offer insights and inspiration, especially to parliamentary administrations, in onboarding both first-time and re-elected members of parliament.

Item 4 of the agenda

Special accountability segment on the implementation of IPU resolutions and other decisions (A/151/4-Inf.1)

The President said that an accountable IPU was an organization in which Assembly decisions were taken back to all four corners of the world and translated into national realities for the well-being of the people. Members had a duty to act on IPU outcomes.

Ms. A. Filip (Director, Division for Member Relations and External Relations, IPU) presented the *2025 Annual Member's Reporting Exercise: Reporting by IPU Member Parliaments on action taken to follow up on IPU declarations, resolutions and other initiatives*, noting that reporting was a statutory requirement for all Member Parliaments. To improve predictability and enhance levels of response to the exercise, the IPU had introduced a rotational system of reporting carried out in alphabetical order. In 2025, 38 Member Parliaments had been designated to report, while all others had been invited to contribute voluntarily. Information had been gathered via a survey issued in March 2025 with a June deadline, and the overall response rate had reached a solid 76%, including voluntary submissions from Bahrain and Qatar.

The main findings were encouraging: 81% of respondents had reported that IPU Assembly outcomes had been formally communicated to their parliaments; 45% had adopted legislation, decisions or other concrete actions in direct follow-up to IPU outcomes; and 45% had held parliamentary debates related to their participation in IPU activities. Those were important steps in sharing knowledge and experience gained through the IPU.

She drew attention to examples of good parliamentary practices from each geopolitical group. Spain had adopted legislation setting a target to generate 74% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030. Uzbekistan had adopted legislation to strengthen freedom of conscience and religion. Chad had adopted a new electoral code establishing a 30% quota for women candidates in legislative elections. In Iraq, action by the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians had contributed to the release and acquittal of a former member of parliament. Uruguay had launched a parliamentary campaign to promote youth political engagement, and Viet Nam had adopted a new law to strengthen equal access to healthcare.

The 2025 report tracked parliamentary action on the IPU's priority themes over the past two years. The priority theme of 2024 was peace and security, including combatting cybercrime, advancing major international instruments, and promoting peaceful coexistence, social inclusion and intercultural dialogue. The priority theme of 2025 was gender equality, including increasing women's political participation, enhancing gender sensitivity institutionally and combatting violence against women.

In conclusion, she reiterated the key recommendations for parliamentarians going forward: (1) submit reports on their participation in the IPU Assemblies to national parliaments; (2) ensure that Assembly declarations and resolutions were circulated widely; (3) hold substantive debates in committees and in plenary on Assembly outcomes; (4) explore opportunities to draft legislation or amendments aligned with IPU resolutions; and (5) systematically engage in the annual reporting exercise. The list of countries designated to report in 2026 had been confirmed, and all other Member Parliaments were invited to contribute voluntarily.

Ms. M.d.C. Alva Prieto (Peru), Member of the Executive Committee, took the Chair.

Mr. M. Dick (Australia), highlighted his Parliament's efforts in implementing the IPU resolution, *Partnerships for climate action: Promoting access to affordable green energy, and ensuring innovation, responsibility and equity* adopted at the 148th IPU Assembly in March 2024.

The Parliament of Australia strived to be a leader in energy efficiency and sustainability, acting as an example for the nation. Across Australia, renewable energy contributed 36% of total electricity generation, and the country had the highest household solar uptake in the world. Parliament House alone had installed 234 solar panels and its main source of electricity came from 100% renewable energy sources. Other key parliamentary initiatives included installing energy-efficient dishwashers and lifts, converting 40,000 fluorescent lights to LEDs, phasing out single-use plastics, and introducing new recycling programmes that reduced waste to landfill by nearly 50%.

He further emphasized Australia's strong support for its Pacific neighbours, recognizing their position on the front lines of climate change. Between 2020 and 2025, it had delivered \$A 3 billion in climate finance, including \$A 1.3 billion to the Pacific, with \$A 125 million committed to support renewable energy transitions in the Pacific. Australia was also strengthening parliamentary partnerships across the region, including with Nauru, which he was encouraging to join the IPU.

Sustainability was not just about emissions but about better health, stronger economies and a safer future for all. Parliaments were encouraged to act locally while thinking globally, working together to build momentum, share ideas and achieve real climate action.

Ms. K. Carter (New Zealand), noting New Zealand's geographical isolation, emphasized the importance of maintaining strong relationships with the country's Pacific neighbours. As such, in 2019, New Zealand had established the Tai a Kiwa or Stronger Pacific Parliaments programme to build the capacities of members of parliament and parliamentary staff, strengthen inter-parliamentary relations and promote understanding of parliamentary roles within the Pacific. Under the programme, members of parliament and staff from the Solomon Islands had visited New Zealand to observe Scrutiny Week and engage with key parliamentary bodies and offices, including committees, the Office of the Auditor-General, the Deputy Speakers of Parliament and the New Zealand Pacific Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group. The Tāhuna a Tara conference had also been held, which had brought together Speakers, Deputy Speakers, Presiding Officers and Clerks from across the Pacific under the theme *Niu beginnings and navigating the waves: Embracing change and adapting to a changing environment*, with participants from Bougainville, the Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu. She concluded with a Māori proverb, emphasizing that strength came not from the individual but from the collective.

Mr. E. Chia (Singapore) said that, as a small, low-lying island with limited land, wind and natural resources, Singapore faced significant constraints in the area of climate action despite having acted early, switching from fuel oil to natural gas in 2000 and introducing the world's first vehicle quota system to manage car growth. In February 2025, the country had announced its nationally determined contribution to cut emissions to 45–50 million tonnes of carbon dioxide as part of its pathway to net zero by 2050. The Singapore Green Plan 2030 underpinned that effort, which included a five-fold increase in solar deployment, thus supporting global goals to triple renewable energy capacity.

Beyond its borders, Singapore was advancing international partnerships. It had recently signed three memorandums of understanding with Indonesia on cross-border electricity trade, carbon capture and sustainable industrial zones. In addition, through the Singapore Cooperation Programme, more than 160,000 officials from over 180 countries had been trained in climate adaptation, mitigation and green finance.

Parliament, too, had taken decisive action, introducing a carbon tax in 2019, strengthening it in 2022 and passing new laws in 2024 on energy efficiency and the low-carbon transition. In 2021, it had declared climate change a global emergency, calling for whole-of-society action. Across public services, efforts were being made to green buildings, expand solar panels, cut waste and embed sustainability throughout procurement.

Climate action must be ambitious, practical and fair. Meaningful progress could be made even by small States when innovation, responsibility and partnerships were combined.

Ms. D. Henkel (Canada) said that the 2024 Geneva Declaration, *Harnessing science, technology and innovation (STI) for a more peaceful and sustainable future* would only be meaningful if translated into concrete action. In Canada, both parliamentary chambers – the Senate and the House of Commons – maintained committees dedicated to science and technology and engaged in constant dialogue with the scientific community to ensure evidence-based decision-making.

Recent measures taken in Canada included amendments to the Competition Act (1985) to combat greenwashing, requiring companies to substantiate environmental claims, and a Senate motion to ensure that the impacts of technology were considered in all parliamentary decisions. Furthermore, the House of Commons had urged the Government to expand internet access in remote, northern and Indigenous communities, promoting equitable access to education, employment and healthcare.

Technology must protect privacy and democracy, and large digital companies must be held accountable amid growing threats such as identity theft, cyberattacks, disinformation and foreign interference. Canada had created a dedicated ministry for artificial intelligence (AI) and was debating a draft law to strengthen regulatory frameworks in the area, enhance cybersecurity and safeguard fundamental rights.

No State could confront the above challenges alone. Inter-parliamentary cooperation was essential to building a safe, transparent and accountable digital space. Science and technology were not an end in themselves but tools for security and the common good, and parliamentarians must act as their guardians.

Mr. K. Khelifati (Algeria) underscored the commitment of the Algerian Parliament to implementing IPU recommendations. After every Assembly, the Parliament conveyed the IPU outcomes to government institutions, including to the Presidency and the Foreign Ministry, and was working hard to translate them into national legislation and plans.

He highlighted several key climate change initiatives, including a 2022 investment law promoting partnerships for green transition, a climate crisis management law in line with the Paris Agreement and the creation of a network for the environment.

On parliamentary diplomacy, Algeria continued to champion peaceful coexistence, including through its role as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the period 2024/25. It was promoting the role of women and youth in peace processes and advocating for Security Council reform to ensure better representation of Africa.

With regards to science and technology, the Parliament had adopted a law on digitalization and the information economy and collaborated closely with scientific institutions. A parliamentary youth network had also been set up to enhance regional youth engagement in the area. In September 2025, Algeria had hosted the Intra-Africa Trade Fair under the theme, *Boosting Intra-African Trade for a Sustainable Future: Innovation, Value Addition, and Green Industrialization*.

Mr. S. Köse (Sweden) said that accountability was the foundation of democracy, creating trust between the elected representatives and the people they served. For the Swedish Parliament, accountability was not an abstract principle but a central part of daily work, both domestically and at the IPU.

Ahead of each IPU Assembly, the Swedish delegation held preparatory meetings to shape its position on resolutions, inviting voices from civil society, research institutions and government agencies, allowing for debate and gathering of diverse perspectives. It also coordinated closely with its Nordic colleagues to discuss the agenda and proposals, aiming to present a unified yet diverse democratic voice.

Each spring, the delegation submitted a comprehensive report to the Swedish Parliament, summarizing activities, achievements and lessons learned from the IPU Assemblies that year. All members of parliament could question, challenge or debate the delegation's work, ensuring full transparency. Accountability was not just about reports and procedures but about trust, openness and shared responsibility.

Mr. S. Patra (India) underscored the significant role played by the Indian Parliament in advancing the national agenda on climate action and sustainable development. He highlighted several landmark laws, including the Environment (Protection) Act (1986), the Biological Diversity Act (2002) and the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act (2022), which together formed a robust legal framework guiding India's environmental and sustainability policies.

India was integrating advanced technology into its parliamentary processes. The Lok Sabha had introduced systems powered by AI that provided real-time analysis of debates and made contextual information available to members during discussions. Parliamentary agenda papers were now accessible in multiple regional languages through machine translation. Those innovations were not only improving the legislative process but enhancing transparency and democratic governance as well as deepening participatory democracy.

Furthermore, India would host the India AI Impact Summit 2026 dedicated to examining the global implications of AI with a particular focus on the Global South. Leveraging its demographic strength and dynamic digital economy, it aimed not only to lead responsibly in the area but also to encourage global collaboration. Parliaments were urged to work together towards developing a shared international framework in which AI promoted human welfare, inclusive growth and the values of democracy and trust.

Mr. K. Bayramov (Azerbaijan) said that the IPU resolution on partnerships for climate action aligned closely with Azerbaijan's national priority to build a sustainable green future, further reinforced by its role as host of the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29).

Key follow-up measures to the resolution included integrating parliamentary work with global climate diplomacy, notably by co-hosting the IPU Parliamentary Meeting at COP29, where parliamentarians had focused on transforming COP outcomes into domestic legislation. Capacity-building had been a priority, with high-level parliamentary roundtables being organized during Baku Climate Action Week aiming to strengthen the climate laws and institutions needed for a net-zero transition. A landmark output of that work was the launch of the Azerbaijani-language edition of the GLOBE's Parliamentary Guide on Article 6 and Carbon Markets, providing parliamentarians with a practical instrument to develop robust national carbon markets and scrutinize implementation of the Paris Agreement. Legislative oversight had also been strengthened, including through the parliamentary committees which were reviewing and initiating laws to ensure that the necessary incentives, regulatory environments and budgetary allocations were in place to triple renewable energy capacity and double energy efficiency.

In essence, the National Assembly of Azerbaijan was fully implementing the IPU resolution on partnerships for climate action by leveraging its legislative, budgetary and oversight functions to move from climate pledges to climate delivery. Parliaments were essential drivers of sustainable, legal and accountable climate action.

Ms. H. Fayed (Bahrain) stressed the critical importance of translating IPU resolutions into reality, urging political will in that regard. The King of Bahrain had called for urgent reform of the international system, particularly the UN Security Council, to make it fairer, more inclusive and reflective of the interests of all countries, large and small. The United Nations must be able to better respond to contemporary global challenges and serve as a forum of solidarity rather than confrontation. The IPU had a meaningful role to play in advancing such reform.

Bahrain viewed its upcoming non-permanent membership on the Security Council not as a diplomatic privilege but as a historic responsibility and was committed to promoting strong multilateralism based on dialogue, mutual respect and humanity. Parliamentarians could not be mere observers in the international system but active agents of reform, promoting a global, multilateral approach that ensured all voices were heard. Multilateralism must not be merely symbolic but should embody humanity's aspirations for a fair future.

Ms. A. Acosta Islas (Mexico), underlining the importance of dialogue and global debate, called for global agreements, including IPU decisions, to be translated at the national level, supported by adequate budgets.

She highlighted significant national initiatives on AI, including a constitutional amendment that, for the first time, defined AI and established a legal framework for its regulation. A Secretariat for science, technology, innovation and the humanities had also been created as well as a national AI laboratory to support multisectoral technological solutions.

Recognizing the transformative impact of AI on education, health and the economy, she stressed the need to build the capacities of the population, preparing them for shifts in the job market and beyond. The first step was to integrate AI into basic education. Protecting children in digital spaces was also a matter of urgency. To that end, Mexico had introduced a special tax on violent video games to reduce young people's exposure to harmful material. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to advance an inclusive economic agenda capable of addressing the challenges posed by emerging technologies.

Mr. C. Pereira (Portugal) said that democratic governance was essential to addressing the climate crisis and called on parliaments to be active drivers of solutions rather than passive observers. In that spirit, the Portuguese Parliament was working to translate international commitments into concrete policies.

He noted, for example, the moratorium on deep-sea mining, in place until 2050, which ensured that no such activity would proceed until robust scientific data could clarify its effect on the marine ecosystem. There was also the National Energy and Climate Plan 2021–2030, which set ambitious targets to increase renewable energy use to 51%, double energy efficiency and ensure a fair transition for workers and communities.

The climate transition must be socially fair. As such, Portugal had introduced accompanying social measures to support citizens and businesses, including programmes to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and reduce the energy bills of families, incentives for the acquisition of electric vehicles to promote cleaner transport, and support enabling companies to adopt low-carbon processes and enhance their green competitiveness. Furthermore, he underscored the significance of the newly established Climate Action Council, an independent body within Parliament tasked with science-based monitoring and evaluation of climate policy.

Parliaments were the political heart of the climate transition, transforming commitments into laws, goals into budgets and hope into results. He called for greater cooperation, innovation and fairness to ensure climate action that truly transformed the planet.

Mr. M. Karakaya (Türkiye) detailed several important measures undertaken by the Parliament of Türkiye to advance the implementation of IPU resolutions. A parliamentary research commission on AI had been established to identify the legislative steps needed to maximize the benefits of AI while mitigating associated risks. In addition, the Parliament had adopted its first cyber security law in March 2025, providing a comprehensive regulatory framework in the area, followed in July 2025 by the adoption of a climate law that set binding targets to guide the country's transition to a low-carbon economy. He further noted that the Parliament had unanimously adopted resolutions addressing the humanitarian tragedy in Palestine, demonstrating a principled stance grounded in justice, human rights and the primacy for international law. Reaffirming that global challenges could only be addressed through multilateralism, he reiterated his country's support for reform of the UN system, particularly the Security Council, noting that the world was bigger than the five permanent members.

Ms. K. Fey (Germany) presented the *Parliamentarians Protect Parliamentarians* initiative, launched in 2003 as part of the German Parliament's commitment within the IPU to protect and promote human rights. The initiative enabled German parliamentarians, living in safety, to use their networks to support fellow parliamentarians and human rights defenders from abroad who were at risk. It was a strong sign of solidarity between German and international politicians and a contribution to Germany's human rights policy. At present, a total of 95 German parliamentarians had sponsored 187 individuals from 43 countries.

Protecting those who courageously stood up for human rights was one of the most important responsibilities of parliamentarians, as respect for human rights was foundational to peace. Parliaments must establish mechanisms to systematically monitor human rights violations and take action wherever help was needed. Only through collective parliamentary action could the defenders of human rights be themselves defended.

Ms. K. Slassi (Morocco) said that, in line with the 2024 Geneva Declaration, *Parliamentary Diplomacy: Building bridges for peace and understanding*, Morocco had taken action to strengthen interfaith dialogue. It had, for instance, hosted a Parliamentary Assembly on the topic in collaboration with the IPU and UN agencies, and facilitated a historic visit of Pope Francis to promote peace through dialogue. A number of resolutions on democracy and human rights had also been passed.

On science and technology, Morocco had established a department for digitization, strengthened technological cooperation with other African nations and set up a high-level working group to consider laws on AI. On climate action, since COP 24 in Marrakesh, Morocco had adopted laws and policies on renewable energy and environmental protection, particularly solar power. Women were actively included in its UN peacekeeping missions, reflecting a commitment to gender equality, and regional cooperation was promoted to strengthen security in Africa. The National Human Rights Council of Morocco played an active role in advancing those initiatives.

Mr. A. Burapachaisi (Thailand) said that Thailand aligned itself with the IPU resolution, *Response by parliamentarians to the urgent plea by the UN Secretary-General to recommit to multilateralism for global peace, justice and sustainability*, which reminded parliaments that present-day crises, such as conflict and inequality, could not be solved in isolation but required dialogue, cooperation and unwavering respect for international law.

Thailand reaffirmed its steadfast adherence to those principles in addressing the current situation along the Thailand–Cambodia border. It considered Cambodia to be a close neighbour and friend and had neither initiated the conflict nor stood to benefit from it. Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the IPU's founding principles and its bilateral commitments, Thailand remained fully committed to the ceasefire and was exercising maximum restraint to restore peace and stability.

The country had a longstanding humanitarian record, having opened its border to hundreds of thousands of Cambodians fleeing the civil war in the 1970s, and continued in a spirit of compassion and humanity today. The 18 Cambodian prisoners of war currently in Thai custody were treated in full accordance with international humanitarian law (IHL). The International Committee of the Red Cross had full and regular access to them and facilitated contact with their families.

Thailand firmly believed that protecting civilians and ensuring accountability for violations of humanitarian law were moral and legal imperatives essential for lasting peace. It reaffirmed its commitment to multilateralism, emphasizing that regional peace and stability were not distant ideals but goals that were achievable through the IPU's mission.

Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland) said that IPU outcomes must not remain a dead letter but rather should be translated into tangible results and widely disseminated. To that end, the Swiss delegation regularly reported on IPU activities and decisions to its Foreign Affairs Committee and submitted an annual report outlining the main outcomes as well as Switzerland's contribution to discussions. The process fostered dialogue and exchange within the said committee and enabled members to examine how international commitments were being integrated into national parliamentary work. The report was subsequently presented to the parliamentary plenary. Such mechanisms strengthened accountability and transparency, created positive momentum for follow-up and ensured that interparliamentary cooperation was firmly anchored in national realities while raising government awareness of agreed IPU priorities.

Mr. R. Khosla (Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH)) said that women, children and adolescents, especially those from vulnerable and marginalized groups, were bearing the brunt of current crises, including the attacks on humanitarian law, the multilateral system and peace and development. Parliamentarians must ensure that legislation, policies and budgets supported those populations.

He welcomed the launch of the Parliamentary Network of Champions for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health, initiated by the Speaker of South Africa with support from the IPU and PMNCH. It was his hope that the initiative would mobilize stronger political commitment and action towards the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents, including greater accountability on related IPU resolutions such as the resolution *Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health*. Parliamentarians must scrutinize budgets to ensure adequate allocations and timely releases across all sectors, and strengthen laws and policies that guaranteed access to services for the most vulnerable, especially in times of humanitarian crisis.

PMNCH and its network of 1,500 partners stood ready to provide data, evidence and support, and to help connect parliaments with relevant constituencies. Collective action by all stakeholders, including governments and parliaments, was necessary to translate commitments into action in service of the most vulnerable.

Mr. T. Karikoga (Zimbabwe) said that, in response to the IPU resolution on partnerships for climate action, the Parliament of Zimbabwe had prioritized climate-smart agriculture and renewable energy investments, facilitating national policies on renewable energy and biofuels that had catalysed local and international investment. More than 90 independent power producers were now licensed to develop solar mini-grids and hydroelectric and biogas projects, expanding electricity access in schools, clinics and communities previously outside the national grid. In addition, the Rural Electrification Fund, which received full budgetary support from Parliament, continued to deploy solar and micro-hydro solutions to marginalized communities, demonstrating that climate action could also be a vehicle for social justice.

Strategic partnerships, including those with the African Development Bank, the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) and the Global Green Growth Institute, had been instrumental in driving progress. It was thanks to those partnerships that Parliament was able to actively monitor the *Solar for Health Initiative*, helping to bring reliable renewable power to rural health centres.

Internationally, Zimbabwe had shown climate leadership by becoming the first African country to submit its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 3.0 in 2025, pledging a 40% reduction in per-capita greenhouse-gas emissions by 2035 and strengthening adaptation measures across critical sectors, such as agriculture, water management, health and urban planning. The updated contributions were the product of extensive national consultations with government, young people, women's groups, academia and civil society.

To institutionalize those commitments in law, Zimbabwe had drafted a climate change management bill, which aimed to integrate the principles of transparency, accountability and inclusive participation into the climate governance framework. The bill established new institutional mechanisms such as a climate change management department, a transparency and compliance unit, a loss and damage unit, a carbon-trading unit and a national climate fund.

With IPU support, Zimbabwe had held its first capacity-building workshop for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff seeking to revive Zimbabwe's climate action plan, assess national commitments under the Paris Agreement and strengthen implementation of nationally determined contributions. Effective climate change governance required continuous capacity-building, robust multistakeholder collaboration and parliamentary leadership. Parliamentarians were encouraged to share best practices while adapting successful approaches to the national context.

Mr. M.Z. Maher (Tunisia) said that, as it worked to ensure decent livelihoods for its population, Tunisia continued to grapple with the adverse impacts of climate change, fuelled largely by the profit-driven, high-emission actions of industrialized nations. Despite the unequal playing field, the Parliament of Tunisia had taken concrete steps to implement the IPU resolution on partnerships for climate action, focusing on legislation, oversight and diplomacy.

With the support of the African Development Bank and the World Bank, Tunisia had adopted laws and programmes on forestry and pastoralism to protect forests and advance national and global environmental goals. A draft law on renewable energy production was also under consideration to strengthen the sustainability and resilience of the energy sector. Parliamentary hearings with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development had addressed the constitutional right to a healthy environment, and action plans were being implemented to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect soil and improve water treatment. Tunisia remained committed to international dialogue and to building a fairer, more sustainable world.

Ms. L. Carvajal (Chile) reaffirmed Chile's strong national commitment to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, noting the country's pride in former President Michelle Bachelet – now a candidate for UN Secretary-General and potentially the first woman to ever hold the post.

In 2024, the Chilean Senate had become the first parliament in the world to receive the UNDP Gender Equality Seal – an initiative celebrating public institutions for striving to create equal opportunities for both men and women. The Chilean Senate had earned the distinction following a rigorous external evaluation based on internationally validated standards, which confirmed significant progress across 15 key areas. Achievements included developing an institutional gender diagnostic tool; adopting protocols to prevent and sanction sexual harassment, workplace violence and discrimination; and producing an inclusive language manual to eliminate sexist language and foster a respectful working environment. Together, those measures demonstrated Chile's commitment to human rights standards, particularly to gender equality and decent work.

The Seal was a source of national pride for Chile and motivation to deepen gender-equality reforms. She underscored that the fight for equality could not be reversed, remaining central to sustainable development, and encouraged the IPU to stay on course.

A delegate from Yemen recalled that the IPU had discussed serious violations against Yemeni parliamentarians during its 142nd Assembly in 2021, noting that those abuses by Houthi rebels, supported by the Islamic Republic of Iran, were still ongoing. With 844 violations committed against 411 parliamentarians, it was regrettable that no concrete action had been taken by the IPU to classify the Houthis as a terrorist organization. He urged delegates to adopt a decision condemning the attacks on Yemeni parliamentarians and citizens, and thanked Germany for its initiative to protect at-risk parliamentarians.

The sitting rose at 16:20.

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

SITTING OF MONDAY, 20 October 2025

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 09:10 with Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia), Acting President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda (C-III/151/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary records of the Committee's session held at the 150th IPU Assembly in Tashkent (April 2025)

The summary records were approved.

The Chair invited the Committee to submit proposals regarding themes for future resolutions and debates, announced several upcoming IPU activities related to its work and reminded delegates to follow the IPU *Policy to prevent and address harassment, including sexual harassment, at IPU Assemblies and other IPU events* as well as the regulations on abusive language.

Preparation of a resolution entitled *Recognizing and supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent this practice*

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

The Chair invited the co-Rapporteurs to present the draft resolution *Recognizing and supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent this practice*, which would be followed by a debate and a drafting session on the proposed amendments.

Mr. M. De Maegd (Belgium), co-Rapporteur, said that the draft resolution had been thoroughly discussed at the previous Assembly, with contributions from victims and experts from the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The text of the resolution contained concrete measures to support victims, many of whom discovered their adoption as adults. Belgium had taken several measures to address the topic at hand, including legal reforms granting victims better access to justice, extension of deadlines and the issuing of an official apology to victims. Other countries were encouraged to take similar measures. He stressed that the resolution targeted illegal adoptions only and did not affect legal adoption practices. Delegates were encouraged to adopt it.

Ms. C.L. Crexell (Argentina), co-Rapporteur, said that the topic of illegal international adoption was a pressing issue in Argentina, with victim hearings having been held and judges consulted for their expertise in international adoption processes. Acknowledging some of the proposed amendments, she said that the draft resolution targeted illegal international adoptions practices while aiming to safeguard legal ones, thus protecting the safety and integrity of children and families.

Mr. S. Patra (India), co-Rapporteur, stressed the importance of the resolution which addressed an urgent, ongoing issue. A united stance from the IPU and its Member Parliaments was essential to ensure all possible steps were taken to halt illegal adoption practices.

(b) Debate on the draft resolution

Mr. M.M. Jallow (Sweden), underscoring that a child was not a transaction but a human being with rights and an identity, strongly supported the draft resolution, which sought to protect victims of illegal adoptions while safeguarding lawful adoption practices conducted in the best interests of the

child. The draft resolution reflected Sweden's commitment to a victim-centred approach based on truth, justice, prevention, transparency, oversight and accountability, recognizing illegal adoption as trafficking that warranted clear legal consequences, providing digital safeguard to protect every child's identity and addressing root causes such as poverty and social exclusion.

Sweden's adoption commission had recently uncovered serious irregularities in the country's adoption system, including falsified documents and cases amounting to child trafficking. Recognizing the need to deal with the findings honestly and responsibly, the Government had introduced enhanced support for adoptees through counselling and origin searches along with stricter oversight of parties involved in adoption. Its work was grounded in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.

Ms. M. Bon Klanjšček (Slovenia) said that illegal international adoption was a dangerous practice violating children's rights with lasting psychological and emotional consequences. In Slovenia, child adoption was regulated by the Family Code, which prioritized the child's best interests in line with international agreements such as the Hague Convention. Slovenia had taken steps to prevent illegal adoptions and ensure legal compliance but recognized the need for stronger monitoring, oversight and public awareness about the importance of transparency and accountability in adoption processes. The National Assembly had established a commission of inquiry to investigate cases of stolen children adopted between 1965 and 1991, amid evidence of newborn trafficking from maternity hospitals during that period.

Ensuring legality and transparency in adoption was a shared responsibility. It was not just a legal issue but a matter of human dignity and morality. Parliamentarians had a crucial role to play in addressing the matter.

Mr. F.H. Naek (Pakistan), emphasizing the critical importance of addressing illegal international adoption to protect children's rights and well-being, said that Pakistan's legal framework, rooted in Islamic principles, prioritized the child's identity, lineage and best interests, with rigorous judicial oversight to prevent exploitation. Pakistan had established the National Commission on the Rights of the Child to act as an independent watchdog, enacted laws to combat abduction and trafficking, and invested in social protection and poverty alleviation to support vulnerable families, thus ensuring that poverty never became a reason for family separation. While Pakistan's legal system provided for guardianship rather than adoption in the conventional sense, the principles of transparency, ethics and children's welfare remained paramount.

He recognized the need for comprehensive support for those affected by illegal international adoption – children, biological parents and adoptive parents alike – including legal remedies, psychological assistance and compensation. Proactive measures must also be taken to prevent illegal adoption from occurring in the first place. It was particularly important to address root causes such as discrimination, economic hardship, lack of social support and weak child protection systems. Those efforts might include strengthening social protection systems, introducing gender equality legislation, facilitating access to essential services, such as education and healthcare, and expanding economic opportunities. The goal was to reduce the vulnerability of children, ensuring they grew up in the care of biological families wherever possible.

In addition, he stressed the importance of international cooperation in dismantling transnational criminal networks, and of working closely with organizations such as UNICEF and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). By sharing information, intelligence and best practices, it was possible to create a global network of protection for children. Legal frameworks must be strengthened to ensure that all adoptions were transparent, ethical and in the best interests of the child, with the ratification and implementation of international conventions and human rights laws being a crucial step in that direction. Adoption agencies must be regulated through background checks, and adoption processes must be monitored to eliminate corruption and exploitation. Pakistan supported the adoption of the draft resolution, which signalled that illegal trafficking of children would not be tolerated.

Ms. C. Féret (France), noting the scale and impact of the problem, said that, since the 2000s, France had worked to reduce illegal international adoptions in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Hague Convention, with the number of cases falling from 4,000 in 2004 to 232 in 2022. Her delegation supported the draft resolution but had proposed several amendments to strengthen it, including a call for the temporary suspension of international adoptions in areas affected by conflict or humanitarian crises, the preservation of archives and information on illegal adoptions, and greater support for victims in tracing their origins. Enhanced cooperation with international

organizations, such as the United Nations and the International Criminal Court (ICC), was also proposed with a view to exploring new avenues for victim compensation. Lastly, the resolution must address the issue of ideological indoctrination of children, with reference to Ukrainian children who had been forcibly deported, re-educated and placed in Russian families – a war crime that must be strongly condemned.

Mr. A. Rusakov (Russian Federation) reaffirmed his country's commitment to international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as to the Russian Constitution, which guaranteed protection for families and children. The year 2024 had been declared the year of the family in his country, leading to the creation of a council on demographic and family policy.

He firmly rejected as false and politically motivated the allegations of Western countries regarding the deportation, kidnapping and illegal transfer of Ukrainian children, describing them as part of a slanderous campaign against the Russian Federation. Many of the children in question were no longer minors or had never been on Russian territory. Those children currently in the Russian Federation were under State care, with several already having been reunited with their families, through processes verified by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and mediated by Qatar and the Vatican.

The resolution must remain neutral, refraining from directly accusing the Russian Federation or any other country. Equally, it was unacceptable to call for cooperation with the ICC, whose jurisdiction did not extend to cases of illegal international adoption and whose authority was not recognized by his country. His delegation could not endorse any such references in the text.

Mr. C. Lohr (Switzerland) said that the practice of illegal adoption was a form of human trafficking, which must be recognized as such in law, with abducted children at risk of exploitation, including through prostitution, drug trafficking, begging or recruitment into armed groups. Affected children were deprived of their identity, biological family, psychological stability and other fundamental rights, causing suffering for both children and parents. While the past could not be changed, legislators had a duty to prevent further violations by formally recognizing the existence and impact of illegal intercountry adoptions. Switzerland was among the first European countries to research and acknowledge wrongdoing in its past adoption practices. He highlighted the urgent need for prevention, transparency and support for victims.

Mr. N. Inna (Thailand) commended the co-Rapporteurs for their dedicated work on the draft resolution, noting that the text reflected a strong commitment to protecting human rights, upholding the best interests of the child and delivering justice for victims of illegal intercountry adoption. He welcomed the recognition of victims, including adopted children, biological parents and adoptive families, as well as the call for strengthened international cooperation and reparative measures such as access to archives and provision of legal and psychological assistance. It was up to parliaments to translate those commitments into concrete action by reviewing national laws, exercising robust oversight and becoming advocates for truth, reconciliation and lasting justice. He expressed full support for the adoption of the resolution.

Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine) said that the Russian Federation had weaponized adoption in the context of its aggression against Ukraine, systematically abducting Ukrainian children, renaming them and placing them with Russian families. Under new laws passed by the Russian Federal Assembly, Russian authorities had the right to alter surnames, birth certificates and citizenship, thus deliberately erasing the identities, language and family ties of the children in question and complicating their return to their lawful homes. Such acts did not constitute adoption but rather forced assimilation carried out under the guise of protection, amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Rome Statute and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In August 2025, Ukraine had uncovered an online database where Ukrainian orphans were listed, complete with photos, physical descriptions and so-called obedience levels. The shocking database, organized and sanctioned by the Russian Federation, effectively turned children into commodities for child traffickers and paedophiles.

She criticized the global child protection system's failure to return abducted children, noting that only one child had been repatriated through IPU efforts since 2022. Emphasizing that illegal adoption in times of conflict was not an act of care but an act of violence, she urged parliamentarians to support the draft resolution, demand justice and use their influence to ensure the safe return of all Ukrainian children.

Ms. K. Gajewska (Poland) said that the draft resolution was overly general which risked obscuring responsibility. Since the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, tens of thousands of Ukrainian children had been illegally deported or forcibly displaced, with the fate of tens of thousands more still unknown. Abducted children were isolated from their families, subjected to indoctrination and militarization, banned from speaking Ukrainian, and given new Russian names and passports – a campaign aimed not only at destroying family bonds but at erasing their identity and heritage. She urged the international community to make the protection and return of those children a global priority, deeming it a fight for basic human dignity. Responding to earlier remarks by the Russian delegation, she affirmed that extensive evidence existed of the said abductions.

Mr. A. Papathanasis (Greece) said that democracy and human rights were living principles requiring constant vigilance, adaptation and renewal, particularly amid global challenges, such as digital transformation, geopolitical uncertainty and climate change. The test of modern democracy was not only in the holding of free elections but in the protection of pluralism, the rule of law and the equal participation of all citizens, especially young people, women and other vulnerable groups. While technology could enhance transparency, participation and empowerment, it also facilitated disinformation, manipulation and polarization. Legislators must therefore ensure that digital spaces upheld trust, accountability and human dignity. Given the transnational nature of modern challenges, the IPU had a crucial role to play in creating frameworks of solidarity and justice that transcended borders. It must connect parliaments, share best practices and promote democracy as a universal common good. He called for collective efforts to strengthen institutions, defend freedom of expression and empower citizens globally.

Ms. A. Yaghi (Jordan) called on States to provide comprehensive support to disabled children affected by illegal adoption, addressing their physical, psychological and environmental needs. It was important to raise awareness, promote parliamentary protection mechanisms and foster cooperation to bring an end to the problem.

Ms. F. Ilimi Haddouche (Algeria) said that illegal adoption and child trafficking were serious international crimes violating human dignity, especially prevalent in regions affected by conflict. It was important to put in place an effective strategy based on international cooperation. Algeria had strengthened human rights protections by enacting legislation to combat human trafficking and providing social, economic and psychological support to victims. It was committed to aligning national legislation with international conventions.

Ms. D. Alzayed (Bahrain), emphasizing her country's opposition to illegal adoption, proposed several measures to tackle the problem: (1) provide victims with free legal, medical and psychological assistance; (2) uphold international law in a way that held perpetrators accountable and protected children from exploitation; (3) facilitate the return of children to their biological parents; (4) establish reporting and complaints mechanisms; (5) provide special protection to victims living with disabilities; and (6) create programmes to reintegrate affected children into society.

Ms. S. Aumeeruddy Cziffra (Mauritius), outlining her country's long-standing commitment to protecting women's and children's rights, said that, since 1982, Mauritius had maintained a ministry dedicated to that work and had ratified key human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Hague Convention, with a bill to implement the latter currently being finalized by the Attorney General's Office. The establishment of the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children – the only such institution in Africa – had been another important step for child protection.

In the past, Mauritius had been a destination for foreigners seeking to adopt children without adequate regulation, leading to instances of trafficking. The 2009 Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act had since criminalized illegal adoptions, with penalties of up to 20 years' imprisonment. Legislation now prioritized domestic adoption, resulting in most adoptions taking place within the country. While an independent body on intercountry adoption had previously existed, it had now been absorbed into the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare.

Ms. J.S. Mananiso (South Africa) called for urgent action on illegal international adoption, which was a serious violation of the rights and well-being of vulnerable children and families. South Africa, too, had faced cases of illegal cross-border adoptions motivated by profit rather than child protection. Adopting and implementing the resolution would signal the collective commitment of parliamentarians to safeguarding children's rights and dignity while establishing a framework to guide prevention,

protection and prosecution efforts. South Africa stood ready to collaborate globally, sharing best practices and exchanging information, and noted the importance of working with international organizations and civil society. She also underscored the need for community support, education and awareness programmes to help identify and report illegal adoptions.

Mr. M.A. Tehrani (Islamic Republic of Iran), highlighting that children in situations of conflict, instability and poverty were particularly vulnerable to exploitation, said that adoption should be a symbol of care and compassion, not a source of corruption, trafficking, and identity fraud. His country had a strong legal framework to prevent adoption abuses, notably a law on the protection of orphaned and abandoned children and adolescents, which limited adoption primarily to Iranian families, with a view to ensuring transparency and preventing forgery and trafficking. The framework continued to be reviewed and strengthened to align with international standards.

His delegation proposed several measures: (1) ensure that both sending and receiving countries remained accountable for adopted children into adulthood; (2) establish a multi-layered system to monitor adoption processes, ensuring legal and financial transparency; (3) require receiving countries to record and report on the status of adopted children and provide victims with medical, psychological and financial support; (4) integrate illegal adoption into training for judges, police, social workers and diplomats, and conduct public awareness-raising campaigns; and (5) enhance data collection and sharing in cooperation with international organizations to inform policymaking.

While he agreed that parliamentarians had a vital role to play in delivering justice for victims, including by enacting national laws, no provision of the resolution should unfairly portray moral or religious values as sources of discrimination. As such, his delegation wished to delete preambular paragraph 16, which incorrectly associated gender discrimination with religious beliefs. Strengthening ethical and religious principles was in fact one of the most effective means of protecting children and preventing exploitation.

Mr. T. Alshammari (Arab Parliament) said that the draft resolution could be further strengthened by calling on parliaments to: (1) establish national committees dedicated to fact-finding, redress and compensation, thereby affirming victims' right to justice; (2) integrate the protection of children affected by illegal adoption into national human rights strategies; (3) establish a parliamentary follow-up mechanism to monitor implementation of the resolution; and (4) enhance cooperation with civil society, which played a key role in detecting violations and supporting victims psychologically, socially and legally. He also stressed the importance of combatting illegal adoptions facilitated online, noting that digital platforms were increasingly being used by illegal trafficking networks.

Ms. C. Ngy (Cambodia) emphasized that illegal international adoption was a serious human rights violation that exploited vulnerable children and communities. Although Cambodia had enacted a comprehensive intercountry adoption law in 2009, illegal practices persisted, particularly affecting marginalized groups. The draft resolution served as a crucial step towards addressing that injustice and reaffirming parliamentarians' commitment to upholding children's rights and dignity.

To strengthen the resolution, he proposed several measures. First, parliaments must align their national laws with international standards and ensure their effective enforcement, ensuring adequate allocation of monitoring resources. Second, it was vital to raise public awareness of legal adoption processes, empowering communities to identify and report irregularities. Third, victims must be provided with comprehensive support, including legal and psychological assistance and family reunification where possible. Fourth, there was a need to enhance international cooperation and information-sharing, for instance, through bilateral agreements aimed at combatting trafficking networks. Fifth, an independent body should be established to monitor and assess the implementation of commitments, with regular reporting to ensure accountability and transparency. Cambodia fully supported the draft resolution and urged collective action to protect vulnerable children and uphold the rule of law.

Ms. M.I. Marcos (Philippines) said that human trafficking, particularly of children, had long plagued her country. Between 2024 and 2025, the Philippines had recorded 719 child trafficking cases, both domestic and cross-border, many involving online sexual abuse. Authorities had uncovered social media groups selling infants as well as cases of attempted smuggling and abductions of children disguised as adoption. New forms of trafficking had also emerged, including illicit surrogacy and the trafficking of unborn babies.

In response, the Parliament of the Philippines had launched an enquiry into those alarming trends and taken a number of legislative efforts. The 1995 Inter-Country Adoption Act regulated cross-border adoptions, making it a last resort, and established a central authority to penalize

perpetrators. The 2022 Domestic Administrative Adoption and Alternative Child Care Act consolidated alternative childcare under one single agency, thus streamlining the adoption process. The 2022 Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act extended accountability to digital and financial intermediaries, including social media platforms and internet providers.

Despite those advances, trafficking was rapidly evolving in the digital age, creating enforcement gaps, especially in developing countries, which lacked adequate legal frameworks. She called for stronger laws, more effective enforcement and enhanced international cooperation to ensure that globalization and technology protected, rather than exploited, children, keeping them safe and amongst their loved ones.

Ms. T.V. Muzenda (Zimbabwe) said that illegal adoption disproportionately affected women and girls, with vulnerable birth mothers coerced into relinquishing children and girl children trafficked under the guise of adoption. Any response must be gender-sensitive, protecting the rights of women and girls.

Parliaments had a duty to ratify and domesticate international agreements such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Hague Convention. Zimbabwe had demonstrated its commitment in that regard by ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990 and, in June 2025, securing Cabinet approval for the ratification of the Hague Convention, pending parliamentary debate. In addition, the Constitution guaranteed women's protection from exploitation and abuse.

The draft resolution was right in calling upon parliaments to investigate the root causes of illegal adoption and to ensure justice for victims. Noting the critical importance of parliamentary oversight in protecting women and girls from illegal adoption, she called on parliaments to monitor adoption practices and hold institutions accountable. Furthermore, parliaments were encouraged to provide gender-responsive and trauma-informed victim support and to foster partnerships with a view to sharing information, harmonizing legal standards and coordinating enforcement internationally.

Ms. K. Daugaard (Denmark) expressed strong support for the draft resolution, emphasizing the urgency of addressing illegal adoptions through thorough investigations, legal action and improved legislation. It was essential to provide timely assistance to citizens adopted abroad wishing to reconnect with their biological families. She commended South Korea's efforts in investigating illegal adoptions affecting Danish citizens and encouraged other countries to follow suit. The actions of the Russian Federation in Ukraine were strongly condemned; all Ukrainian children unlawfully deported during the conflict must be returned immediately.

Ms. A. Kalmari (Finland) called for transparency and stronger monitoring in adoption processes, emphasizing that adoption must never become a business or tool for human trafficking or sexual exploitation. She condemned the Russian Federation's abduction of tens of thousands of Ukrainian children, many of whom had been adopted into Russian families. A website, maintained by the Russia-controlled Luhansk Ministry of Education and Science had been set up to market the children, allowing users to filter them by age, gender, eye colour and other characteristics – a practice amounting to digital human trafficking. Some abducted children had even been forced into military service fighting against their own families. She urged urgent action to end the violence and ensure the safe return of those children to their families in Ukraine.

Ms. J. Simanovska (Latvia) noted the importance of clearly distinguishing between legal and illegal adoptions, with the latter having severe and lasting consequences, including criminal implications. The draft resolution made that distinction effectively. Since the impacts of illegal adoption often extended into adulthood, the rights of affected young adults must also be considered.

While some delegations were uncomfortable with explicit references to the Russian Federation and the ICC, their inclusion was necessary for truth and to protect children from war crimes. Indeed, it was well documented that thousands of Ukrainian children had been deported and forced into military service by the Russian Federation, leading to arrest warrants being issued by the ICC. Omitting those references would therefore ignore one of the most serious drivers of illegal adoption in recent history.

Ms T. Vardanyan (Armenia), speaking on behalf of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, said that the amendments proposed by her Forum did more than refine the text of the resolution – they reaffirmed a shared conviction that equality, justice and dignity must be at the heart of every policy. Illegal international adoption was not only a violation of law but a violation of humanity, often thriving where women's rights were denied, where mothers were silenced by stigma, and where inequality was

rampant. By supporting the amendments, the IPU would send a clear message that the fight against illegal adoption must also be a fight against discrimination, marginalization and gender-based injustice. Protecting children was impossible without empowering the women who brought them into the world. When the rights and voices of women and girls were strengthened, so too were families, communities and the very fabric of societies. The moment had come to reaffirm that gender equality was not an accessory to justice but its foundation.

Mr. S. Singh Solanki (India) reaffirmed India's strong commitment to protecting children's rights under international law, noting its adherence to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Hague Convention. India had introduced legislation and established institutions aligned with those conventions to ensure that all adoptions prioritized the best interests of the child. The Constitution explicitly prohibited human trafficking and the Directive Principle of State Policy provided additional protection for minors. India's adoption system operated under a secular civil law framework, notably the Juvenile Justice Act, which allowed adoption regardless of the religion or nationality of the child or adoptive parents. Any adoption conducted in violation of the Act carried legal penalties. Under the 2022 Adoption Regulations, agencies must also conduct post-adoption follow-ups for two years to ensure the continued well-being of the child.

Mr. A. Gajadien (Suriname) expressed strong support for the draft resolution, emphasizing that illegal international adoptions violated children's rights, human dignity and family integrity. Weak legal frameworks and poor oversight had allowed children to be separated from their families under false pretences, causing lifelong trauma for adoptees and biological parents. He called for stronger international cooperation to ensure truth and justice. It was particularly important to reinforce legal safeguards, ensure transparent adoption procedures, guarantee access to adoption records and provide psychosocial and legal support to victims seeking to reconnect with their roots. Every child had the right to know their identity and grow up in a safe and loving environment.

Ms. R. Alyahya (Saudi Arabia) expressed strong support for the draft resolution, acknowledging the profound moral, psychological and ethical harm caused by illegal adoption. Saudi Arabia had carefully reviewed the text and welcomed amendments aimed at increasing transparency in adoption procedures, for instance, by banning closed adoption practices, strengthening accountability and legal sanctions, raising awareness among all actors involved, and integrating modern technology, including artificial intelligence (AI) and digital record-keeping. The need for financial assistance for victims was also important.

At the same time, she recognized that international adoption, when conducted ethically, transparently and strictly as a last resort, could offer life-changing opportunities for children, particularly girls, provided that their safety, identity and equality were fully protected. In line with the Hague Convention, intercountry adoptions must only be considered when all safe and viable family or domestic care options had been exhausted. Such adoptions served the best interest of the child when the adoptive family could provide a secure and nurturing environment that upheld gender equality, respected the child's cultural and personal identity and ensured access to essential services such as education and healthcare, thereby preventing exposure to harmful practices such as child marriage or early labour.

Saudi Arabia's adoption system, grounded in cultural and religious principles, acknowledged the *kafala* guardianship system as a legitimate and humane alternative to adoption in Islamic countries. Under the *kafala*, children received full care and monitoring while retaining their original names and identity, reflecting the Kingdom's commitment to both international human rights standards and national legal and cultural values.

Mr. K. Ait Mik (Morocco), recalling that the protection of children was central to Morocco's parliamentary and diplomatic efforts, said that illegal adoption was a grave violation of children's dignity and rights. It constituted a form of human trafficking and a crime against humanity, depriving children of their history, cultural identity and family ties, and causing long-term suffering for both children and parents. In that context, it was vital to treat affected children and families as victims and provide them with the necessary support. There was a need to track trafficking networks, strengthen legislation and establish DNA databases to help children reunite with their biological families. He called for a humanitarian approach to the problem guided by the best interests of the child and grounded in dignity, justice and family unity. The international community must not remain silent.

Ms. M.G.S. Anquetil (Mauritius) said that, in 2024, Mauritius had investigated 13 cases of human trafficking, including 11 involving sexual exploitation and two involving forced labour. Behind every statistic was a child whose life could have been protected with stronger safeguards. Those cases showed that the fight against human trafficking and illegal adoption was not a matter of the past but an urgent present-day challenge requiring courage, vigilance and international solidarity.

Mauritius had chosen to act firmly and was now finalizing a national adoption bill, which would modernize the adoption system and bring it into full alignment with the Hague Convention. Legal reforms must, however, go beyond the legislation itself, centring around the people and children affected. Acknowledging that many countries had not yet signed or implemented the Hague Convention, leaving thousands of children vulnerable, she called for enhanced international partnerships, information sharing and mutual support, noting that protecting children could not be achieved by any single nation alone.

Every child represented a promise for a better future, and parliamentarians had a moral duty to ensure no child was left behind, exploited or stolen. Adoption must remain an act of love, not loss.

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

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

The discussion continued from 11:20 to 13:20. The sitting then rose.

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2025

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 17:00 with Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia), Acting President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Preparation of a resolution entitled *Recognizing and supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent this practice*

(continued)

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

(continued)

The Chair said that, in its previous meeting, the Committee had efficiently reviewed 174 proposed amendments to the draft resolution from 26 delegations, plus 3 additional amendments from the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. The revised draft resolution had now been published on the IPU website and was included in the set of documents provided to delegates. Subsequently, a letter from the Russian Federation regarding operative paragraph 5 of the revised draft had been received, in response to which extensive consultations had taken place between the co-Rapporteurs, Ukraine and the Russian Federation. The floor was given to the co-Rapporteurs to outline the proposed next steps.

Mr. M. De Maegd (Belgium), co-Rapporteur, said that the draft resolution represented a key tool to protect the rights of the child worldwide, enabling parliamentarians to legislate in support of victims of illegal international adoption. Delegations from all geopolitical groups had contributed amendments in a spirit of cooperation. While there had been debate over whether to name specific countries, the Committee had ultimately decided to reference the situation between Ukraine and the Russian Federation in operative paragraph 5. However, following consultations with the delegations in question, he proposed moving that reference to preambular paragraph 14, and making operative paragraph 5 more general, so that condemnation of illegal child trafficking in armed conflict was not country-specific.

A delegate from the Netherlands raised a point of order under Rule 23 and Rule 24 of the Rules of Standing Committees, emphasizing the need for finality in the Committee's decision-making. On 20 October, the Committee had thoroughly debated and formally adopted, with finality, a series of proposed amendments to the draft resolution. Making further revisions to the text now would reopen a settled decision, which the rules did not permit – a concern made even more serious by the absence of the Ukrainian delegation. In addition, the rules provided no mechanism for reconsidering

amendments adopted within the same session, precisely to ensure efficiency and prevent repetitive debates. Any attempt to revise an amendment already adopted would undermine the principle of finality and was thus inadmissible.

He cautioned that allowing a revision at the current stage would establish a dangerous precedent, enabling delegations to challenge and reopen settled decisions in future sessions. That would erode the integrity of the democratic process, potentially destabilizing the IPU's decision-making framework. He reaffirmed that the vote taken on 20 October had been democratic, transparent and final.

The Chair, responding with advice from the Secretariat, clarified that the current meeting was not a mere formality but an opportunity for further debate on any part of the text. The text of the resolution remained a draft, not a finalized document, and precedent showed that discussions had often been reopened at the current point in past sessions.

She acknowledged that the Committee had indeed voted on operative paragraph 5 earlier, with the outcome clearly in favour of its inclusion. However, as explained earlier, a subsequent letter from the Russian Federation had prompted extensive consultations between the co-Rapporteurs, Ukraine and the Russian Federation. The co-Rapporteurs, seeking to maintain a non-political and practical resolution that would stand the test of time, had proposed a compromise: retaining the reference to Ukraine and the Russian Federation but moving it from the operative section to the preamble, in line with language previously adopted by the IPU. The proposal was now before the Committee for consideration. She stressed that it was not a *fait accompli* and that the Committee remained free to decide how to proceed.

A delegate from the Islamic Republic of Iran said that the resolution should not become a political instrument targeting specific countries. Such texts should focus on general, substantive issues relevant to national parliaments. Otherwise, many other political situations, such as the aggression by Israel and the United States of America against the Islamic Republic of Iran, would need to be addressed within the same framework.

The Chair said that, after seeking advice, it was clear that although naming specific countries in resolutions was not preferred, the practice had been accepted on a number of occasions. Previous discussions of the Committee, including those reflected in the preamble of the current resolution, had named countries directly.

A delegate from Bahrain, together with the delegations of the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, shared the view that revisiting the paragraph was not prohibited under the rules. The resolution must be general and non-political, remaining focused on human rights. She supported holding a new vote on the paragraph in question.

Ms. C. Roth (Germany), noting that a democratic vote had already taken place after lengthy debates, questioned why the result should now be reconsidered based on a single delegation's objection. She drew attention to the lack of procedural clarity, adding that, while she fully supported the draft resolution, the procedure must remain transparent and adhere to established rules.

The Chair, clarifying the procedure, explained that the Committee was currently reviewing the draft resolution – a product of earlier debates and votes – in the light of a letter from the Russian Federation, and deciding on the next steps.

A delegate from Algeria said that the resolution would be strengthened by remaining general and refraining to name specific countries. She supported the final version agreed upon in consultations between the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

The sitting was suspended at 17:30 and resumed at 17:45.

The Chair said that, after some final remarks from the Russian Federation, she would put the new preambular paragraph 14 and the new operative paragraph 5, as proposed by the co-Rapporteurs, to a vote.

Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation) said that, broadly-speaking, his delegation expressed a desire to support the resolution, noting that it provided an important framework to protect children that could be applied domestically. His delegation, however, strongly opposed operative paragraph 5

because it targeted the Russian Federation and therefore risked politicizing the text. The Russian Federation disputed claims that thousands of Ukrainian children had been illegally transferred, noting that neither the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) nor the Ukrainian authorities themselves could confirm such figures. While the Russian Federation welcomed information about missing children for thorough investigation, the highest number of formal cases received from Ukraine was 339, of which around 40% had been found to be inaccurate – concerning adults or children already located in European countries. He highlighted ongoing collaboration with Ukraine through the IPU Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, established to address those concerns; over three years, the Task Force had received only nine requests from Ukraine regarding missing children, demonstrating that the claims of mass illegal transfers were unsubstantiated. In its current form, operative paragraph 5 would compel Russia to oppose the entire resolution.

The Chair asked the delegate of the Russian Federation not to conflate the work of the Committee with that of another IPU body.

Following a vote, the amended preambular paragraph 14, as proposed by the co-Rapporteurs, was adopted.

Following a vote, the amended operative paragraph 5, as proposed by the co-Rapporteurs, was rejected and the original operative paragraph 5 was retained.

The resolution, as amended, was adopted.

Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation) rejected the adopted resolution in its entirety, arguing that it falsified reality. It was regrettable that a potential compromise between the Russian Federation and Ukraine had been lost, which might also lead to further challenges within the Task Force.

A delegate from Belarus said that, while his delegation opposed illegal international adoption, it could not support the resolution because it singled out only one conflict while ignoring others. To achieve the peaceful settlement of conflicts and the safe return of children to their parents, the IPU must find a formula that united rather than divided its members.

(d) Appointment of a Rapporteur to the 151st IPU Assembly

The Chair nominated Mr. De Maegd (Belgium), co-Rapporteur of the resolution, to present the resolution to the Assembly.

It was so agreed.

Preparations for future Assemblies

(a) Subject of the next resolution to be prepared by the Committee

The Chair said that the Bureau had met and reviewed proposals for the next resolution, including a joint submission from Türkiye and Switzerland on the rights and empowerment of persons with disabilities, and a proposal from India on artificial intelligence (AI). By consensus, the Bureau wished to recommend the former proposal which would be titled as follows: *Inclusive social development for all: Parliamentary strategies to promote the rights and empowerment of people living with disabilities*. The floor was given to Ms. F. Öncü (Türkiye), Mr. C. Lohr (Switzerland) and Ms. C.M. Mumma (Kenya) who were nominated as co-Rapporteurs, with Ms. Mumma joining to add perspectives from another geopolitical group.

Ms. F. Öncü (Türkiye) said that 16% of the global population were persons with disabilities who faced significant socioeconomic challenges, including barriers to education, healthcare and workforce participation. The proposed resolution aimed to protect their rights and promote full and equal participation in society.

Mr. C. Lohr (Switzerland), as someone living with a disability since birth, said that inclusion was not just a policy goal but a daily struggle for equal opportunities and respect. It was important to ensure that people with disabilities were not defined by their limitations but empowered through rights

and opportunities. Inclusive development meant removing physical, social and institutional barriers, enabling everyone to contribute their talents and live in dignity and independence. The resolution offered a valuable opportunity for the IPU and parliamentarians to advance those goals.

Ms. C.M. Mumma (Kenya) said that, as a human rights lawyer who had previously served on the Kenya National Commissions on Human Rights and contributed to negotiating the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as being a parent of a child with a disability, she was committed to offering her full support to the resolution.

A delegate from Jordan expressed gratitude that the resolution on disability issues had been accepted and welcomed the inclusion of such matters in international parliamentary discussions. Noting that people with disabilities constituted 17% of the world's population, she emphasized the importance of international commissions and legislation that actively involved people with disabilities at all levels and in all fields. People with disabilities should be seen as capable individuals rather than merely recipients of care or sympathy.

The Chair took it that the Committee wished to accept the proposal for the next resolution entitled *Inclusive social development for all: Parliamentary strategies to promote the rights and empowerment of people living with disabilities*.

It was so decided.

The Chair took it that the Committee wished to appoint Ms. F. Öncü (Türkiye), Mr. C. Lohr (Switzerland) and Ms. C.M. Mumma (Kenya) as co-Rapporteurs.

It was so decided.

The Chair said that a debate on the topic of the draft resolution would be held at the upcoming 152nd IPU Assembly in April 2026. Members would have an opportunity to share views and contribute to the preparation of the resolution to be adopted in October 2026.

(b) Other items for the Committee's agenda at the 152nd IPU Assembly

The Chair indicated that the Bureau had also recommended that the Committee hold a debate on recent developments in AI; the debate would not lead to a resolution. Although the Committee had adopted a resolution on AI in October 2024, the technology was evolving rapidly and remained a priority for many parliaments. A dedicated debate would therefore allow members to take stock of the latest developments. The Chair took it that the Committee wished to proceed with the recommendation.

It was so decided.

Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee

The Chair announced several vacancies to the Bureau for the African Group, the Eurasia Group and the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC). GRULAC had nominated Mr. E. Goerling (Argentina) and Ms. R. Abed (Paraguay) while the African Group had nominated Mr. C. Lutundula Apala Pen' Apala (Democratic Republic of the Congo). The remaining positions would stay vacant until the following Assembly.

The Committee approved the nominations.

The Chair noted that the Committee was also required to elect a new President and Vice-President. Recalling that the Asia-Pacific Group had held the presidency since early 2024, she explained that, under the agreed rotation ensuring both gender and geopolitical balance, the next President should be a man from the Eurasia Group and the next Vice-President a woman from the African Group. As the Eurasia Group had not yet submitted a nomination, the presidency would remain vacant for the time being. The African Group had nominated Ms. F. Ilimi Haddouche (Algeria) for Vice-President. She took it that the Committee wished to approve the nomination for Vice-President.

The nomination was approved.

The sitting rose at 18:20.

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

SITTING OF MONDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2025

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 09:20 with Ms. A. Kuspan (Kazakhstan), President of the Bureau of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda (C-I/151/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held at the 150th IPU Assembly in Tashkent (April 2025)

The summary record was approved.

The President, highlighting that gender equality was the IPU priority theme in 2025, said that the Organization had launched the campaign *Achieving gender equality, action by action* to encourage parliaments to translate their commitments to gender equality into tangible action.

An issue brief had recently been published on the theme *Democratic checks: Parliamentary oversight in an era of rising military expenditure*. The publication *Human security and common security to build peace* was available in English, French, 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 158 Parliaments had endorsed it to date. She encouraged the remaining parliaments to pledge their support. She also encouraged delegates to implement the IPU anti-harassment policy, which aimed to ensure a safe, respectful and harassment-free working environment for all.

Panel discussion on *Arms control policy and non-proliferation: Preventing the next arms race*

The President, introducing the panel discussion, said that there was an arms control crisis, particularly with the New START Treaty set to expire in February 2026, and a new arms race driven by technological advancements, which heightened tensions and undermined global security. The panel discussion would allow the Committee to take stock of the situation, outline how efforts should be consolidated to face current threats and reiterate the need for full implementation of existing humanitarian agreements.

A video by SCRAP Weapons calling for a Conference of the Parties (COP) on arms governance was shown.

The President introduced Ms. Y. Issar (Researcher, Peace and Disarmament Programme, Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)), who would act as Moderator for both panel discussions of that sitting.

The Moderator said that QUNO had carried out multilateral disarmament efforts for many decades, including with the IPU, a shared effort that reflected convergence of purpose and reaffirmed that lasting peace required dialogue, inclusive participation and minimal allocation of human and economic resources to armament. While global military spending was at a record high and geopolitical tensions were mounting, peacebuilding, conflict resolution and conflict prevention mechanisms were under-resourced, which could undo decades of progress. Introducing the panellists, she asked them how parliaments could help to strengthen the implementation and universality of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in the current complex security environment.

Ms. C. Solmirano (Director, ATT Secretariat), panellist, said that 117 States had joined the Treaty since its entry into force in 2014, making a collective commitment to ensure that arms transfers were conducted responsibly and transparently and promoted international peace and security.

That commitment could become a reality only when translated into national law, underscoring the importance of parliaments' role. It was up to legislators to align export control laws with international standards, maintain transparency and oversight, ensure that national systems remained accountable to citizens and guarantee the continuity of national commitments beyond electoral cycles. Parliaments should also ensure that the agencies responsible for licensing, customs and enforcement were adequately funded, trained and independent. Effective and lasting implementation of the Treaty required not only technical expertise and administrative capacity, but also inclusive governance and strong political will shaped and sustained by parliamentary engagement.

When parliamentarians were involved and informed, the ATT could shift from being simply an international obligation to a national priority. Legislative interest contributed to keeping arms control on political agendas, reinforced interagency coordination and fostered a sense of ownership critical for long-term success. Regarding universality, the Treaty's success hinged on parliaments bridging the gap between global norms and domestic realities. The ATT Secretariat stood ready to work with IPU Member Parliaments by providing technical advice and capacity building and engaging in dialogue, enabling Member Parliaments to continue strengthening national systems and holding governments accountable for responsible arms trade policies, given that regulating the arms trade was not simply a matter of security, but of human responsibility.

Mr. C. Foradori (President, Eleventh Conference of States Parties (CSP11), ATT and Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations Office at Geneva), panellist, said that while 117 countries were full members of the ATT, about 30 countries had signed the Treaty but had not ratified it, nullifying its effect in those countries. Universalization of the ATT was key to maintaining transparency of imports and exports of arms. Countries that were not full members of the ATT were under no obligation to report on the trade of arms, creating a loophole for international terrorism and crime and causing national crime rates to increase. The ATT did not prohibit the arms trade but controlled it. Parliaments needed to put pressure on executive powers, submit the relevant draft laws and promote the ratification of the ATT. Awareness of the Treaty and its importance should also be raised. The ATT should achieve universalization in space, with a maximum number of countries ratifying it, and in time, raising awareness among the next generation, even as a growing number of young people were already alerting their countries to the ATT's existence.

The Moderator asked Ms. M. Parke, Director of the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), to elaborate on the role parliamentarians could play in advancing nuclear disarmament and sustaining global and political momentum for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Ms. M. Parke (Director, ICAN), panellist, said that nuclear disarmament concerned the collective security of humanity and the planet, and must not be dealt with as the narrow national security prerogative of a few countries. Nuclear risk was at an all-time high. As long as there remained nuclear weapons they were bound to be used by design, accident or miscalculation. Recalling instances where accidental nuclear attacks had almost taken place, she said that there had been no nuclear catastrophes for some time simply because of pure luck, which would not last indefinitely and could not be a nuclear strategy.

In September 2025, the TPNW had achieved a global majority of States parties and signatories, declaring to the nine nuclear weapons States that the use of extinction-level weapons for deterrence was unacceptable. That progress had been driven by parliamentarians' efforts to hold hearings, table motions and bring the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons into public debate. ICAN had been working closely with many parliaments that had ratified the TPNW. Despite some Government resistance, parliaments had shaped national policy through resolutions, budget scrutiny and committee inquiries. Further parliamentary measures included voicing public concerns and asking ministers to examine how their countries' policies aligned with international law, humanitarian principles, defence priorities and civil protection standards. Given that nuclear disarmament affected every aspect of governance, parliamentarians in healthcare, finance, education and other non-defence sectors also had a role to play. Members of parliament whose countries had not yet joined the TPNW could sign ICAN's parliamentary pledge to work towards their countries' signature and ratification of the Treaty.

The first review conference of the TPNW would take place in New York at the end of November 2026. Parliamentarians were welcome to participate regardless of their governments' attendance. Disarmament was not utopian but existential and was the least complex global challenge, as humans simply had to dismantle the nuclear weapons that they themselves had built. Political will and leadership were key, as demonstrated by civil society and the TPNW member states.

The Moderator asked the next panellist, Ms. S. Mohan, researcher at the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), to expound on how the militarization of new and emerging technologies was shaping global security and guide parliaments' response in that regard.

Ms. S. Mohan (Researcher, UNIDIR), panellist, said that United Nations (UN) and other multilateral policy instruments existed and were being developed to govern cybersecurity, as well as the use of AI in military and security contexts. However, those instruments did not cover all applications of AI, especially newer technologies, such as generative AI, which were posing new threats and would shape global security in the coming years. The application of AI to conventional, nuclear, biological and chemical weapons was not adequately understood or discussed at policy gatherings. New technologies such as quantum computing and neuro technologies were currently not covered under policy processes, and would soon have a significant impact on disarmament and arms control.

It would be effective and ethical for parliamentarians to incorporate issues of gender in emerging technology policy processes. Consideration must be given not only to the use of technology to threaten and harm women, children and people of diverse gender identities, races and ability levels, but also as a threat to women's participation and the inclusion of contextually diverse perspectives in technical, legal and policy aspects of emerging technologies. Likewise, issues related to emerging technologies should be included in gender policy deliberations.

Parliamentarians should institutionalize technological solutions to technological problems, create responsible innovation ecosystems and close digital divides. It was essential to raise awareness about new technologies and build the capacity of governments and other multi-stakeholder communities in the field of technology. Fragmentation and siloing among stakeholders should be reduced by sharing best practices intra- and inter-governmentally and by connecting agendas across technical, policy and legal communities to ensure holistic solutions.

The Moderator asked Mr. R. Lennane, Disarmament Adviser at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to explain the importance of viewing arms control and non-proliferation through a humanitarian lens and how parliaments could uphold that perspective.

Mr. R. Lennane (Disarmament Adviser, ICRC), panellist, said that the humanitarian approach to disarmament addressed the impact on people of the possession and use of weapons. Humanitarian disarmament was everyone's responsibility and directly implicated parliamentarians, as they represented the people and played a significant role in the development of humanitarian treaties, thus influencing global security and people's well-being. Although certain humanitarian treaties had not been signed by the world's more powerful countries, they remained effective, changing people's mindsets and livelihoods and countries' practices, whether or not they were party to those treaties. Once war had begun, humanitarian disarmament was key to mitigating the humanitarian impact by controlling the types and use of weapons. It was disheartening to see one country's withdrawal from the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and the pending withdrawal of five European countries from the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention because they believed their security situation to be difficult. Those treaties were needed most in times of war, and withdrawing from them would increase disaster. Parliamentarians were urged to promote the universalization of such treaties, encourage their governments to join them and protect what had been built.

The Moderator echoed the sentiments shared by Mr. Lennane.

The President thanked the Moderator and panellists for their input and invited contributions from the floor.

Mr. S. Ty (Cambodia) said that the threat of a new arms race involving nuclear and conventional weapons and emerging technology was a global concern that could not be ignored. Having faced the consequences of unregulated weapons, Cambodia had destroyed hundreds of thousands of illegal weapons at a public flame of peace ceremony. Nevertheless, widespread contamination from landmines and unexploded ordnances continued to pose a threat to life and development. His Government therefore remained committed to disarmament and humanitarian control, including by ratifying key international instruments and ensuring implementation through national legislation. As the application of technology to weapons was evolving, so too must parliamentary engagement by reaffirming past commitments and anticipating future risks. The panel was asked to shed light on how parliaments could effectively address the emerging arms control issue, especially regarding AI and

autonomous weapon systems (AWS). Preventing the next arms race was not only a matter of strategic stability, but also a humanitarian imperative. Parliamentarians had the moral responsibility and institutional power to ensure that countries remained committed to peace, disarmament and responsible technological development. They should strengthen their collective voice and actions to build a safer, more secure world.

Ms. S. Mohan (Researcher, UNIDIR), panellist, said that parliamentary engagement on the issue at hand was essential. Reiterating the need to address cybersecurity and AI from a holistic, inter-ministerial approach, she also called for cooperation with startups, academia, legal communities and civil society organizations, particularly in the area of human rights, to address the human security aspect of new technologies.

Mr. S. Aleinik (Belarus) said that the world's rapid transformation had affected international security, which was currently unable to preserve long-term peace and stability. Certain Western countries' disregard for the principle of indivisible security had provoked the difficult situation in Eastern Europe, including the conflict in Ukraine, which could be settled only through political and diplomatic efforts. Nevertheless, certain countries continued to escalate conflicts to create further hot spots with security tensions. Militarization and an arms race were accelerating, additional NATO contingents were being deployed and offensive military exercises were being conducted, including near his country's borders. His Government called for the international security system to be reset and for international peace, security and disarmament to be strengthened. The global dialogue on security and cooperation launched by the President of Belarus had gained new momentum. Belarus, the Russian Federation and other countries were working towards developing a Eurasian charter of diversity and multipolarity in the twenty-first century. Efforts to that end would be advanced the following week at the third Minsk International Conference on Eurasian Security. He looked forward to the constructive engagement of all States of greater Eurasia in implementing that initiative. Only a multipolar world could guarantee equal and indivisible security, respect for international law and recognition of the diversity of development paths. Parliamentarians should work together to that end.

Mr. R. Rome (Thailand) said that arms control was not simply about halting the use of weapons but about ensuring that lives were not needlessly lost. As a State party to the Ottawa Convention, Thailand had cleared mines from the country's borders, recognizing that delaying peace prolonged suffering. However, new devices had been planted in some parts of the region, betraying the spirit of the Convention, deliberately disregarding the responsibility to uphold human rights and undermining trust and peace in the region. The region should work towards the shared goal of ensuring that no child had to fear hidden weapons and of each country proving its strength through disarmament, transparency and responsibility.

Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation) said that several critical components of the international framework of treaties on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation had become ineffective or had diminished in importance owing to the withdrawal of key States. The New START Treaty, the only remaining instrument ensuring strategic stability, was set to expire. Expressing goodwill and responsibility, President Vladimir Putin had put forward an initiative to extend adherence to the primary quantitative limitations outlined in the New START Treaty for one year following its expiration in February 2026. The Russian Federation was awaiting feedback from the United States of America in that regard. His Government did not want to engage in a new arms race, but safeguard the fundamental principles of the global strategic stability system, thereby preventing direct military confrontations among major nuclear powers.

While a delegation from the United States of America was absent from the IPU, its allies from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) were present. Nuclear weapons played an ever more significant role in NATO's conceptual framework. The previous week, Russian authorities had monitored NATO's nuclear deterrence military exercises, noting an increase in the combined nuclear weapon capabilities of the United Kingdom and France. NATO had identified itself as a nuclear union in spite of Kyiv's repeated assaults on the infrastructure of Moscow's strategic forces, facilitated by NATO's intelligence and military technical support. The Russian Federation was refraining from nuclear blackmail and was open to serious discussions regarding a strategic agenda. NATO members were urged to act responsibly and refrain from actions potentially leading to a global catastrophe. The IPU could serve as a peacemaker in that context.

His delegation had proactively prepared a draft conceptual note, memorandum and a proposed draft resolution that was devoid of political clichés, assessments and accusations. The draft was neutral, impartial and as balanced as possible, favouring peace negotiations and consensus.

The aforementioned proposed draft documents would be submitted to the Committee for examination, in the hope that, upon approval, they would lay the foundations for drafting a resolution the following year.

Mr. Xin Xiangyang (China) said that no country could remain unaffected amid the rising global challenges. President Xi Jinping had proposed key global initiatives on development, security, civilization and governance. China supported just, orderly, multipolar and inclusive globalization and promoted a common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable vision for security and governance, thus ensuring stability through a shared future for humanity. His Government remained committed to multilateralism, a UN-centred global system and fair global governance. An active supporter of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, China called for a complete ban and elimination of nuclear weapons, firmly opposing the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and their delivery systems. The country would continue to strengthen multilateral arms control mechanisms, engage constructively in resolving global and regional issues and support the UN in arms control and disarmament, contributing to global peace and security.

Mr. Pham Phu Binh (Viet Nam) said that his Government had consistently supported arms control and non-proliferation as a pillar of its foreign policy, to promote peace, cooperation and sustainable development. It was essential to strengthen multilateral mechanisms, foster dialogue and build trust among countries to prevent a new arms race. The IPU Member Parliaments must fully exercise their legislative and oversight functions by ratifying and implementing arms control commitments and strengthening national legal frameworks to ensure strict compliance with international treaties. They should also engage in the relevant discussions and develop legal frameworks that implemented ethical principles and usage limits regarding autonomous weapon systems, artificial intelligence (AI) and space-related technology in military applications. Parliaments should hold dialogues on arms control with governments and sociopolitical organizations to raise public awareness and build broad-based societal consensus.

Mr. A. Özkaya (Türkiye) said that current tensions posed a serious challenge to the global competition for power, thus underscoring the importance of strengthening arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation mechanisms. However, related treaties had not been implemented in recent years. In June 2025, a country that was not a member of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) had been carrying out attacks against a State party to the NPT, signalling an attack on the global non-proliferation regime. Parliamentarians needed to resolutely support non-proliferation and control AI and other technological developments that could trigger an arms race, instead leveraging them to contribute to international peace and security. His country remained committed to building a world free of nuclear weapons. The genocide carried out by Israel in Gaza called into question the future of the international order. Israel's policies on occupation violated international law and deepened conflicts. It should be held accountable before the international court for its crimes against humanity. The world was not limited to the affairs of the most powerful countries. Cooperative efforts were needed for a more secure and just world.

Mr. M.A. Bouchouit (Algeria) said that the world's superpowers possessed 95% of arms globally. The issue of non-proliferation should therefore be addressed only to those countries, including the Zionist entity, which violated Palestinians' rights, rather than African, Muslim and other countries that respected borders and autonomy. Algeria possessed arms only to defend itself.

Mr. R. Norouzi (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the increase in strategic mistrust, the new arms race and repeated violations of international commitments by certain countries had seriously undermined the collective security system. Sustainable peace and security could be achieved only through the effective control and prohibition of WMDs, the application of new technologies for peaceful purposes and the full implementation of international humanitarian commitments. Strongly condemning the recent blatant aggression against its territorial integrity, the Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirmed its principled and consistent position of opposition to all types of WMDs, a stance it supported by a binding religious decree prohibiting the development, possession and use of WMDs because of its moral and humanitarian conviction of the illegality of such weapons. The Zionist regime remained the only country in West Asia to possess a nuclear arsenal, acted outside the framework of the NPT and was the biggest threat to the non-proliferation system and an obstacle to sustainable security in the Middle East. The international community should take specific and responsible steps towards the realization of a Middle East zone free of WMDs. Regarding parliamentary oversight, more

active efforts were required to implement international obligations, enact national legislation on disarmament and strengthen diplomacy to prevent conflict. His country stood ready to make constructive and active contributions to global efforts to prevent a new arms race and strengthen the international disarmament and non-proliferation regimes.

Mr. M. Alsqour (Arab Parliament) said that the Zionist entity was committing genocide in Palestine, exterminating people, destroying the land and uprooting all basic necessities. It was disheartening and unacceptable that the international community, which had called for peace, did not place any boundaries on the Zionist entity, yet barriers were imposed on all Arab countries, and called for democracy and human rights, yet Arabs, including Palestinians, did not have rights. The Arab countries could not rebuild Gaza on their own. It was high time for the international community to contribute to those efforts, ensuring they were not at the expense of the Arab countries. It was unacceptable for the international community to sponsor terrorism. Regarding the control of technology and disarmament, realistic solutions were necessary. The IPU needed to send a clear message to put an end to armament, which had contributed to genocides in many Arab countries.

Mr. A.-F. Gheorghiu (Romania) said that the IPU's advocacy for transparency, responsibility and humanitarian protection was relevant as the principles and instruments governing arms control and non-proliferation were under strain. His country remained committed to building trust and confidence based on transparency, compliance, verification, reciprocity and host nation consent, thereby contributing to peace and security. Romania and its NATO allies remained united in their commitment to effective arms control, which was key to Euro-Atlantic security and complemented NATO's stance on deterrence and defence, which it was strengthening. NATO had invested more in defence for its security and the preservation of peace and prosperity across Europe and North America. The arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation architecture had eroded because of the Russian Federation's violation and selective implementation of its arms control obligations and commitments. The Russian Federation should resume full implementation of its international obligations and commitments to rebuild trust and confidence, ensure military transparency and increase predictability in Europe. The NPT was the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation and disarmament architecture. Committed to the full implementation of the NPT, Romania expressed deep concern at the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other WMDs, as well as the means of delivery of such weapons and related materials by States and non-State actors. All countries should become parties to the relevant instruments and bolster nuclear safety and security.

Ms. I. Khalid (Canada), highlighting the importance of defending human rights from the impacts of weapons, said that all countries should be held equally accountable to the rule of law, with the obligation to protect not only their own citizens, but all people worldwide. Constituents in her country had called for human rights-based arms embargoes. Parliamentarians must consider to whom arms were being sold and why and how the IPU could prevent the politicization of human rights so that each person was treated equally. Conscious of the effects of weapons of war on civilians, Member Parliaments should support the proposed emergency item on the application of emerging technologies in warfare. It was a time for consensus and cooperation.

Ms. M. Kiener Nellen (Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND)) said that Member Parliaments should support the calls for the total elimination of nuclear weapons by China, for the extension of adherence to the limitations set out in the New START Treaty by the Russian Federation and for a COP on arms governance by SCRAP Weapons. A nuclear abolition day should be commemorated. Governments were urged to stand down their nuclear forces, affirm that the threat or use of nuclear weapons was inadmissible, commit to achieving global elimination of nuclear weapons by 2045 and redirect funds for nuclear weapons to international conflict resolution, climate protection and humanitarian needs. Member Parliaments were encouraged to join the PNND. The IPU toolkit entitled *Human security and common security to build peace* would be useful. Parliamentarians should defer to alternatives to nuclear deterrence to avoid catastrophe. They should also consider the measures outlined in the [online disarmament handbook](#) developed by several organizations including the IPU and PNND.

Mr. M. Almheiri (United Arab Emirates) said that in a world where everything from technology to food aid could be weaponized, the true driver of weaponization was fear. Governments' fear of their counterparts' actions and the resulting spread of fake news and hate narratives were fuelling the arms race, as there was a lack of open dialogue and mutual understanding, thereby keeping countries in a

cycle of arming and disarming. Fostering peace required significant investments in education to steer future generations towards a mentality of rejecting weapons. Parliamentarians needed to share knowledge, ratify peace treaties and hold open dialogue to that end.

Ms. D.E. Mpapane (South Africa) said that lasting peace required a parliamentarian-led process of rebuilding governance, restoring justice, reintegrating communities and addressing the root causes of violence with a focus on inclusiveness, accountability and resilience. In post-conflict recovery, the role of parliamentarians was strategic yet rooted in constituents' daily realities. During her country's transition from apartheid to democracy, the Parliament had dismantled oppressive laws, supported the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and enshrined human dignity and equality in its Constitution. However, more needed to be done to address systemic inequality, exclusion and poverty. Parliamentarians should ensure that marginalized groups shared post-conflict governance, engaging constituencies through regular consultation so that peace processes reflected grassroots needs. When fully exercising their constitutional mandate, parliamentarians were key to peace consolidation. They should translate peace agreements into enforceable law, reform security sectors through oversight of the military, police and intelligence services to ensure human rights compliance, and enact transitional justice mechanisms. Parliamentarians must also ensure that resources were allocated for peacebuilding and monitor the implementation of peace agreements. Such measures would restore public trust and reinforce the legitimacy of the State.

Mr. A. Salman (Bahrain) said that parliamentarians should shoulder their responsibility in the current circumstances, especially by calling for multipolarity in the light of the serious increase in unilateralism that led to global consequences. The worldwide imbalance resulting from the Cold War posed significant challenges to the Middle East. The collective genocide in Palestine, which had extended to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, affected economic development indicators and economic cooperation among countries, and threatened international trade and travel. There was global dissatisfaction at the unilateralism of the United States of America and its allies. The arms trade had flourished because of the wars in Gaza and across the Middle East. It was hoped that the United States of America would agree to the Russian Federation's appeal to extend the New START Treaty by one year, failing which renewed tensions could arise. The United Nations should advocate for support for international stability, focusing on the danger of unilateralism and the proliferation of WMDs, while countries should promote sustainable development and peace.

Ms. S. Najem (Mauritania) said that her Parliament was open and diverse, enhancing trust and peace among various societal groups and easing racial and ethnic tensions. Mauritania had signed all the disarmament treaties, despite its sensitive geographical location. The world was addressing disarmament unfairly; while some countries were banned from acquiring weapons, other countries, such as Israel, were being provided with weapons. Parliaments should enhance peace through laws banning and incriminating violence, domestic arms control and awareness-raising campaigns organized in cooperation with the IPU. Parliamentarians needed to enact international laws against the use of banned weapons and crime in general. The situation in Gaza had revealed that the world's capability and desire to stop the arms race, to the advantage of multipolarity, were worrying. Peace required the implementation of practical solutions and the protection of the oppressed people of Palestine and around the world.

Ms. H. Maguire (United Kingdom) said that anti-personnel mines were not necessary during war, as they left long-term impacts on people and the environment and were costly to remove. Her country could understand the withdrawal by certain countries from the Ottawa Convention due to the war in Europe. However, in war, leadership and rules, such as those outlined in international treaties, were crucial and without them, weapons worse than anti-personnel mines might be used. Countries that had withdrawn or were thinking of withdrawing from the Ottawa Convention were urged to consider the long-term impacts of anti-personnel mines.

Mr. A. Alqudah (Jordan) said that the arms race required intensified efforts worldwide, including through legislation and international treaties that boosted cooperation to limit the use and trade of arms, thus preventing unethical attacks, such as the acts perpetrated by the Zionist entity in Palestine. There needed to be a balance between the military powers and their ethical and legal responsibility, ensuring the appropriate use of weapons. The arms trade increased crime rates related to drugs, violence and terrorism. It accounted for such a large sum that allocating funds to address it would

weaken education, healthcare and society advancement. Manufacturers of destructive weapons believed that they had a right to use or traffic such weapons. Countries needed to understand the complexities of the issue at hand.

Mr. L. Hervé (France), noting with scepticism the statement on arms control by the Russian delegate, said that the Russian Federation needed to uphold its commitments set out in the treaties in force and put an end to its war of aggression against Ukraine, which was in violation of the Charter of the United Nations. In 2026, the review conference of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) would be crucial in demonstrating that the TPNW was the cornerstone of the global security architecture. The Islamic Republic of Iran should therefore never possess nuclear weapons. France condemned that country's serious violations of its commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The Islamic Republic of Iran must immediately resume full cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

In a context where strategies had deteriorated, multilateral rules should be promoted to regulate behaviours within the new realms of competition and conflict. There should be negotiations to mitigate obstructive actions within the framework of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), which required urgent strengthening, and discussions among the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems.

Turning to progress achieved, he noted with appreciation the assurance of complete destruction of the Syrian Arab Republic's chemical weapons arsenal following the downfall of the Bashar al-Assad regime, as well as the establishment of a global cybersecurity mechanism by the UN, the implementation of technical instruments and the discussion of military AI by the international community. Those efforts encouraged Member Parliaments to pursue effective multilateral solutions.

The President invited the panellists to give concluding remarks.

Mr. C. Foradori (President, CSP11, ATT), panellist, noting with satisfaction that disarmament, non-proliferation and peace were common topics across Member Parliaments' statements, said that lack of trust among countries must be addressed. Having failed to meet its members' needs, the United Nations must be reset to provide countries with an objective agency that fostered trust among countries. The ambitious projects aimed for by international organizations required not only funds but also determination and the common goal of achieving peace for all. It was parliamentarians' responsibility to persuade their respective executive branches to work towards benefiting the entire international community.

Ms. M. Parke (Director, ICAN), panellist, said that humanity could choose either confrontation and proliferation or diplomacy and disarmament, which could be achieved through adherence to the TPNW. The TPNW democratized the nuclear weapons debate and supported international law and multilateralism. All parliamentarians should participate in discussions on nuclear weapons and the application of emerging technologies in that field. The future demanded common security rather than mutual destruction.

Mr. R. Lennane (Disarmament Adviser, ICRC), panellist, echoing the sentiments shared by the delegate from the United Arab Emirates, said that it was necessary to break the cycle of fear of other countries' actions through the rule of law, multilateralism, diplomacy and the enactment of regulations for correct responses even in the face of violence. While countries could not always control another Government's actions, they could show that they were not to be feared by upholding rules and humanitarian principles. Parliamentarians should urge their governments to adhere to internationally agreed treaties and work towards peace and justice.

Ms. S. Mohan (Researcher, UNIDIR), panellist, said that given that the issues at hand were not limited by borders, international cooperation was necessary to find common solutions that benefited everyone. Parliamentarians should support research to close the gap between policy development and technological advancements and ensure that gender and human rights considerations were maintained in the final documents of emerging technology policies.

Ms. C. Solmirano (Director, ATT Secretariat), panellist, said that arms control and disarmament required collective efforts between governments, parliaments, civil society and academia. Parliamentarians should continue to ensure government accountability and oversight and create forums for dialogue. The Secretariat stood ready to support the IPU Member Parliaments to that end.

The Moderator said that ensuring an ideal security situation for the next generation required rebuilding trust and solidarity, resetting the UN and breaking the cycle of fear through collective efforts and equal responsibility.

Panel discussion on *Strengthening parliamentary oversight of defence spending*

The President, introducing the panel discussion, said that she was pleased to launch the IPU's latest issue brief, entitled *Democratic checks, military balances: Parliamentary oversight in an era of rising military expenditure*, which had been published in the light of the urgent need to strengthen transparency and accountability mechanisms. The brief highlighted the risks of opaque defence budgets and parliaments' role to safeguard public spending and democracy, thereby meeting people's security needs. Parliamentarians were encouraged to consult the brief to help strengthen parliamentary control, which built trust among citizens and ensured more just, sustainable and democratic security.

A video on the issue brief was played.

The President said that the issue brief lay the groundwork for a research project on exceptional budgetary practices and invited Member Parliaments to complete a questionnaire under the project developed by the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF), the IPU and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), and share their countries' experiences and feed into the project's outcomes.

The Moderator introduced the panellists and said that higher levels of military spending did not necessarily yield greater peace, but exacerbated the security paradox, diverting resources from the true foundations of human security, such as development, healthcare and education. Unchecked militarization and military spending risked eroding democracy and increasing inequality, mistrust and environmental harm. Parliamentary oversight was therefore key to ensuring accountability. However, many parliaments were faced with limited access to information and the technical complexity of defence budgets, including off-budget or classified defence spending. Against that backdrop, the discussion would focus on how parliaments could reclaim their constitutional role to ensure that defence budgets served the public interest on the basis of transparency, accountability and democracy. She asked the panellist Mr. D. Lopes da Silva, Senior Researcher at SIPRI to highlight key global military spending trends.

Mr. D. Lopes da Silva (Senior Researcher, SIPRI), panellist, said that the trend of increased military expenditure was not circumscribed to specific regions but global. Another trend was the erosion of political control over budgetary matters, such as defence expenditures. Funding structures were adapting to the worsening security landscape, particularly through off-budget and extra-budgetary mechanisms. Parliamentarians should consider how those emergency mechanisms impacted their role. While they provided sustainable resources for the military, they created spaces of institutional exceptionalism, eroding oversight, transparency and budgetary control, and were difficult to abolish, remaining entrenched beyond the emergency period requiring their implementation. Off-budget mechanisms often involved secret allocations and violated principles of sound public expenditure management, as they lacked legitimacy and fiscal discipline and favoured the military over other government sectors. The lack of information around such mechanisms created obscurity as to whether spending was in line with constituents' needs and prevented an accurate assessment of the opportunity costs of military spending, thereby undermining parliaments' budget deliberations. Off-budget and extra-budgetary mechanisms led to weakened democratic control and increased insecurity, with each of those factors compounding the other. While the UN Secretary-General had called for countries to curb the rise in military expenditures, there was little that the UN could do. Parliaments were necessary in that regard but often overlooked the critical role they played in approving and overseeing expenditures. It was not a matter of cutting military expenditures, which would be irresponsible, but efficiently, effectively and transparently increasing military spending where necessary.

The Moderator asked the next panellist, Ms. C. Fredriksen, Senior Manager of the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) Governance Department, INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI), to share on the role of independent audit institutions in helping parliaments oversee defence budgets more effectively.

Ms. C. Fredriksen (Senior Manager, SAI Governance Department, IDI), panellist, said that SAIs did not often discuss audits of defence spending owing to the sensitivity of national security and sovereignty. In the defence sector, there were exemptions regarding what SAIs could audit and publish, limiting knowledge of the potential and actual impact of such audits. While independent audit institutions were key to enhance oversight and trust, their independence was often undermined regarding the conduct of audits and access to information, and some auditors also faced threats. It was important to discuss the issue in a multi-stakeholder forum, such as the current sitting, as the secrecy of military expenditure made it difficult for SAIs to agree on best practices.

If an increase in military expenditure bypassed parliamentary deliberations because of off-budget mechanisms or confidentiality, parliaments would be unaware as to how resources had been spent, there could be financial losses due to mismanaged funds, thus undermining the capacity to meet military needs, and the shift in priorities would lead to a decline in other services to citizens. Fiscal transparency, oversight and sustainable domestic resources were necessary, including in regions with security issues. Audits could help to reduce the obscurity of defence spending, inform decision-makers of poor financial management and irregularities, and provide long-term perspectives on responsiveness to threats.

The defence sector should address not only combat operations, but also preparedness and disaster management. As digitalization increased, so too did the vulnerability of critical information systems. Audits could provide recommendations to improve those systems, thus supporting the defence sector. Audits should inform public accounts committees and other dedicated committees, and feed into the budgetary process, including parliaments' budgetary debates, without exposing sensitive information. Defence sector audits limited by secrecy put the executive and parliament at a disadvantage. They should be followed up by parliaments to ensure that there was a change in practice, such as the inclusion of extra-budgetary resources in defence audits and, therefore, that there was no avoidance of scrutiny altogether.

The Moderator asked Ms. D. Lui, Programme Manager of Research and Training at DCAF, to shed light on the conditions necessary for effective oversight of defence expenditures and on how parliamentary oversight could adapt to the challenges posed by emerging defence technologies.

Ms. D. Lui (Programme Manager, Research and Training, DCAF), panellist, said that parliaments ensured security sector governance (SSG) through lawmaking, budget scrutiny, oversight, government appointments and public deliberation, provided that legislators were vested with sufficient legal and normative authority, were given the necessary resources, including institutional support, access to information, specialized training and working relationships with security institutions and civil society, and remained committed to the democratic process. It was important for parliamentarians to pay attention to trends in global military spending. Delegates were encouraged to complete the questionnaire developed by DCAF, the IPU and SIPRI on parliamentary oversight regarding military expenditure, identifying their countries' institutional strengths and vulnerabilities to contribute to an informed dialogue and thus foster transparency, accountability and democratic control. The contributions would be processed anonymously and the findings shared upon completion of the study.

Turning to the regulation of military AI, she said that the military domain presented distinct challenges compared to civilian AI governance owing to security and ethical concerns. Increasing volatility in the global system further complicated the issue, as defence sectors globally aimed to secure a strategic advantage. However, principles such as responsible AI and human-centred AI had gained momentum, providing a foundation for governance frameworks. Internal and external oversight committees were key to ensuring accountability and oversight concerning the use of new technologies by the defence sector. Parliaments could provide independent oversight of defence activities and expenditures, review adherence to laws and ethical standards and identify risks and areas for improvement. Given that technological development would always outpace legislative development, it was important to adopt a long-term view of regulation and develop governance frameworks that implemented safeguards to pre-empt and prevent the development and use of new technologies that risked violating international and national laws.

The Moderator asked the next panellist, Mr. M. Spies, Deputy Chief of the Geneva Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), to share on practical mechanisms and reporting frameworks that could help parliaments ensure that defence budgets served collective security and sustainable development goals.

Mr. M. Spies (Deputy Chief, UNODA), panellist, drawing on the work carried out by the UN to reduce the military expenditure of its Member States, said that it was important for parliamentarians to consider the economic, social, political and environmental impacts of military spending on national priorities. Research must be carried out to develop methodologies to quantify the savings that could be achieved through the implementation of disarmament treaties, with a focus on the impact of general disarmament on national economies and how funds previously allocated to military spending could be redirected towards sustainable development mechanisms. Efforts to bring about a reduction in military spending in line with international agreements, specifically Article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations, were no longer impeded by different economic systems, which had complicated comparisons of countries' expenditures. However, there was room for improvement regarding government reporting of military spending to the UN to promote transparency nationally and internationally, and to leverage the official data as an objective baseline in comparisons with other sources of data and in future negotiations.

The President thanked the Moderator and panellists for their input and invited contributions from the floor.

Ms. F. Belhirsch (Netherlands) said that peace and security depended not only on governments' decisions, but on what parliaments could scrutinize. Defence spending was essential amid increasing cyberthreats and instability. Oversight of expenditure translated into the protection of borders, trust, democracy and dignity. Parliaments should ensure that military spending safeguarded State and human security, which required building capacity to analyse budgets, engaging civil society, working with governments to strengthen trust, providing funding in a wise, fair and balanced manner, not only for procurement but also peacebuilding, innovation, resilience, diplomacy and development, and including women and vulnerable groups in approaches to peace and security, in line with global commitments. Transparency was key to strengthening peace and security within countries and building partnerships across regions. The panellists were asked how to ensure that investments in prevention, inclusion and human security were not sidelined in times of crisis.

Mr. D. Lopes da Silva (Senior Researcher, SIPRI), panellist, said that it was important to compare the advantages and disadvantages of increasing military spending at the expense of investments in other sectors, which would impact not only security, but also growth in various areas of the economy. Holding informed debates on the issue would therefore be useful.

Mr. Chai Hyunil (Republic of Korea) said that amid rising tensions and new military technologies, defence spending was a public resource that sustained citizens' lives and trust. Establishing a responsible and transparent military budget was the foundation of democracy and international peace, and upheld governments' good faith regarding taxes. Military budgets that were opaque or distorted by political interests did not merely pose a fiscal problem, but also undermined democratic governance and the legitimacy of security. The National Assembly of the Republic of Korea had pursued various legislative efforts to codify transparency, accountability and openness, such as by restructuring systems to review the Ministry of Defence, mandating annual reports on the progress of defence reforms and regularly assessing the relevance of the defence budget to security objectives through audits, among other mechanisms. Parliamentary oversight in his country did not infringe on military autonomy but was a democratic mechanism to strengthen security through transparency. His Government would work with the IPU Member Parliaments, discussing defence expenditure indices and joint monitoring systems.

Mr. H. Mohammad (Malaysia) said that it was important to consider how parliaments could effectively exercise their authority over government spending because there was little transparency concerning the operational details of defence, how procurement contracts were drawn out and what sophisticated technologies were involved. The consequences of poor oversight were manifested years after decisions had been made. Malaysia had strengthened parliamentary oversight in recent years, including by establishing the Select Committee on Security to monitor budget implementation after approval and by introducing an amendment on auditing to ensure continuous financial monitoring, which still required further improvement for effective implementation. Furthermore, operational and development expenditures had been linked to the defence sector. Amid a shifting security landscape in recent years, however, Malaysia had begun to reconsider its procurement priorities. Sound defence spending was key to national security, as a failed procurement system, corrupt diversion of resources and inadequate oversight not only wasted money but compromised military readiness.

Mr. A.K.M. Saleh (Chad) said that his country's Parliament was vested with the constitutional authority to review the overall and defence budgets. Matters might be referred to the Finance Commission for report and to the Defence Commission for opinion. The Finance Commission examined and made observations about the country's defence and security administrative authorities. The Defence Commission was allocated budgetary lines to better understand defence and security, make observations and draft amendments to be incorporated by the Finance Commission. Plenary debates were held on budget implementation, during which parliamentarians could submit questions to gain a more practical understanding of such issues. Furthermore, there was parliamentary monitoring subsequent to the implementation of the budget to inform the budget for the following year from a critical and forward-looking perspective. Alternatively, the relevant minister might request a closed-door session, without the possibility for debate.

Mr. S. Rachkov (Belarus) said that his country had established its status as a peace-loving country, as reflected by its defence expenditure. Countries increased their military spending because confidence in international norms and institutions designed to promote peace was undermined by international institutions' failure to resolve conflicts, geopolitical tensions among global powers and the lack of unity in developing solutions for peace. It was therefore necessary to seek new forms of interaction to build lasting and sustainable peace and to decrease military budgets. To that end, Belarus had launched a process to discuss building a Eurasian security architecture in the context of the two Minsk International Conferences on Eurasian Security, thereby investing in diplomacy, rather than weapons. The President of Belarus had called for the creation of a common space of trust and cooperation, where countries were united against a fatal civilization rift.

Mr. M. Zoltan (Romania) said that it was imperative to ensure robust defence capabilities and transparent and accountable defence spending mechanisms. In the light of Romania's proximity to the war in Ukraine, there was an urgent need for strong security policy. His Government therefore welcomed the new defence initiative of the European Union (EU), which aimed to mobilize 800 billion euros by 2030 to build a safer, more resilient Europe. The initiative provided a model for coordinated defence financing that enhanced strategic autonomy mechanisms for joint procurement of critical equipment and munitions, implemented financing formulas ensuring that all EU Member States contributed and benefited equitably and strengthened security without jeopardizing social spending or economic growth. The initiative also offered shared tools such as safe loans and the option to use funds for dual-use infrastructure to help countries to close capability gaps. Parliamentary oversight was central to ensuring that defence spending was transparent, effective and aligned with strategic priorities, strengthening fiscal responsibility and public trust. Simplified legislative frameworks that standardized procurement and accelerated strategic projects were vital to maintaining readiness while protecting taxes and leveraging them for security and stability. Transparency, accountability and strategic balance allowed parliaments to strengthen defence capabilities, support innovation and build regional and international security.

Mr. R. Norouzi (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that peace could be sustained only by going beyond ceasing hostilities to comprehensively reconstruct societies, while upholding the principles of sovereignty, self-determination and equality among countries. Parliaments should ensure that reconstruction policies were inclusive, just, accountable, transparent and involved public participation. His Government had proposed an initiative to hold a meeting on the theme *Adherence to international law and the UN Charter to ensure global peace and security* that year in Geneva. In the context of that meeting, the IPU should establish a specialized working group on post-conflict management and the reconstruction of just peace to reduce tensions, strengthen mutual trust and develop a new framework for sustainable and humane peace.

In response to the statement made by the representative from France during the previous panel discussion, he stressed that the IAEA had repeatedly confirmed that there had been no indication that the peaceful nuclear activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran had been diverted towards the production of nuclear weapons. The Islamic Republic of Iran possessed less than 3% of the world's nuclear facilities but accounted for about 25% of IAEA inspections. It had consistently adhered to UN Security Council resolution 2231 (2015), which had expired on 18 October 2025. The United States of America had withdrawn from the JCPOA, and European countries, including France and the United Kingdom, contrary to their commitments, had sided with the aggressors against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. S. Ty (Cambodia) said that it was important to maintain a professional and accountable military. While national defence was a matter of sovereignty and security, it must also be transparent, efficient, and accountable. His Parliament ensured that spending aligned with national priorities,

particularly peace, stability and protection, while recognizing that challenges remained in accessing timely and detailed information on defence procurement and expenditure. Parliaments could strengthen defence oversight by building the capacity of parliamentarians and committee staff to understand military budgets and procurement systems, regularly reporting ministry of defence requirements to relevant parliamentary committees, holding classified but accountable briefings with reviews by trusted oversight bodies and encouraging regional peer learning, particularly within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), on balancing national security and democratic accountability. Strengthening parliamentary oversight improved governance and enhanced public trust in armed forces. The panellists were asked to advise on how parliaments could safeguard against corruption in defence procurement, especially in countries with limited technical expertise.

A video entitled “Guns or Growth: How Rising Military Budgets Tax Our Future” by SCRAP Weapons was played.

The sitting rose at 13:30.

SITTING OF MONDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2025

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 14:30 with Ms. A. Kuspan (Kazakhstan), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Expert hearing on the theme of the Committee’s next resolution, entitled *The role of parliaments in establishing robust post-conflict management mechanisms and restoring a just and lasting peace*

The President said that the expert hearing would inform the process of drafting a resolution to be submitted to the Committee for consideration at the 152nd Assembly. The co-Rapporteurs nominated were: Mr. A. Al-Zu’bi (Jordan), Ms. F. Belhirsch (Netherlands) and Mr. B. Kalu (Nigeria). Participants were invited to submit their input to the draft resolution in writing to the Secretariat by 1 November 2025.

Mr. P. Dziatkowicz (Director, Mediation and Peace Support, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)), highlighting that conflicts had become more complex and multi-layered, said that the multilateral system had become less integral to many peacemaking efforts. Conflict was generally fuelled by injustice. Justice was therefore crucial to peace efforts. While fighting must be ended as quickly as possible, piecemeal, quick-fix approaches only caused tensions to fester or reignite. It was important to implement comprehensive, long-term solutions, while taking into account the views of those affected and upholding international norms, to ensure sustainable and transformative peace. MPs played a crucial role and should create opportunities for retributive or restorative transitional justice, such as by preventing impunity to deter future violations and through truth commissions, reconciliation, public apologies and memorialization. Peacemakers needed to be wise in how and when such sensitive issues were addressed. Critically positioned in local settings, MPs were key to developing context-relevant solutions not only through legislation but also by connecting political leaders with society, incorporating the interests of affected parties and ensuring implementation.

History had shown that it was effective to involve victims in peace talks to maintain the centrality of transitional justice, to include the subject of victims as a dedicated agenda item in peace talks, to go beyond the political elite by introducing women’s coalitions, thus reducing polarization and broadening the peacemaking agenda to cover equality, rights and victims, and to pressure elites to acknowledge justice issues. It would also be useful to exert international normative pressure, such as by requiring domestic justice reforms for accession to international organizations, and to build credibility and legitimacy by measuring public sentiment towards transitional justice. Peace agreements should be specific, using dedicated mechanisms such as special courts, given that a blanket approach could undermine trust and fuel instability. Governments should also remain accountable to bolster the rule of law and public trust and guard against political repression.

Leaders of peace processes should be mindful of the unique value added by each stakeholder, including parliamentarians. Mediation should be designed and its work divided based on stakeholders’ leverage over the involved parties, expertise, credibility, personal relationships, geographical proximity, cultural profile and historical legacy. Unlike traditional mediators, MPs had a certain level of

influence and credibility with citizens, which should be maximized to build the political will necessary for the success of peace processes, both at the grassroots level and among decision makers. They were vital in promoting the idea of peace. International organizations should be leveraged for parliamentary diplomacy, specifically by interacting with high-level, well-connected people, building trust between countries, brainstorming mechanisms to submit to decision makers and advancing sensitive talks.

Ms. S. Naraghi-Anderlini (Founder and CEO, International Civil Society Action Network) said that peacebuilding and recovery were urgent for all countries, as a growing number of countries were affected by conflict. Parliamentarians needed to focus on alleviating the differential impacts on men, women, boys and girls, ensuring, in particular, that the gender gap existing around issues such as land rights and education, often enforced by national legislations, was closed and no longer impeded recovery efforts. MPs had extraordinary leverage to improve the situation. While there had been advocacy for inclusive peace, recovery and humanitarian processes, systematization was necessary. Given that policies often changed as new governments came to power, there should be legislation, by which intervening international and humanitarian organizations must abide, to meet people's differential needs during conflicts. Transitional justice should be human-centred, by putting an end to victimhood so that people's full potential could be realized and by creating laws to allow refugees to work and be retrained, thereby integrating into and contributing to their host communities and preserving their dignity. Failure to do so would result in the emergence of militias and polarization caused by xenophobic political narratives. The current issues were so multi-layered that neither the United Nations (UN) nor any government alone could deal with them. They required a whole-of-society approach. Recognizing that each stakeholder's contribution to the process was unique but indispensable, parliamentarians should work together to improve people's livelihoods and establish peace, sustainability and pluralism as a norm.

Ms. F. Belhirsch (Netherlands), co-Rapporteur, concurring that conflict was rooted in injustice, said that durable peace required durable justice. The draft resolution would be centred around accountability and justice, with a focus on addressing impunity, acknowledging truth and carrying out efforts for reparations, compensation and reconstruction. Justice not only addressed the past but was also the cornerstone of trust after a conflict. The draft resolution would also focus on peace agreements and their implementation, as parliaments had a duty to codify agreements, monitor compliance and ensure that commitments were met, to avoid a resurgence of conflict. Given that peace could not thrive in weak, exclusive systems, the draft text would need to provide for institutional and governance reform, ensuring reconciliation, integration, inclusivity and public trust, as people must see that institutions served them fairly and that their voices mattered. The draft resolution would also need to underscore the importance of the international community supporting but not replacing national efforts, as local ownership and leadership of the process were key. To achieve legitimate and lasting peace, every stage of the peace process must be inclusive. The draft text would seek to build on existing frameworks, assessing whether they could be strengthened by additional national legislation, and stressed the importance of parliamentary diplomacy and parliamentarians' direct connection to citizens. Peace remained hollow when the population's interests were excluded. MPs should actively participate in shaping the peace framework through legislation, oversight and budgeting. The co-Rapporteurs would keep ownership central to their approach, ensuring that legitimate peace was built from within, rather than imposed from the outside.

Mr. S. Stefanou (Cyprus) said that lasting peace required not only the elimination of weapons but also the restoration of governance, justice and the social fabric and ensuring that peace was not imposed externally or shaped by foreign interests, which could undermine stability. It was parliaments' responsibility to guarantee effective implementation of peace agreements and meaningful and durable reconciliation through transparent law-making, democratic oversight and social dialogue. International crises required collective action. In light of the failed attempts by the international community to resolve the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, parliamentarians must defend each country's sovereignty and right to determine its own path to peace and development. Highlighting the need for accountability for the genocide that had taken place in Gaza, he urged parliamentarians to draw on mediation experiences and people-centred security approaches to turn fragile ceasefires into lasting peace by strengthening their collective capacity to ensure justice, inclusion, democratic participation and reconstruction.

Mr. K. Bayramov (Azerbaijan) said that post-conflict transition was a legislative mandate. Parliamentarians must develop a clear legal framework to validate peace agreements, establish transitional justice mechanisms, protect property rights and ensure the safe return of displaced populations. They should also guarantee that funds for recovery were transparently allocated to critical needs, including not only infrastructure, but also psychological support, education and job creation in affected areas. Following the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan in 2020, his Parliament had prioritized the comprehensive restoration of liberated territories to facilitate the return of displaced citizens, the creation of smart cities, the establishment of new economic zones and significant investments in demining, thereby developing the infrastructure needed to integrate the new economic regions into the national system efficiently and legally and eliminating the consequences of long-term conflict. His Parliament held public hearings to ensure that the Government directly addressed victims' needs, underscoring that parliaments must serve as a platform for diplomacy, carry out legislative oversight to strengthen public trust and ensure that the executive remained accountable for delivering the promises of post-conflict recovery. Azerbaijan stood ready to share its experience in post-conflict management and reconciliation to be incorporated into the draft resolution.

Ms. S. Petrovska (North Macedonia) said that ending a conflict required ceasing hostilities, then rebuilding trust, governance and justice. Peace agreements alone were not enough. It was up to parliaments to restore the bond between the State and its citizens. Her country had transitioned from conflict to peace by choosing dialogue, comprehensively implementing a peace agreement as a constitutional and legislative roadmap and ensuring that political actors built consensus by requiring a double-majority vote on legislation affecting inter-community relations – a principle that had transformed the country's legislative culture and remained fundamental to its democratic stability. The Parliament of North Macedonia had also ensured equitable representation of all ethnic communities in certain Government services and had put in place oversight mechanisms to monitor implementation. Parliaments in post-conflict societies should establish mechanisms for inclusive decision-making on sensitive inter-community issues and should invest in inter-community dialogue platforms to bridge differences before they escalated. Her country's experience confirmed that when parliaments approached peacebuilding with courage and commitment, they could rebuild trust and create a shared future.

Mr. R. Zare (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that parliamentary oversight of defence policies built trust and understanding between governments and citizens through transparent decision-making and spending, prevented unilateral and unfair approaches that put global peace at risk in the name of security and channelled national defence capabilities towards responsible deterrence and just peace based on mutual respect and common interests among countries. Parliaments were key to preventing a new arms race by strengthening the international parliamentary network, exchanging oversight techniques and adapting regional and global transparency frameworks. He looked forward to greater cooperation and transparency and a renewed understanding of security rooted in justice, sustainable development and human dignity.

Mr. C. Lacroix (Belgium) asked the experts to expound on how national minorities should be treated in post-conflict contexts, especially as they were often used as a pretext for invasions but were also an important consideration in the context of return to their countries. The South African delegation should be encouraged to share details of the post-apartheid truth and reconciliation process, including the application of pardons. Expert advice would also be welcome on how to strike a balance between peace resulting from compromise, such as an amnesty, and victims' sentiment of injustice. It would be useful to know whether there were indicators allowing parliamentarians to verify that measures taken had improved the relevant situations. The usefulness of parliamentary groups to monitor post-conflict situations should be discussed. Guidance would be welcome concerning avoiding the re-election to parliament of previous parties to a conflict, even in democratic systems, which could reignite tensions or lead to parliament manipulation. Lastly, the experts were asked to share how parliamentary diplomacy, such as within the IPU, could prevent renewed hostilities.

Ms. S. Naraghi-Anderlini (Founder and CEO, International Civil Society Action Network) said that equal rights for minorities should be enshrined in constitutions and accountability mechanisms established. The security sector needed to be reformed in post-conflict settings to include both men and women in the sector. Civil society should be present in parliamentary debates and committees to hold politicians accountable. Consultations with citizens allowed parliamentarians to determine the scope of security and therefore prioritize budgets in line with people's needs. It would be useful to

establish peace committees across a country, which must be adequately funded, allowing public engagement with locals to shape reconciliation, mitigate disputes and build trust. Peace agreements should be legislated such that they benefited the population at the grassroots level. Regarding the inclusion of minority groups, parliaments should consider officializing minority languages and incorporating the cultures of native and immigrant minority groups into curricula, thereby promoting social cohesion and plurality.

Mr. P. Dziatkowiec (Director, Mediation and Peace Support, GCSP) said that post-conflict recovery should be inclusive. More could be done within the IPU to create connections between Member Parliaments with relevant experience. It was shocking that the UN had been increasingly marginalized from most major conflicts. Regarding the balance between peace and justice, the solution to each conflict was context-specific but should involve redress, recognition, truth telling and retributive justice. To achieve lasting peace, peace processes must engage all constituencies and include all relevant voices in crafting the peace agreement. Parliamentarians should develop dialogue mechanisms for multi-stakeholder consultations to assess and improve the implementation of peace agreements.

Mr. W.M. Douglas (South Africa) said that lasting peace required a parliamentarian-led process of rebuilding governance, restoring justice, reintegrating communities and addressing the root causes of violence with a focus on inclusiveness, accountability and resilience. In post-conflict recovery, the role of parliamentarians was strategic yet rooted in constituents' daily realities. During his country's transition from apartheid to democracy, the Parliament had dismantled oppressive laws, supported the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and enshrined human dignity and equality in its Constitution. However, more needed to be done to address systemic inequality, exclusion and poverty. Parliamentarians should ensure that marginalized groups shared post-conflict governance, engaging constituencies through regular consultation so that peace processes reflected grassroots needs. When fully exercising their constitutional mandate, parliamentarians were key to peace consolidation. They should translate peace agreements into enforceable law, reform security sectors through oversight of the military and intelligence services to ensure human rights compliance and enact transitional justice mechanisms. Parliamentarians must also ensure that resources were allocated for peacebuilding and reconciliation and should monitor the implementation of peace agreements. Such measures would restore public trust and reinforce the legitimacy of the State. It was also necessary to establish accountability mechanisms, including ethics oversight, asset declarations and anti-corruption measures, and to strengthen parliamentary peacebuilding capacity at all levels, demanding seats at peace negotiation tables and creating cross-party peace committees. MPs should draw on lived experiences to strengthen parliamentary instruments.

Mr. M. Al Muhairi (United Arab Emirates) said that rebuilding trust in post-conflict settings required a focus on the rule of law, the affected communities and sustainable development. His country had passed legislation to combat hate speech, terrorism and the underlying ideologies. Parliaments should strengthen the role of mediation and ensure that each party's voice was heard. The panellists were asked to consider whether enough was being done in that regard. There was a gap that parliaments and international organizations needed to address.

Ms. S. Naraghi-Anderlini (Founder and CEO, International Civil Society Action Network) said that not enough was being done. In comparison to resources allocated to weapons, diplomacy was vastly underfunded. In the current era of the supremacy of the United States, countries defaulted first to war, then sanctions and lastly diplomacy. That order needed to be reversed. There should be less focus on power-sharing between armed actors to instead reward actors of peace. To achieve new results, new stakeholders, such as women's organizations, religious leaders, businesspeople, young people, journalists and medics, must be involved in shaping the future of peace and hold politicians accountable. Countries should learn from South Africa's experience and outline a desired vision of peace that would address the past without erasing it and determine the way forward, which was key to mediation.

Mr. P. Dziatkowiec (Director, Mediation and Peace Support, GCSP), concurring that insufficient funds were allocated to dialogue as compared to weapons, said that dialogue did not imply agreement between parties but enabled a better understanding of issues, thus reducing the risk of escalation.

Mr. M.A. Zambrano Vera (Ecuador) said that while his Government upheld the constitutional right to social protest, the emergence of violent transnational demonstrations in his country had led the Parliament to not only establish control mechanisms, such as sanctions and the intervention of armed forces, but also to carry out dialogue and mediation efforts with civil society, which had reduced tensions. International coordination was necessary to address international crime. Given that the transnational organized crime groups throughout Latin America often involved children, his Government had complemented direct combat with scholarship programmes for young people and women and youth preferential work placement programmes, which had caused the rate of crimes committed by young people to drop.

Mr. B.D. Llamanzares (Philippines) said that peace was the result of years of dialogue, reconciliation and the courage to choose understanding. His Government had established and invested significantly in a national amnesty commission to ensure justice and reconciliation under the rule of law, which, together with compassion, were key to nation-building. The commission supported former combatants through livelihood and reintegration programmes, thus fostering national unity. Peace must always be the first option. Inviting the IPU to shape the draft resolution by studying his country's national amnesty commission, he stood ready to engage in policy discussions to that end.

Mr. S. Köse (Sweden) said that the draft resolution should provide for peace and democracy to be built together, thus leading to trust in leaders and institutions. Rebuilding must be fair and its funds transparently monitored and benefiting families. Women should participate fully in the leadership and decision-making of peace processes to achieve lasting peace, and children's rights must guide recovery. Parliaments could prevent conflicts by ensuring an early response to exclusion and injustice, supporting dialogue at the local level and rebuilding trust. The panellists were asked to advise on how parliamentarians could ensure that post-conflict recovery was led by the local population, especially women, children and different ethnic groups.

Mr. P. Dziatkowiec (Director, Mediation and Peace Support, GCSP) said that inclusive and sustainable peace required parliaments to establish consultative mechanisms to interact with affected constituents and vulnerable populations and incorporate their concerns into solutions.

Ms. S. Naraghi-Anderlini (Founder and CEO, International Civil Society Action Network) said that civil society, including independent women-led civil society organizations, were the first to respond in times of conflict and were more aware of local contexts, as they remained on the ground and were comprised of locals. However, the rise in military spending had slashed those organizations' already disproportionately lower budgets. Their funding should be reinstated for peace and security. Parliamentarians should ensure that female MPs were present on community visits, hold meetings with local civil society, consult with women's organizations on security issues and ask refugee populations about their needs and the skills they could contribute. It would be dangerous to allow the far right to shape the narrative. As mentioned earlier, MPs should hold cultural events and enact legislation to highlight the diversity of migrant cultures and promote social cohesion.

Mr. J.G. Nyuot Yoh (South Sudan), reflecting on an unsuccessful peace agreement implemented in his country over the previous seven years, said that the structural and inherent challenges discovered during implementation had shown that the agreement's objectives had contradicted the reality on the ground, thus weakening structures and failing to reintegrate communities. Peace agreements aimed to achieve inclusive peace but were often guided by actors' interests. While the agreement implemented in South Sudan strove for power-sharing among political organizations, it had become difficult to achieve consensus. The agreement also relied on regional and international actors, including friendly countries, donors and neighbouring countries, all having their own interests and agendas, but did not address grassroots needs. All of this created serious implementation problems and showed that such types of peace agreements were ineffective since, as a result, local communities remained excluded and were more victims than beneficiaries of the peace process.

Mr. J.U. Uerikua (Namibia) said that the protection of human rights and dignity, reconciliation and rule of law were enshrined in his country's Constitution. Namibia worked with other countries in southern Africa to ensure that the continent remained free and would never again be colonized. During Namibia's post-conflict recovery since becoming independent, economic emancipation had been a key issue and, capitalizing on lessons learned during the pre-independence intervention by the UN, the

country had promulgated an act on anti-terrorism and non-proliferation to prohibit the use of weapons of mass destruction. Its restoration process involved peace, reconciliation and justice for all. The country had established a robust governance architecture and prioritized the inclusion of minorities in consultative peacebuilding processes. As the only country in southern Africa with a female President, Namibia hoped that other countries in the region would also place emphasis on gender issues. Post-war recovery required parliamentarians to provide psychosocial support, favour dialogue, advance laws with a view to strengthening the implementation of democratic principles and safeguarding dignity, and ensure that funding was allocated to those needs. Parliamentary diplomacy was important to dispute resolution. Countries were urged to promote peace, sovereignty and equality. Parliaments should carry out collective efforts to ensure oversight and accountability.

Mr. M.S.B. Choudhry (Pakistan) said that parliaments played a critical role during and after conflicts, ensuring that legislation fostered reconciliation, justice and stability and benefited from parliamentary oversight and guidance. MPs needed to rebuild trust, restore institutions and ensure sustainable and inclusive peace. Lasting peace could not be achieved through force or intimidation. Despite facing significant human and financial losses owing to decades of terrorism, his country had provided education, healthcare and business opportunities to refugees. Stability therefore called for dialogue, education, inclusive governance and equitable participation of all parliamentary committees. Oversight, accountability and civic engagement ensured that recovery programmes were transparent and aid reached those most in need. There needed to be truth recognition and inclusive policies for enduring peace. Parliaments were key to overseeing the implementation of peace initiatives, ensuring that resources were allocated to community empowerment and unity.

Ms. S. Najem (Mauritania) said that superpowers needed to shoulder their ethical responsibilities, as they were mainly responsible for the crises in the world. Their parliaments needed to participate in the relevant problem-solving processes. International humanitarian law was facing its greatest violation – the situation in Gaza was visible to all, but the world had remained silent and parliamentarians had not pressured governments to stop the bloodshed.

Ms. C. Akça Cupolo (Türkiye), speaking on behalf of her country's Kurdish population, said that a 40-year conflict, referred to as silencing through bombing by the Kurds and a "fight against terrorism" by the Government, was coming to an end in her country, hopefully through a peaceful resolution. The recent developments in the Syrian Arab Republic had exposed the misuse of terms like "terrorism", often employed by people in power to oppress certain groups. The present attempt was Türkiye's sixth to resolve the issue through political dialogue. Over the two previous months, a parliamentary committee, which had been received differently by each sector of the society, had been carrying out consultations with various stakeholders to bring about democratic transformation. It would publish a report that could outline a framework for democratic integration and the recognition of Kurds and other minorities as equal citizens. Members of the PKK were ready to lay down their arms and enter political life but needed a clear legal framework to support their reintegration. They also needed a new social contract to pave the way to lasting peace. However, with the committee at a standstill, advice would be welcome regarding the next steps it should take.

Mr. S. Patra (India) said that post-conflict management required a holistic strategy based on reconstruction, institution-building and sustainable peace. His country's civilizational ethos of peace and non-violence had guided its foreign policy and sustained contributions to global peace. It harnessed its strength in information technology to build human capacity, such as by connecting African countries, including post-conflict societies, to Indian universities and hospitals and conducting capacity-building programmes for peacekeepers from the Global South. It was important to strengthen democratic institutions. To achieve peace, parliaments must lead post-conflict recovery, ensuring justice, reconciliation and inclusiveness, overseeing resources to ensure transparency and engaging in parliamentary diplomacy.

Ms. A. Notopoulou (Greece) said that post-conflict mechanisms must take into consideration the conflict's political root cause. Parliamentarians should defend international law and human rights, ensuring that justice preceded reconstruction and that peace was built on accountability and sustainability. They needed to support full investigations into the war crimes committed in Gaza, promote a rights-based reconstruction framework that did not treat Gaza as a humanitarian case but respected Palestinians' right to self-determination, recognize the State of Palestine on the basis of the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, and reject the criminalization of solidarity. Advocating

for Palestinian rights was not extremism but a call for dignity, equality and peace under international law, so that Israelis and Palestinians could coexist in mutual peace and security. The IPU should actively facilitate parliamentary missions, reflect the concerns of civil society and promote legal and political mechanisms for lasting peace, which required justice and therefore courage to carry out the right actions through international cooperation.

Mr. A. Alharbi (Saudi Arabia) said that the Committee had adopted a resolution on the two-State solution, but nothing had been done to transform it into reality. Parliamentarians should stop voting for politicians who wanted to wage wars, as women, children and the elderly had to pay the price. Highlighting his country's financial support to the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, he underscored the need for international organizations to do more. The reduction and elimination of budgets for civil society organizations was unacceptable. Resolutions should be adopted to push countries to support humanitarian organizations.

Mr. S. Ty (Cambodia) said that parliaments should ensure inclusive peace, accessible justice and trust. They could contribute to peacebuilding by restoring democratic legitimacy through inclusive laws and constitutional reform, overseeing transitional justice to ensure that victims' voices were heard, promoting social reintegration, especially for young people, women and former combatants, and partnering globally and regionally, especially within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), to prevent future instability and support fragile contexts. Regional parliamentary cooperation was necessary to address cross-border risks and advance a people-centred vision of peace. There needed to be a focus on inclusive governance, transitional justice and parliaments' institutional resilience. Parliamentarians should foster unity through dialogue, the safeguarding of human dignity and determination.

Ms. I. Khalid (Canada), underscoring that trauma was intergenerational, said that lasting peace required justice, accountability, truth, reconciliation and trust. Over the previous decade, her Government had been trying to implement peacebuilding recommendations provided by the country's indigenous communities that had undergone trauma. It was therefore necessary to hold conversations with affected communities. Proactive inclusion was key to ensuring equal opportunities and empowerment for all during reconciliation, regardless of ethnicity or the sides taken in the conflict. Countries should target misinformation and disinformation, which could undermine truth and the rebuilding of trust.

Ms. F. Belhirsch (Netherlands), co-Rapporteur, said that conflict prevention and inclusive mechanisms were important. The experts were asked to share their thoughts on the implementation of legislation promoting inclusiveness, in light of discrimination in countries where equality was constitutionally enshrined, the abundance of right-wing parties in power and the lengthy process required for the creation of laws.

Mr. P. Dziatkowiec (Director, Mediation and Peace Support, GCSP), summing up, said that parliamentarians should continue sharing best practices to shape frameworks for peace. International law formed the bedrock of the issue at hand. The world expected parliaments to leverage the IPU as a forum to champion the fundamental norms in international law to prevent and resolve conflict. Durable peace required that real or perceived grievances be addressed from the outset of peace processes and throughout their implementation.

Ms. S. Naraghi-Anderlini (Founder and CEO, International Civil Society Action Network) said that, at a time when governments and the multilateral system were failing, parliamentarians needed to provide creative alternatives, such as by redirecting military budgets to peacebuilding. In response to the question raised by the delegate of Türkiye concerning the next steps of the democratic transformation, she said that it should be envisioning their desired future and works towards it. In response to the question raised by the delegate of South Sudan on his Parliament's reticence towards an inclusive process because of the lack of personal interest, she suggested that the language of legislation be reframed, such as changing "power sharing" to "responsibility sharing", to transform people's mindsets. Conflict resolution and prevention required political will, inclusivity and a multi-stakeholder approach involving local communities and political leadership.

Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee

The President said that the Committee was requested to fill three vacancies. The candidates nominated were: for the Arab Group, Ms. S. Najem (Mauritania); and for the Asia-Pacific Group, Ms. S. Faruqi (Pakistan). A vacancy remained for the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The nominations were approved.

The President said that four members of the Committee had completed their first two-year term and were eligible for re-election, namely Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Kazakhstan and Netherlands. However, the delegate from Azerbaijan had informed the Secretariat that he would not seek re-election, so the position would be declared vacant at the 152nd Assembly.

The President said that the presidency of the Committee should be held by a man from the Asia-Pacific Group and the vice-presidency by a woman from the Twelve Plus Group, for two years each. Mr. H. Mohammed (Malaysia) had been elected President, and Ms. F. Belhirsch (Netherlands) had been elected Vice-President.

The nominations were approved.

Other business

The President said that the Bureau had held its meeting the previous day, in which members had shared recent peace and security efforts and had discussed the need for the Committee to work closely with other IPU organs with a similar mandate to ensure the smooth operation of the Organization's peace and security activities.

The sitting rose at 17:05.

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development

SITTING OF TUESDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2025

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 14:30 with Ms. M.S. Al Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates), Vice-President of the Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda
C-II/151/A.1

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held at the 150th IPU Assembly in Tashkent (April 2025)

The summary record was approved.

Debate on the theme of the Committee's next resolution, entitled *Building a fair and sustainable global economy: The role of parliaments in combating protectionism, reducing tariffs and preventing corporate tax evasion*

The Chair said that, after the sitting, the co-Rapporteurs would draft a resolution and submit it to the IPU Secretariat by mid-December 2025. Delegations could propose amendments as of mid-January 2026 for discussion at the 152nd IPU Assembly. Written contributions should be submitted by 1 November 2025.

Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia), co-Rapporteur, said that during Senate estimates she had asked the Tax Practitioners Board about the practices of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Global. A PwC expert had provided tax reform advice to her Government to ensure that multinational enterprises (MNEs) paid their fair share to Australia. However, the expert had created a product that diminished tax access for Australia and had shared the information he had learned from the Government with 20 to 30 colleagues worldwide. Large companies and MNEs disregarded sovereign borders and had greater financial resources than many nations. Countries would be diminished without adequate funding to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It was pleasing to see interest in how countries could collaborate to tackle base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS). While high taxes were unnecessary, disadvantageous taxation practices that cost nations must end.

Mr. J.M.R. Edwards (Chile), co-Rapporteur, said that the resolution would tackle MNE tax evasion and protectionism. Removing barriers that made goods unnecessarily expensive and closing tax loopholes would help the global economy work better for ordinary people. Since 1990, international trade had lifted over one billion people out of poverty. The economies of more open countries had grown approximately 6% annually, whereas those under protectionist policies had grown approximately 2% annually. Over the same period, the share of global exports from low- and middle-income countries had risen from 17% to 32%, highlighting the link between trade, integration and inclusive growth. Corporate tax evasion and aggressive profit-shifting drained public revenue, undermined citizens' trust in governments and lost governments funds for citizens. Instead, innovation, efficiency and transparency should generate competitiveness. The co-Rapporteurs would note the points raised during the current sitting and develop a stand-alone draft resolution that was applicable to any situation and did not blame individual countries for problems in other countries.

Ms. J. Sabao (Zambia), co-Rapporteur, said that the topic resonated with Zambia which experienced tariff-related challenges. Trade drove development and protected inclusive growth. It was impossible to develop a fair and sustainable global economy if trade and taxation systems favoured a minority at the expense of the majority. Excessive tariffs and protectionism restricted developing countries' access to global markets, and limited job creation and industrialization. Delegates must therefore agree on how to tackle tax evasion in their countries. In Zambia, Parliament had enhanced the powers of the revenue authority. She proposed amending the term "tax evasion" in the title of the draft resolution to "tax avoidance".

A delegate from Jordan said that “tax evasion” meant breaking the law to avoid paying taxes; “tax avoidance” meant using legal loopholes to avoid taxes. The different concepts should not be confused.

A delegate from the Islamic Republic of Iran said that tax avoidance could occur alongside tax evasion. The terms had different meanings and could not substitute one another.

The Chair asked the Committee to approve the change of the terms “tax evasion” in the title of the resolution to “tax avoidance”.

It was so decided.

Mr. A.R. Khan (Advisor, International Cooperation and Tax Policy, Financing for Sustainable Development Office, United Nations (UN) Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)), speaking via video link, said that global public debt currently exceeded US\$ 100 trillion, of which developing countries owed an estimated US\$ 31 trillion. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected that global public debt would exceed 100% of the global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2029. Consequently, developing countries were experiencing immediate budget pressures. According to the World Bank, US\$ 1.4 trillion was spent annually on servicing external debt and US\$ 400 billion on repaying interest. Some 3.4 billion people lived in countries spending more on interest payments than on health and education combined. Revenue raised today also impacted a country’s ability to generate human capital. Many countries had experienced protests, in some cases due to tax rises to pay back debt, and public trust in the system was breaking down. While raising taxes could solve that issue, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) estimated that MNEs were evading 4% to 10% of corporate income tax through BEPS. In some countries, the cost of tax evasion through one transfer pricing audit could exceed all social spending gains. MNEs employed the best tax, accounting and legal experts who coordinated globally, and governments must coordinate similarly. Digitalization and automation were exacerbating BEPS: often, MNEs needed a physical establishment in a country to be subject to tax but they could now provide services remotely.

In 2024, the UN General Assembly had passed a resolution to start negotiations towards a UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation. An international negotiating committee would hold nine sessions – two of which had already occurred – from 2025 to 2027 and present its results to the General Assembly in 2027. There was also the Sevilla Agreement which included commitments to double support for countries to raise tax-to-GDP ratios by 15% and to engage constructively in the Framework Convention negotiations. Those negotiations involved three workstreams that focused on (1) the Framework Convention itself, (2) an early protocol on the taxation of cross-border services, and (3) another early protocol on tax dispute prevention and resolution. Tax authorities dealt with those issues daily. Trade and tax were closely related: trade misinvoicing drove illicit financial flows, and the principles of predictability, reciprocity and enforceability underpinned a transparent rules-based system and multilateral tax cooperation. Moreover, MNEs exploited gaps in fragmented treaty networks. Therefore, parliamentary oversight mechanisms and committees on public accounts and finance were vital. Many countries were exploring how to ratify the treaty that would result from the UN Framework Convention. Countries must support one another to tackle illicit financial flows and tax evasion.

Ms. V. Gonzalez Behar (Head, Partnerships, Outreach and Resource Mobilization at the Enhanced Integrated Framework, World Trade Organization (WTO)) said that the WTO and trade needed parliaments. She was pleased that parliaments also recognized their need for trade and she understood that parliaments sought trade that benefited their constituents. Tariffs, trade tensions and news headlines were creating distrust and concern about job losses, and increasing pressure on politicians. The resolution would therefore help issue a call to action.

Although tariffs must not escalate, they continued to matter. Modern trade also involved non-tariff measures, such as standards and regulations to move goods and services across borders. In the 1930s, protectionism and increased tariffs had prompted global trade to collapse by two thirds within three years, creating unemployment and paving the way for the Second World War. Fortunately, there were now rules to prevent that destructive chain of retaliation. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) had reduced tariffs and border measures on goods, expanded global trade, helped industries to recover and replaced confrontation with cooperation. However, as global value chains had grown and economies had become more interconnected, governments had also understood that non-tariff measures were as important. Therefore, in 1994 the WTO had been established to make

trade more open, fair and predictable by lowering tariffs, tackling non-tariff barriers, opening services and markets, protecting intellectual property, and providing a neutral rules-based system to resolve disagreements between countries.

The 166 WTO members represented approximately 98% of global trade and she had witnessed how WTO rules had increased trust and helped trade continue despite turbulent times. However, the WTO required urgent reform because the global economy was developing more quickly than the rules that governed it. Although global merchandise trade had decreased from 80% to 72% since the beginning of 2025, it continued under WTO terms and businesses could continue to rely on WTO rules to plan, invest and trade. According to the latest WTO Global Trade Outlook and Statistics, the impacts of tariff increases may only become apparent in 2026. However, growth in merchandise trade had remained stable, exceeding earlier expectations. There had been increased spending on artificial intelligence (AI) and trade-related products, on front-loading ahead of tariff adjustments and trade growth. Developing countries were increasingly trading with each other and Asia was driving much of the trade in AI-related goods.

However, despite the WTO rules, trade remained fragile. There were concerns that uncertainty, tariffs and weaker demand could decrease growth in 2026. Demand for services had also decreased. The trade system must evolve. Without cooperation, AI could further divide countries. However, according to a WTO report, AI could also increase global trade by 37% and GDP by 13% by 2040. Furthermore, if the world fragmented into blocks of competing countries, global GDP could shrink by up to 5%.

Parliamentarians were central to developing trade policy, adopting legislation, overseeing WTO-related commitments and ensuring that trade served national priorities and interests. In the draft resolution, she recommended considering non-tariff measures; ensuring that the 52 WTO members that had not ratified the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies did so by the next WTO Ministerial Conference; accelerating WTO reform, particularly through the upcoming Ministerial Conference in March 2026; and using the resolution to inform the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, which would contribute to the Ministerial Conference.

Mr. M. Kobetsky (Honorary Professor, Australian National University College of Law; Fellow, Tax and Transfer Policy Institute, Crawford School of Public Policy), said that higher taxes were the best way to fund public goods and services. Those that benefited from government services and goods should fund them, and those with the means to pay for them should contribute to government revenue. However, despite meeting both conditions, MNEs engaged in audacious tax avoidance schemes which parliamentarians were key to combating. For example, a British parliamentarian, Ms. Margaret Hodge, had launched an inquiry into MNE tax avoidance. Although MNEs claimed that their actions were legal, she argued that they were immoral. MNEs operated globally and received advice from global law and accounting firms. Therefore, parliamentarians must also operate globally to develop legislation and tackle tax avoidance schemes. The IPU, UN, UN Tax Committee, OECD and the G20 could assist in that regard. MNEs would always try to avoid taxation. Parliamentarians must therefore collaborate to tax MNEs and adopt the future draft resolution which represented a key measure.

Ms. M. St. Louis (Director, Global Trade Watch Division, Public Citizen), speaking via video link, said that it was important to note the policies and dynamics that had produced chaos in the global trading system. Although trade among nations was necessary, free trade agreements and neoliberal policies – which had rules dominated by the interests of the largest corporations in the Global North, and which excluded civil society and national parliaments – were not sustainable and would create unrest. For example, although the United States Constitution stipulated that the legislative branch had authority over the rules governing commerce with foreign countries, Congress had repeatedly delegated that authority to the executive branch to negotiate trade agreements in an opaque process and had then approved those agreements in up-or-down votes much later so that the democratic process had not been able to intervene. The United States of America also had a trade advisory system through which over 500 corporate advisors representing the largest MNEs and few labour representatives had privileged access to the negotiating text. The advisors often drafted the texts themselves, pre-empting national regulations and protecting MNE profits. Jobs in the Global North were offshored to the jurisdictions with the lowest wages, fuelling right-wing populism, a backlash against free trade agreements and a shift towards xenophobic economic nationalism. Meanwhile, workers in the Global South were exploited.

However, it was wrong and dangerous to claim that countries had taken advantage of the United States of America. The use of tariffs to bully countries and companies was therefore also wrong. While tariffs could support domestic industries and discipline bad corporate behaviour,

indiscriminate and chaotic tariffs punished allies and prompted more extreme closed-door dealmaking. For example, the current United States administration was using tariffs to push the deregulatory agenda of large national tech companies worldwide and was attacking digital regulations. Civil society organizations encouraged parliaments to push their governments to resist such tariff bullying and cautioned against defending corporate-dominated trade rules. They urged policymakers to address inequities in global trade rules and to promote changing those rules to hold MNEs accountable, and to incentivize investment in supply chains that respected workers and human rights and promoted the green transition. Parliaments could help keep the executive branch in check, demand transparency and accountability in trade-related policymaking, and insist on protecting policy spaces that regulated corporations in the public interest. During the first Trump administration, following a mandatory six-year review, the executive branch had renegotiated the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) but, because Congress must approve the deal, opposition legislators had been able to demand changes to the renegotiated text and work with civil society to provide improvements for workers in all three countries. Such agreements impacted domestic policymaking so parliamentarians must be aware of and engaged in the debates surrounding them. Legislators should also lead in promoting a progressive trade policy vision that assuaged constituents' fears and frustrations and held corporations accountable.

Ms. R. Abunayan (Saudi Arabia) said that parliaments were instrumental to preventing corporate tax avoidance and safeguarding public revenue for sustainable development. The Shura Council rigorously oversaw the national tax and customs authority and refined legislation, and Saudi Arabia had modernized its technological ecosystem to foster voluntary compliance. Key initiatives included public awareness campaigns, digital transformation, enhanced transparency, and easy compliance and risk-based audits. Advanced data analytics, structured penalty regimes, OECD and G20 initiatives – including the Common Reporting Standard (CRS) – and automatic exchanges of information deterred tax avoidance and evasion. Transfer-pricing regulations, anti-avoidance provisions and continuous legal reforms countered sophisticated tax avoidance strategies.

Mr. M.L. Khumalo (Zimbabwe) said that parliamentarians shaped legislative frameworks that promoted equity, environmental stewardship and fiscal integrity. Zimbabwe continued to privilege trade liberalization and promote investment and regional integration. Accordingly, Parliament had enacted laws to address protectionism, reduce tariffs and prevent corporate tax evasion. National trade policies simplified customs procedures and enhanced export competitiveness, aligning with WTO principles and regional trade protocols. The Income Tax Act helped detect and penalize tax evasion practices, including transfer pricing and misreporting.

Mr. S. Aleinik (Belarus) said that poverty persisted and the destructive policies and unilateral coercive measures of certain Western countries and the European Union were exacerbating global economic fragmentation. Illegitimate sanctions; trade and currency wars; protectionism; tariffs; restricted access to innovation, technologies and investment; visa barriers; unilateral border closures; and air blockades constrained the global community's potential to achieve the SDGs. The conflict in Ukraine had drawn many Western countries into an arms race, prompting social programme cuts, destabilization, bankruptcies and unemployment. Illegitimate sanctions threatened global food security and international logistics and supply chains. However, Belarus remained committed to achieving the SDGs, ranking 32nd in the SDG Index and meeting almost 80% of the 2030 indicator targets. Parliaments were crucial to shaping equitable policies and sustainable strategies through legislation, and parliamentarians should oppose politicized approaches that hindered progress towards achieving the SDGs.

Mr. S.S. Hosseini (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that building a fair and sustainable global economy was a strategic imperative for the international community. Persistent protectionist practices, economic sanctions, retaliatory tariffs, and widespread MNE tax evasion and avoidance had disrupted global trade, weakened access to sustainable development resources, and threatened national interests. In response, parliaments should: (1) strengthen legislative oversight and national policymaking to promote trade; (2) prevent tax evasion and avoidance, and promote international economic transparency; (3) strengthen multilateral cooperation and trust, including through free trade agreements, and prevent unilateral measures and economic sanctions that impacted health and sustainable development; and (4) support the green economy and sustainable development, including through laws to prevent and compensate for environmentally harmful activities, and allocate financial resources for sustainable development.

Ms. C. Erotokritou (Cyprus) said that protectionism and tariffs threatened the rules-based multilateral trading system, affecting every economy. Despite appearing to defend national interests, protectionism weakened competitiveness, disrupted supply chains and undermined trust. Through legislation and parliamentary control, parliaments must build resilient economies, promote sustainable trade and investment, encourage innovation and entrepreneurship, and ensure SDG-aligned policies. They must enact tax legislation ensuring transparency, greater regulatory oversight and compliance with international standards. Cyprus had criminalized fraudulent tax declarations, recognized tax evasion as a money laundering offence, and had established a central beneficial ownership register. Parliamentary diplomacy was vital to upholding international law, multilateralism and sustainable development. Parliamentarians must continue promoting cooperation and striving for a people-oriented global economy that bridged national interests and left no country behind.

Ms. S. Attia (Egypt) said that protectionist policies had increased prices, particularly for low-income individuals. Parliaments should guarantee that price changes occurred after comprehensive economic and social assessments. They should investigate and legislate against tax evasion and avoidance to fund education and infrastructure. Trade agreements and conventions should be assessed. Egypt was focusing on improving transparency in the financial system, and balancing openness with local industry protection. The tax system had been reviewed to ensure alignment with international norms, prompting the imposition of many taxes in 2025.

Mr. A. Burapachaisi (Thailand) said that protectionism, unequal trading systems and widespread corporate tax evasion posed challenges, particularly for developing and smaller economies, hindering inclusive growth and the ability to meet citizens' aspirations. Open and equitable trade, fiscal justice and sustainable development should underpin a fair global economy. Protectionism and tariffs weakened trust, distorted markets and limited opportunities while corporate tax evasion reduced government revenue for education, healthcare and the green transition. Ensuring that international trade and the taxation system worked for all nations was essential to sustainable and inclusive progress. Parliaments must scrutinize trade agreements to ensure that they did not disadvantage developing countries; legislate to close tax-avoidance loopholes; ensure fair, transparent and SDG-aligned economic policies; and foster dialogue between citizens, businesses and international partners. Smaller and developing nations must prevent powerful countries from shaping global economic rules to their advantage. Building a fair and sustainable global economy required the hope that multilateralism could deliver fairness, and the good fortune that commitments were honoured. His Parliament stood ready to ensure that the resolution reflected the voices of the powerful and the needs and rights of smaller economies.

Mr. H. Al Nasiri (Arab Parliament) said that the world was experiencing a crisis of trust in the economic system. Protectionism and tariffs were limiting trade, preventing growth in small economies, and widening the wealth gap between nations. Parliaments should legislate to open the global economy and build a fair trading system. He called for a parliamentary pact ensuring equal opportunities for all economies, and a parliamentary framework to combat tax avoidance. Developing a just trade system was a moral and political imperative. With genuine political will, it was possible to guarantee equal opportunities for all countries.

Mr. S. Ty (Cambodia) said that integration into the global market, including through preferential trade agreements, had significantly benefited his economy. However, protectionism, unfair trade barriers and MNE tax avoidance undermined progress in the Global South. Cambodia supported multilateral trade cooperation under the WTO framework and through regional mechanisms like the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. Parliaments could ratify equitable and development-friendly trade agreements and conduct transparent oversight to protect national interests. Cambodia was vulnerable to BEPS and welcomed global efforts to develop a fair international tax system, including the OECD Global Minimum Tax (GMT). Parliaments must align national tax law with global standards to close loopholes. A fair global economy should be sustainable, and trade and tax policy must support inclusive growth, decent jobs and environmental protection. Parliaments should ensure that the SDGs guided economic reforms and were vital to improving the lives of the most economically vulnerable. The draft resolution should focus on equity, transparency and global solidarity to ensure that the global economy worked for everyone.

Ms. Pham Thi Hong Yen (Viet Nam) said that protectionism, tariffs, non-tariff measures, transfer pricing and cross-border tax avoidance challenged globalization and economic integration, and undermined trust in the multilateral trading system. Parliaments should improve legal frameworks

by eliminating unnecessary protectionist barriers, fostering trade liberalization, enhancing national economic autonomy and resilience, and establishing or improving global governance standards and principles in emerging sectors such as the digital and green economies, e-commerce, AI and cross-border data management. They should promote tax policy reforms that aligned with international BEPS standards, implement global minimum tax mechanisms, and link those efforts to the SDGs. They should also strengthen monitoring of international commitments to reduce tariffs, eliminate trade barriers and combat tax evasion. It was essential to strengthen the inter-parliamentary and international exchange of information and best practices, and speak with one voice at international forums. Viet Nam supported multilateralism and international cooperation for a fair, inclusive and sustainable trading environment, had implemented next generation free trade agreements, and had become a reliable foreign investment destination. Through close coordination, solidarity and shared responsibility, parliaments could build an open, fair, transparent and inclusive global economic system for all.

Mr. A. Papathanasis (Greece) said that parliaments were crucial to reversing recent trends undermining the rules-based international order and threatening sustainable development. They must strengthen transparency and fairness in national taxation, and Greece supported the OECD GMT and had implemented European directives on country-by-country reporting. Parliaments must combat protectionism, reduce unnecessary tariffs and encourage rules-based trade to level the playing field and encourage innovation and sustainable growth. Fair trade agreements fostered green technology transfers, digital partnerships and resilient supply chains, especially in the renewable energy and maritime transport sectors. Parliaments must also ensure that globalization upheld social and environmental justice. Legislators could enact laws that promoted the circular economy, supported small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and protected workers' from automation and AI. Greece had established an energy transition and green investment framework, a national plan for digital transparency in public finance, and an institutional approach to tax justice and social cohesion. Parliaments must ensure accountability, inclusiveness and equal opportunities to develop a sustainable global economy.

Mr. A.W.U. Chishti (Pakistan) said that parliaments bridged national interests and global responsibilities. Through effective parliamentary diplomacy, the Pakistani Parliament could help ensure that global trade remained fair, transparent and beneficial to all. However, the Global South remained particularly vulnerable to global instability, climate change and conflict. For over four decades, Pakistan had hosted four million Afghan refugees, despite the instability that Afghanistan caused within Pakistan. Pakistan had not created the climate crisis, yet it stood at its frontline. The devastating 2022 flood had starkly demonstrated global inequity and climate vulnerability. Without climate justice, there could be no substantial growth economy. Wealthier nations must fulfil their climate finance commitments, promote debt relief and ensure that technology transfers enabled sustainable, resilient and green growth.

Mr. M.G. Mahlaule (South Africa) said that developing nations lost an estimated US\$ 483 billion annually to corporate tax avoidance and illicit financial flows. Such practices undermined the social contract between governments and citizens and, in South Africa, reduced funds for education, healthcare and infrastructure. Tax abuse also distorted competition, disadvantaged SMEs and deepened inequality, disproportionately affecting women and persons with disabilities. In response, the South African Parliament had approved avoidance of double taxation agreements with some 70 countries. The Tax Administration Act, 2011, empowered the national revenue service to conduct audits, enforce compliance and prosecute tax crimes.

Protectionist measures, such as the 30% tariffs that the United States of America had imposed on South African exports, compounded the issue of tax avoidance. South Africa had responded through diplomatic engagement to resolve trade disputes; economic support; trade diversification; domestic resilience measures, including block exemptions for exports; and fair trade advocacy in international forums. Parliamentarians must support the United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation which would ensure that developing countries shaped the rules on an equal footing. Parliaments could either accept that corporations shifted profit with impunity, or exercise their legislative powers to create a fairer system. Addressing corporate tax avoidance and protectionism was essential to building sustainable economies, reducing inequality and fulfilling obligations to future generations.

Mr. B. Akburak (Türkiye) said that, although protectionist measures may provide short-term relief, they reduced competitiveness, increased costs and harmed developing economies in the long term. Parliaments were key to drafting laws that upheld international commitments to ensure predictable trade, promoted fiscal sustainability, protected the tax base and reduced financial gaps between countries. They therefore protected fiscal sovereignty and contributed to global tax justice. However, structural issues such as BEPS must be addressed. Türkiye had implemented the OECD GMT to ensure profits were taxed where they had been generated and to support a fairer global system. The resolution would help develop a fair and sustainable global economy.

Ms. M.A. Maeea (Lesotho) said that her Parliament reduced tariffs through trade laws and oversaw the executive branch through portfolio committees. It passed legislation that safeguarded the economy, while parliamentarians demanded data on the economic impacts of tariffs and ensured that Government acted transparently and accountably. Parliament helped prevent corporate tax evasion by scrutinizing and passing laws, while the executive branch ensured proper tax collection. Parliament created the legal taxation framework, set the corporate tax rate and addressed tax loopholes.

Mr. M.Z. Maher (Tunisia) said that taxes should not increase for citizens, especially within developing countries. Parliamentarians should support legislation that forced MNEs to respect their commitments and reinvest part of their profits at a local, respectful and integrated rate in the country where they had been generated. There should be taxes that supported the local competitiveness of funds. It was unfeasible to establish a fair system and trust when the United States of America was imposing unfair tariffs such as on Tunisian olive oil. A point on unfair debt, which should be restructured through participatory negotiations, should be included in the agenda.

Mr. E. Mahabe Waiss (Djibouti) said that Djibouti was key to regional trade. Its open economy depended on international trade and was particularly vulnerable to protectionism and tax evasion. Parliament was therefore updating tax and customs laws; strengthening fiscal policy surveillance and combatting fraud, particularly transfer pricing; and cooperating regionally and internationally to advocate for fair business agreements and better coordination between tax administrations. Properly planned customs duties reductions could reduce living costs and stimulate business, but they should be coupled with wider tax reform to compensate for budgetary losses. Parliament was central to building a stronger and fairer economic system that valued investment and protected the most vulnerable. Parliaments worldwide must ensure that globalization did not leave the Global South behind.

Ms. F.M.S. Ali Abbas (Chad) said that parliaments played an important role in legislating to combat protectionism, reduce customs duties and prevent corporate fraud. In Chad, Parliament supervised budgets and engaged in parliamentary diplomacy, enabling it to legislate to influence governmental policies that reduced customs duties. Parliaments could also ensure open business policies, oversee tax administration, and cooperate with other parliaments to harmonize regulations and combat cross-border tax evasion. In that regard, inter-parliamentary collaboration was welcome.

Parliament voted on laws that defined national commercial policy. Parliamentarians were duty-bound to reduce or remove customs duties depending on the national interest, and could question ministers on protectionist policies. Depending on Chadian Government policy, legislators could also highlight proposed customs reforms. Parliamentarians were responsible for voting on laws that strengthened protectionist measures, promoting free-trade policies and reducing customs duties. They could also review existing trade agreements. Parliament could oversee the implementation of trade agreements and require protectionist measures depending on national market interests. Parliaments could influence trade negotiations through debates.

Mr. W.I. Shiimi (Namibia) said that the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development had delivered a clear message: tax was the only sustainable source of development financing. Therefore, parliamentarians must strengthen national tax systems. The UN had taken over work to develop the Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation, and its broad membership should ensure that the Framework Convention was agreeable to all. Namibia actively participated in developing the Framework Convention. Parliaments should support that important UN work through the IPU, and parliamentarians should encourage their governments to participate in that work. Parliaments should stand united in discouraging protectionist policies, particularly from powerful countries against developing countries. Such policies would reduce jobs and hinder economic development, growth and sustainable development.

Mr. S. Patra (India) said that, as the fourth largest economy globally, India protected its trade interests within the multilateral framework. While its WTO-bound tariffs provided flexibility, its average most-favoured-nation tariff was approximately 16% and it had a duty-free tariff preference scheme for least developed countries covering 98% of tariff lines. Over the previous decade, Parliament had reduced corporate tax rates by 22% for firms and 15% for new manufacturing units. The goods and services tax had unified the domestic market, increased transparency and reduced tax evasion. Tariffs on critical green technologies had reduced while calibrated tariffs in the agriculture sector safeguarded livelihoods and food security. India strongly supported the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS and the OECD GMT, and was implementing the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation. The 2025–2026 union budget allocated funds to complement the Unified Logistics Interface Platform, align with international practices and support India's commitments to the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation.

Mr. M. Kobetsky (Honorary Professor, Australian National University College of Law; Fellow, Tax and Transfer Policy Institute, Crawford School of Public Policy), panellist, noted the emphasis on needing to raise revenue. The alternatives were to obtain it from taxpayers which was inequitable, or borrow or print money which caused inflation. Neither were long-term solutions. He also noted the emphasis on how free trade made development sustainable and efficient, whereas protectionism caused unemployment and recession.

Ms. V. Gonzalez Behar (Head, Partnerships, Outreach and Resource Mobilization at the Enhanced Integrated Framework, WTO), panellist, said that the discussion had demonstrated that parliamentarians had trade policy concerns that they wished to tackle. The WTO members shared their concerns and were eager for reform. They were exploring how to improve the consensus-based decision-making process that allowed for vetoes; how to ensure that WTO members' appeals were not neglected following the disbandment of the WTO dispute settlement appellate body; and considering new rules for emerging issues such as e-commerce and AI. Some of those rules were being established in plurilateral agreements that did not involve all WTO members. However, efforts were under way to improve inclusivity, and all members had approved a plurilateral agreement on e-commerce that fed into the WTO frameworks. Some examples of national efforts to diversify economies reminded her of the WTO most-favoured-nation principle which prevented the WTO members from discriminating against each other and underpinned 72% of global trade. Therefore, countries seeking to trade with others would probably do so on WTO terms.

Ms. J. Sabao (Zambia), co-Rapporteur, said that the discussion had demonstrated that countries faced universal challenges. Protectionism, inequitable tariffs and corporate tax evasion restricted market access, reduced revenue and slowed progress towards development goals for developing countries. Parliaments were critical to reversing those trends through just trade and tax laws, oversight and the representation of citizens' interests. Parliaments could shape an inclusive, transparent and sustainable global economy by strengthening parliamentary reforms, adopting good practices, and deepening regional and international collaboration. Trade among developing countries, which could not always add value to their abundant natural resources, helped tackle tariffs and prompted development.

Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia), co-Rapporteur, said that the discussion represented a step towards the parliamentary pact to which Mr. Al Nasiri had referred. Ms. Sabao's insights into the challenges that the Global South experienced would be valuable to the co-Rapporteurs. The number of countries implementing reforms was heartening, and she could share copies of an explanatory memorandum and an Australian bill to implement a 15% global minimum tax rate for large MNEs. She was confident that those present shared the will of the IPU to create a sustainable and just world with a fair tax system and an open and dynamic economy. The sitting had started an important discussion on ensuring sustainable change, responding in a regional and connected manner, and obtaining data to empower parliaments to work for their communities. Those communities deserved health access, decent education and business growth opportunities, all of which underpinned peace.

Mr. J.M.R. Edwards (Chile), co-Rapporteur, said that each intervention had demonstrated commitment to ensuring fairness and protecting the most vulnerable. Citizens had the right to access goods at the most affordable prices but protectionism punished the poor first. Furthermore, countries should be able to raise a fair amount of revenue according to their tax laws. True global progress meant access to affordable food, medicine, housing and technology.

The sitting rose at 16:30.

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2025

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 09:35 with Ms. M.S. Al Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates), Vice-President of the Committee, in the Chair.

The Chair, introducing the topics to be discussed at the current sitting of the Standing Committee, said that climate change remained among the most urgent contemporary global challenges and that parliamentarians could shape policies, raise awareness and hold governments accountable.

**Panel discussion on the theme *The impact of global warming:*
*A parliamentary call to protect the most vulnerable***

Ms. A. Ellis (Senior Director, Strategic Partnerships and Networks, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory, ASU Global Institute of Sustainability and Innovation), the Moderator, took the chair.

The Moderator, welcoming delegates with a traditional Māori greeting, said that climate change was an environmental and human crisis and an existential threat. Often, the most vulnerable communities who had produced the least emissions were the most impacted. That was especially the case in the Pacific islands. The panel discussion would focus on how climate change affected the most vulnerable, how to protect and empower those communities, and how parliamentarians could foster a more equitable and resilient future.

She asked Ms. A. Tolentino, youth advocate, Leader at Care About Climate, how climate vulnerability manifested on the ground, how climate change had affected her as a young person, and who else was particularly affected and why.

Ms. A. Tolentino (Care About Climate), panellist, speaking via video link, said that her country, the Philippines, was particularly vulnerable to natural disasters, especially typhoons which had become more frequent and intense. In the previous months, back-to-back typhoons in the Philippines had caused widespread flooding. Heatwaves were worsening and, during the previous dry season, school classes had been suspended almost daily in Metropolitan Manila, disrupting education for millions of students. Droughts hampered farming and increased food prices. Healthcare facilities, especially in rural areas, were struggling with increasing cases of heatstroke, dengue and leptospirosis. The Philippines was among the most dangerous countries for environmental defenders, many of whom had been harassed, disappeared or killed, and the media was pressured into suppressing those stories. She was part of a shrinking privileged minority that had not been directly impacted by climate disasters. However, the increasing cost of goods and the anxiety of living in uncertainty had prompted many of her friends to emigrate. Her relatives, including her father, had worked overseas for periods of years to earn a living. Such patterns were occurring across the Global South. The climate crisis affected the most vulnerable, and those people had become vulnerable through a system shaped by centuries of colonization and militarization that created dependence on fossil fuels and over-consumption and that framed the climate crisis as a test of national resilience. Climate disasters were real and the response revealed the depth of the world's humanity. Young people were inheriting the climate crisis and the system that had created it. Governments must therefore collaborate inclusively, transparently and accountably to break cycles of disaster and recovery for the most vulnerable.

The Moderator said that the International Organization for Migration (IOM) predicted that there could be as many as two billion climate migrants by 2100, an issue that was currently overlooked.

She asked Mr. I. Seruiratu, Member of the Parliament of Fiji, to describe the direct impacts of climate change in Fiji and what he wished the international community would understand and act on.

Mr. I. Seruiratu (Fiji), panellist, said that the climate crisis, which was a lived reality in Fiji, was a global crisis with brutally local and devastatingly unequal consequences. In Fiji, rising sea levels had displaced six coastal communities, with a further 42 due for relocation. Those relocations disrupted lives and livelihoods, and incurred costs. The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees did not recognize climate refugees, which was a challenge, but the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility catered for cross-border migration.

Ocean warming and acidification and changing weather patterns were threatening food and economic security in Fiji. Sometimes, there were no cyclones during the cyclone season but there could be prolonged dry spells and excessive rainfall. Those weather events caused loss and damage, particularly for subsistence farmers and the narrow-based economy which relied heavily on agriculture. Disasters destroyed years of development work and required recovery funds. Climate mitigation, which would lessen the need for climate adaptation, was a collective responsibility. For Fiji, climate adaptation and adaptation funds were a matter of survival, hence the insistence on limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius in the negotiations on Article 2 of the Paris Agreement. There was a collective responsibility to look at legal and moral obligations to tackle climate change, and to foster political will and commitment.

The Moderator said that adaptation funds were available through the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund, the Global Environmental Facility and the Climate Investment Funds, the latter two of which were part of the World Bank (WB). She stood ready to address issues raised concerning bureaucracy, technicalities and the need for political action. Two billionaires, Henk Rogers and Mark Benioff, funded delegations from countries interested in committing to 100% renewable energy by 2045 to attend the Hawaii Energy Conference. Delegates could contact her or the IPU Secretariat to start an application.

Mr. R. Feingold, Chair of the Global Steering Committee of the Campaign for Nature and former US senator, had increased understanding of the link between biodiversity and climate change, two topics that were generally kept separate at the United Nations Climate Change Conferences (COPs). She invited him to discuss the importance of biodiversity for people living on the frontlines of climate change.

Mr. R. Feingold (Campaign for Nature), panellist, said that the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) had been created together in 1992 and were meant to be connected. Governments must treat the climate and nature with equal urgency. In 2019, a United Nations (UN) report involving 300 scientists had indicated that a million species were in danger of extinction in a short period, and extinction was occurring 1,000 times faster than normally expected. Climate and nature were intertwined. For example, deforestation not only destroyed biodiversity but prevented forests from acting as carbon sinks, and bleached coral no longer had the biodiversity that had provided its beauty. Regarding the impact on the most vulnerable, disrupting natural areas caused health problems, such as Ebola virus disease, and the aggressive development of natural areas, such as in Indonesia and Uganda, prevented nature from providing food. Biodiversity was also critical for economic development.

Governments in the Global North must provide financing to the Global South, and they must establish rules and regulations for companies to do business in a country. Eighty per cent of nature-related funding had come from public monies. Government action often encouraged involvement from philanthropists and private entities. The gap between government-funded activities that destroyed nature and those that preserved it currently stood at US\$ 1 trillion.

Indigenous people were key to achieving the goal of preserving 30% of the world's land and oceans by 2030 (30x30 goal) and tackling extensive land use and overfishing. Indigenous people had a right to live on their land and possessed centuries' worth of knowledge about its biodiversity. Although the 30x30 goal was global and each country submitted plans to the CBD for how to achieve it, countries able to protect vast areas of land could work towards it more easily than smaller countries with denser populations.

The Moderator said that it was extraordinary that Indigenous people represented 5% of the global population but stewarded 80% of global biodiversity. There were US\$ 7.1 trillion per annum in fossil fuel subsidies, US\$ 2 trillion in explicit cash and US\$ 5 trillion in subsidies that avoided costs for polluters. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank estimated that removing those incentives would decrease emissions by 34% by 2030. There was therefore no shortage of funds that could be used for climate adaptation and mitigation. Parliamentarians had the power to align incentives with positive climate and nature outcomes and, in that regard, she supported governments sharing nationally determined contributions (NDCs) with parliamentarians.

It had been uplifting to see law students from the University of the South Pacific successfully request an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on governments' responsibility to take climate action. It demonstrated the impact that young people could have and provided a reminder that parliamentarians were key to ensuring accountability in the climate crisis response. Care for Climate had contributed to the foreword of *The Parliamentarians' Guide to Climate Change* from Peers

for the Planet, a group within the British House of Lords. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Business Engagement and Innovation) of the University of Exeter, who had also worked on the Guide, had agreed to publish a parliamentarians' global guide to climate change and climate solutions alongside the IPU for launch at COP30. She asked Ms. Tolentino what inclusive climate leadership looked like, and how parliamentarians should ensure the voices of young people and the most vulnerable were heard.

Ms. A. Tolentino (Care About Climate), panellist, said that parliamentarians could join the climate movement and learn about climate policy and advocacy to facilitate creating paths forward. In that regard, Care About Climate had shared a multilingual climate policy and advocacy course on its website and launched the NDC equity tracker which was the only climate analysis tool to assess NDCs for intergenerational justice and gender equity from a youth perspective. Since 2021, the tool had provided some 100 evaluations and 400 recommendations, and Care About Climate had partnered with governments to provide training on NDCs and outcomes and create more inclusive policies.

Inclusivity involved co-creating, co-implementing and co-evaluating the future. There must be funding for and partnerships with youth-led organizations, feedback loops for youth to evaluate climate action and identify where adaptation was most necessary, and for widespread climate education through schools, awareness campaigns and government websites. Everyone must be informed in order to tackle climate change, and inclusivity must be a benchmark for climate ambition and action.

The Executive Director of Care About Climate had two rules. The first was to recognize when to speak up and know when to make space for others, especially the marginalized. That rule could be implemented by allowing young people to invite guests to meetings and by uplifting voices that were not usually heard. The second rule was to always make room at the table. Inclusive processes were never complete, and parliaments and institutions must build spaces that were open to new voices, particularly from young people and vulnerable communities. Those spaces could include youth climate councils with decision-making power or community-informed participatory budgeting processes. It was also important to change perceptions of vulnerability; denying young people power, resources and access to spaces that contributed to development had manufactured their vulnerability. Parliamentarians must help restructure systems so that the most vulnerable co-created solutions. She was grateful to Ms. Ellis for uplifting young people's voices to ensure decision-makers understood the stakes for them.

The Moderator said that she had completed the excellent Care About Climate policy and advocacy course and that it was very useful to track the NDCs in terms of gender and youth participation. The Earthshot Prize partners had worked with parliamentarians to add climate education to NDCs.

She asked Mr. Seruiratu what solidarity from the global parliamentary community meant for him, and how he saw it translate into support for frontline countries.

Mr. I. Seruiratu (Fiji), panellist, said that the 146th IPU Assembly, the first that he had attended, had given him hope. The IPU Assemblies enabled decision-makers and legislators to meet and he was hopeful that they could expedite the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process, which was facing many obstacles, rather than focus solely on sustainable development. Parliaments bridged international commitments – particularly those made in 2015 through the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Paris Agreement – and local action. Global parliamentary solidarity meant honouring those international commitments and upholding multilateralism, and parliamentarians guaranteed accountability and amplified voices. Smaller states had high hopes for multilateralism which was currently under threat and without which their concerns would be overlooked.

Parliamentarians could translate that solidarity into legislation that supported those on the climate frontlines. For example, Fiji had enacted the Climate Change Act 2021, and developed relocation and climate adaptation policies. Budgetary allocations were very important and developed countries must honour commitments to provide much-needed funds to vulnerable communities. There was also a great need for climate technology, an example of which was two solar panel farms in Tahiti, and best practices.

The Moderator said that photovoltaics were precisely the kind of innovation that should be shared because that technology adapted to and mitigated climate change. The IPU secretariat would receive best practice case studies, including through the World Economic Forum, for parliamentarians to share.

She asked Mr. Feingold to explain how policies to protect people and the natural resources that they depended on were enacted, and how parliamentarians could ensure stable policies when changes in governments could swiftly reverse course on previous commitments.

Mr. R. Feingold (Campaign for Nature), panellist, said that, through his past work as a United States senator, he understood that parliamentarians had many areas of work to focus on and he had personally found conservation work the most satisfying. Regarding actions that could be taken, legislatures could pass resolutions endorsing the 30x30 goal so that citizens would know that it was a national policy, and legislatures in the Global North could pass resolutions asking for the executive branch to provide financing. Legislators could incorporate that activity into media strategies to explain the importance of nature and how they were protecting it. They could also engage with all levels of the executive branch, such as through strongly worded letters to administrative agencies, to encourage creative financing. In Germany, the publicly and privately funded Legacy Landscapes Fund had some 15 projects worldwide involving Indigenous communities in the Global South. The Fund gave US\$ 1 million annually for at least 15 years for those projects to continue provided that they produced results.

Following the United States elections in November 2024, the National Defense Authorization Act had established the United States Foundation for International Conservation, which would receive public and private funding to be sent abroad. The concept was similar to that of the Legacy Landscapes Fund and the United States of America was engaging with countries that had recently come into wealth to contribute the Foundation. Legislators should highlight the need for such funds in the Global North and the demand for them in the Global South.

Regarding ocean conservation, 75 countries had ratified the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement). The law of the sea did not cover 65% of the world's oceans, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation. It was therefore imperative that all countries ratify the Agreement. He proposed drafting an IPU resolution endorsing the 30x30 goal and international financing at future sittings of the Standing Committee.

Mr. P. Bakovic (Slovenia) said that the European Union (EU), and therefore Slovenia, had committed to strengthening efforts to combat climate change through the European Green Deal. Slovenia would become carbon neutral by 2050 and was prioritizing the energy transition, energy efficiency, reliable energy supplies and transport decarbonization. In 2023, it had adopted a long-term plan to advance the production and use of renewable energy. Financial support was available through a scheme for electricity produced from renewable sources and through the EU Cohesion Policy. Since global warming particularly impacted children, the elderly, low-income individuals and those already exposed to climate risks, Slovenia had targeted incentives to facilitate the energy transition for the most vulnerable and ensure fairness and inclusivity. There was a shared responsibility to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) because it was not yet possible to offset the environmental pressures of population growth and consumption and the continued increase in global energy use.

Mr. M. Karakaya (Türkiye) said that the impacts of climate change were increasingly devastating, particularly for children, the elderly and people with disabilities, and severely impacted Türkiye. International cooperation to combat climate change was essential. Türkiye had adopted a green transition vision and had announced a net zero emission target for 2053. It had launched a zero waste initiative that had prevented 5.9 million tonnes of emissions; passed a climate law ensuring a just transition as well as social and environmental justice and equity for the most vulnerable; established an emissions trading system; and updated its NDCs to cover its whole economy. Türkiye's candidacy to host COP31 reflected its commitment to multilateralism. Parliaments were unique in their ability to develop effective climate action and sharing best practices would help build a more sustainable world.

Mr. S. Patra (India) said that, despite representing over 17% of the global population, India had contributed less than 4% of global cumulative greenhouse gas emissions between 1850 and 2017. Climate change particularly impacted vulnerable populations in the Global South who were limited in their adaptation capacity. India was committed to protecting the vulnerable and prioritizing their needs, and ensuring no one was left behind. The Government's environmental reforms and legislative action reflected its commitment to low-carbon development and climate resilience. Its environmental policies balanced economic, social and environmental priorities, though disasters could disrupt that balance. Disaster preparedness, resilient infrastructure and community engagement were vital. Climate justice and global warming were intertwined, and equity must be central to decision-making.

Ms. E. Panova (North Macedonia) said that 2025 was a pivotal year when nations submitted updated NDCs which must be ambitious, dynamic and inclusive. Inclusivity required listening to those on the frontlines who had indispensable climate adaptation knowledge. Over the previous 20 years, North Macedonia had experienced devastating floods, torrential rains and heatwaves. Without decisive action, climate change could cost up to 4% of the gross domestic product (GDP) by 2050 which was devastating for a country pursuing EU integration and for its most vulnerable inhabitants. The Parliament had built consensus around climate actions, worked to integrate climate considerations into national and sectoral planning procedures, and ensured policies on agriculture, water management, health and infrastructure considered vulnerable populations. Parliaments must speak up for the voiceless and the urgency of the moment demanded change.

Ms. Pham Thi Hong Yen (Viet Nam) said that, given its particular vulnerability to climate change, Viet Nam had passed the Law on Environmental Protection, strengthened climate policy implementation oversight, and ensured that national budgets prioritized resilient infrastructure, renewable energy and ecosystem restoration. It was implementing a social protection policy to support livelihoods, resettle displaced populations, protect vulnerable groups and ensure no one was left behind, as well as promoting parliamentary diplomacy for green development and enhancing international cooperation to achieve net zero emissions nationally by 2050. Effective coordination between parliaments, governments and people, alongside human-centred policies, was key to transforming commitments into concrete actions. The IPU Member Parliaments must strengthen legislative oversight, allocate resources, develop a just energy transition, ensure that vulnerable countries and communities receive adequate financial, technological and capacity-building support, and strengthen parliaments' role in developing a global legal framework for a greener, safer and more humane future.

Mr. R. Zare (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the climate response must be comprehensive, science-based and cooperative, and must consider national conditions and capacities. Climate policies must simultaneously address environmental, economic and social factors. Stakeholders, international organizations, the private sector and scientific institutions must contribute to the climate response, as must local people whose deep understanding of their environment would ensure effective and sustainable plans. Having contributed the most to the climate crisis, developed countries were morally and legally responsible for providing technology transfers, financial assistance and capacity-building to developing nations. That support must be transparent, consistent and fair. Parliaments could pass legislation, oversee work towards national commitments and encourage international cooperation.

Ms. Lyu Zhongmei (China) said that climate change presented a common challenge to humankind. Since the announcement of the carbon peaking and neutrality targets in 2020, China had established a "1+N" policy framework to build the world's largest and fastest-growing renewable energy system and form the most extensive new energy industrial chain. China supplied 80% of photovoltaic modules and 70% of wind power equipment globally, decreasing renewable energy costs. It accounted for more than half of the global fleet of new energy vehicles and had the fastest and largest growth in green coverage worldwide. It had signed memorandums of understanding on South-South cooperation with 42 developing countries; launched almost 100 mitigation, adaptation and cooperation projects; and delivered some 300 climate capacity-building programmes. China had enshrined ecological civilization in its Constitution and established the Beautiful China Initiative. Work was under way to unify some 30 laws and 100 administrative regulations into a national ecological and environmental code.

Mr. A. Kitthananan (Thailand) said that Thailand, which was particularly climate-vulnerable, stood in solidarity with nations disproportionately affected by climate change. Thailand's latest NDCs pledged a 109 million-tonne reduction in emissions by 2035. Its national adaptation plan strengthened key sector resilience through smart farming, disaster-resilient infrastructure and early warning systems, while its voluntary emission reduction programme enabled grassroots communities to earn carbon credits through mangrove restoration, agroforestry and sustainable land use. The Climate Change Act would enshrine those efforts in law and establish a support fund for the vulnerable.

To ensure that no one was left behind, parliaments must: (1) embed climate justice into laws, budgets and mandates; (2) ensure that policies delivered measurable benefits and resources reached the most vulnerable; (3) ensure youth, Indigenous people and frontline communities could shape climate policies; and (4) share legislative models, oversight tools and innovation.

Ms. S.S.F. Hashaam (Pakistan) said that global warming was a lived reality, measured not only in degrees Celsius but in human suffering. The country's devastating 2022 flood had affected over 33 million people, claiming lives and livelihoods, yet Pakistan's share in global emissions remained below 1%. However, Pakistan had demonstrated resilience and the principle of leaving no-one behind underpinned its updated NDCs. Climate change was a profound human challenge that demanded justice and inclusion. Pakistan would produce 60% of its energy from renewable sources by 2030, and it was introducing electric vehicles and restoring millions of hectares of land through reforestation and mangrove regeneration. The Benazir Income Support Programme had provided some 10 million women with recovery funds, and the provincial government in Sindh was building 2.1 million climate-resilient homes for flood-affected families and giving ownership of those homes to women.

Mr. B.B. Nodada (South Africa) said that his country was confronting the realities of climate change, inequality and vulnerability, and had improved inclusivity and sustainability. The Climate Change Act, 2024, and the Disaster Management Act, 2002, mandated climate response plans, ensured low-emission trajectories for national development, and integrated climate risk into planning and budgeting processes. South Africa's NDCs included reducing emissions by 28% by 2030, enhancing adaptation and protecting development. In that regard, the Just Energy Transition Investment Plan was key as it promoted inclusive economic development, training and support for workers and communities affected by the low-carbon transition, and prioritized green jobs for women and youth. South Africa continued to expand its social grant system and had established small grants to finance community-based climate resilience projects. The parliamentary Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Flood Disaster Relief and Recovery oversaw the response to the devastating KwaZulu-Natal floods. Parliamentarians could help narrow the digital divide, improve infrastructure and strengthen disaster preparedness. Legislative frameworks, budget allocations and oversight mechanisms must reflect the urgency of the climate crisis and the needs of the most vulnerable.

Ms. S. Attia (Egypt) said that climate change threatened human survival and impacted all 17 SDGs. In Egypt and the Nile Delta, small-scale farmers faced shrinking yields and desertification. Women increasingly struggled to secure food and water, and children experienced malnutrition and heat-related health risks. A half-metre sea level rise could destroy a third of the delta's fertile land. Parliamentarians must ensure climate justice in legislation, strengthen social protection, invest in community resilience through education, and focus on scientific research and technology. International cooperation was essential, and climate finance – including through the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage – must reach the most impacted. Developing nations must not pay for a crisis they had not created. Egypt was expanding its solar capabilities, advancing electric transport and implementing the National Climate Change Strategy 2050. Protecting the vulnerable was a measure of the collective dedication to sustainable development and human rights.

Mr. B.D. Llamanzares (Philippines) said that his country experienced over 20 typhoons annually. The latest two had devastated thousands of hectares of farmland and affected millions of people, all while efforts to recover from recent earthquakes continued. The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) reported that over 80% of disasters in the Philippines were weather-related. According to the national department of finance, climate-related hazards had cost 506 billion Philippine pesos over the previous decade. Congress was advancing bills to establish the University of the Philippines Resilience Institute; a department of disaster resilience to unify climate-related prevention, preparedness and response; and a water resource management department to centralize water governance and address flooding and droughts. Global warming was a global issue that required collective action to protect, rehabilitate and develop the world's most climate-vulnerable nations.

Mr. W.I. Shiimi (Namibia) said that climate change was destroying livelihoods and property, and disrupting economic development. In Namibia, rainfall had become erratic, causing excessive and successive droughts. The IPU and the international community must collaborate to support the green transition. Namibia was piloting projects to produce green ammonia and green iron but required support from developed countries to scale those projects. The EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism would help in that regard and he noted the Legacy Landscapes Fund. The United States of America should also provide support and he was pleased to note the establishment of the United States Foundation for International Conservation. The postponement of the negotiations to develop a net zero framework at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) was unfortunate.

Mr. I. Novikov (Russian Federation) said that his country led efforts to reduce natural gas use and implemented many climate measures through legislation. In October 2023, the Russian Federation had adopted a new climate doctrine to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. The Russian Federation also hosted the Nevsky International Ecological Congress to discuss climate change, a global issue that should not be politicized. The world should apply a well-balanced approach to resources and the green transition. As a representative of Arkhangelsk, he had witnessed the accelerated impact of global warming on the Arctic including through warm Atlantic water travelling further north. It was important to work collectively and proactively on the climate and ecology agendas.

Mr. S. Ty (Cambodia) said that rising temperatures, irregular rainfall, severe droughts and increasingly destructive floods were threatening millions of Cambodians' livelihoods, particularly those of small-scale farmers, women in rural areas and communities dependent on natural resources. Those least able to adapt were paying the highest price. Recognizing its vital role in advancing climate justice and safeguarding vulnerable peoples' rights, Parliament integrated climate resilience into national legislation, including on land use and the management of water and other resources, and disaster risk reduction policies. Despite producing less than 1% of global emissions, Cambodia had demonstrated leadership in climate governance by submitting its updated NDCs which included ambitious targets for renewable energy, reforestation and low-carbon agriculture, and aimed for carbon neutrality by 2050. Cambodia advocated for accessible climate finance mechanisms for developing countries that ensured inclusive public participation in local solutions. Parliamentarians must advocate for equity and hold governments accountable.

Ms. H. Fayez (Bahrain) said that global warming affected everyone economically, socially or environmentally, particularly the most vulnerable. Protecting those on the frontlines was a strategic responsibility that supported sustainable development and justice. The Bahraini Parliament believed in devising comprehensive climate policies that considered the most vulnerable, ensured social inclusion and guaranteed a fair climate response. Bahrain had adopted national strategies to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060 while balancing economic development with environmental conservation, to protect coastal populations from sea level rises and provide energy to all. It had also developed national capacity programmes to adapt to environmental risks and increase parliamentary participation in policymaking. As bridges between governments and local communities, parliaments must share best practices to develop common policies that supported the most vulnerable, achieved environmental justice, and enhanced sustainability nationally, regionally and internationally. Her Parliament stood ready to work with other parliaments in that regard.

Ms. C. Roth (Germany) said that parliamentarians could transform global norms into national law, hold governments accountable for humanitarian commitments, and ensure that aid-, development- and climate-related funds were not cut. Climate justice was an issue of fairness and responsibility, not charity. As a citizen of an industrialized country, she had felt the responsibility to ensure that justice when visiting countries on the climate frontlines. She proposed: (1) creating a passport – similar to the 1922 Nansen passport for stateless refugees – for climate refugees whose nation no longer existed; (2) exploring how to support women, who were more impacted by climate change yet supported food security; and (3) bringing forward climate lawsuits. The German Constitutional Court had held that the State had a constitutional duty to protect lives and physical integrity against climate-related risks, prompting many lawsuits.

Mr. R. Parmessar (Suriname) said that Suriname had 93% green coverage and was carbon negative, yet sea level rises would affect two thirds of its population. Highly industrialized countries had banned the use of harmful chemicals, such as mercury, in their own countries but continued to export them. They must forbid such exports, especially to Small Island Developing States. Countries should also use international gatherings to report their climate-related work because the large climate funds that were available did not reach Surinamese nature preservation programmes.

Mr. M. Zoltan (Romania) said that intersectoral coordination in implementing the main international environment and development conventions was necessary to tackle the climate crisis. Including citizens in the development of plans and projects would increase the chances of success and social acceptance, and mitigate the risk that the climate crisis would become a human rights crisis. Romania had increased efforts to reduce emissions and had adopted two national strategies to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and bolster its capacity to tackle climate challenges from 2024-2030. Romania was increasing its renewable energy output, particularly from wind and solar

energy, and the use of heat pump technologies. Parliamentarians must adopt measures to enhance national renewable energy strategies, reduce emissions, minimize environmental and health impacts, and foster cleaner and more efficient technologies.

Mr. F. Jitoko (Fiji) said that the issue of the displacement and relocation of Indigenous peoples not only concerned costs and the loss of living space, but also the destruction of traditional links to land, heritage and culture.

Mr. N. Wangchuk (Bhutan) said that environmental protection was a core tenet of the Bhutanese development philosophy of gross national happiness. Bhutan was carbon negative and its Constitution mandated that forests should cover at least 60% of land at all times. However, its glaciers were retreating at an alarming rate, threatening water security for millions. Bhutan therefore stood in solidarity with the parliamentary call out of a sense of duty. Parliamentarians must look beyond short-term gains, embed intergenerational justice into national laws, legislate to ensure a legacy by protecting natural capital in perpetuity, scrutinize policies through a climate and vulnerability lens to ensure that NDCs delivered equity, and empower local communities and Indigenous peoples who were the guardians of biodiversity. The world needed more wisdom, courage and parliamentary action, and the most vulnerable should be central to climate plans.

A delegate from the United Arab Emirates said that the consequences of global warming were intensifying, particularly for the most vulnerable, and parliamentarians must adopt comprehensive environmental policies to ensure justice for all. Parliamentarians could: (1) use artificial intelligence (AI) to analyse environmental data and monitor those most vulnerable to climate change to ensure effective resource allocation and justice; (2) ensure government buildings used renewable energy by 2030; and (3) support development projects, including through the private sector. Her Parliament had adopted ambitious carbon neutrality and environmental disaster policies. Investments in Masdar, a renewable energy company, and agriculture were advancing progress towards producing zero emissions and ensuring food security. The UAE Water Security Strategy 2036 reduced the impact of droughts and water scarcity.

Mr. R. Feingold (Campaign for Nature), panellist, said that, regarding Ms. Ellis' earlier question about changes in national politics, he strongly rejected the current United States administration's attitude to climate change. The damage it had caused was regrettable. However, through his work on biodiversity, he had connected with people who had similar attitudes. Working with such people could foster the understanding that biodiversity and climate change were inseparable.

Mr. I. Seruiratu (Fiji), panellist, said that it was necessary to take responsibility for climate change which affected everyone. Doing so required leadership as well as political will and commitment.

Ms. A. Tolentino (Care About Climate), panellist, noted that many delegates agreed that those who contributed the least to climate change were worst affected. She was grateful to delegates who acknowledged youth among the most climate-vulnerable groups and looked forward to progress in tackling climate change.

The Moderator urged delegates to advocate to ensure that sustainability and climate change remained central to the next IPU five-year strategy.

Preparations for the Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP30 in Brazil

A video on the near-term benefits of reducing methane emissions was screened and Ms. M.S. Al Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates), Vice-President of the Committee, took the Chair.

The Chair said that the IPU had promoted parliamentary engagement and climate change processes for over 15 years at the annual COP Parliamentary Meetings. The next such meeting, due to be held at COP30 in Belém, Brazil on 14 November, would focus on parliamentary action to reduce methane emissions. The meeting would build on ongoing IPU work to strengthen parliamentary capacity on climate change and reduce methane emissions in partnership with the Global Methane

Hub. The meeting would coincide with the COP30 Thematic Day on systems transformation and result in an outcome document. The meeting rapporteur, Mr. Costa, had already prepared a draft outcome document and delegates had until 26 October to submit written amendments. The debate would hopefully provide Mr. H. Costa, Member of the Parliament of Brazil, with additional ideas and the revised draft would be presented for adoption at the COP30 Parliamentary Meeting.

A video showcasing the Legislative Assembly of the State of Pará where the COP30 Parliamentary Meeting would be held was screened.

Mr. H. Costa (Brazil) said that the IPU had significantly contributed to public policies promoting health and combating hunger, social inequality, pollution and climate change. Regarding the latter, parliamentarians' main challenge was translating international commitments into legislation that implemented environmental policies and fostered sustainable societies. Parliamentary discussions could focus on: regulatory climate frameworks; adopting oversight and transparency mechanisms for commitments; prioritizing budgets and resources for resilient infrastructure; decarbonization; and the tension between farming and preserving and reforesting green areas.

It was time to fight for the environment and recognize that climate multilateralism presented a solution. Lawmakers played an increasingly important role through policies and as representatives of activists. Brazil had the second-largest forest cover and the richest biodiversity globally; the decision to host COP30 – an epicentre of climate protection activity – in the country was therefore significant. The COP30 Parliamentary Meeting would demonstrate parliamentarians' importance to sustaining climate change policies and include high-level discussions to secure a common legacy. In an age of adverse climate phenomena, there was no room for error. The draft outcome document provided a basis for discussion and the IPU could help reach consensus. It contextualized the climate emergency, the risks of global temperature increases such as those witnessed in 2024, the increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, and parliamentarians' previous commitments and joint actions. It also covered topics such as parliamentary oversight of NDCs and climate financing and budgets, promoting research in AI use to anticipate and mitigate natural hazards, improving collective health following extreme weather events, transitioning to renewable energies and reducing emissions.

Ms. C. Fredriksen (International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI)), recognizing the importance of oversight in climate change accountability, said that INTOSAI had supported 58 countries in auditing national adaptation plans. A joint report was due for release at the INTOSAI Congress and 29 national reports were already available. The Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions had published a regional report on government agency responses to climate-related matters in nine Pacific states. It called for governments to secure financing and expertise; improve the planning and targeting of measures; effectively implement measures through more coordinated and inclusive actions; and monitor and report intended outcomes to ensure accountability. Parliaments must engage with national audit offices to inform future actions and prepare for COP30.

Ms. B. Blasel (UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health) said that climate change was causing a global health emergency. Parliamentarians must ensure that health was central to climate policies by strengthening health systems and ensuring they were sustainable and low-carbon. Doing so would ensure the health sector could respond to climate impacts and aligned with the COP26 Health Programme. Parliamentary leadership was key to bridging climate action, health equity and sustainable development. Progress depended on lawmakers translating global commitments into national action through legislation, budget allocations and accountability mechanisms that endured political cycles. To accelerate impact, parliamentarians must share measures to reduce the health sector's carbon footprint with each other. Strong, informed and connected parliaments would protect people and the planet.

Ms. F. Bustreo (Partnership For Maternal, Newborn And Child Health (PMNCH)) said that climate change had a concerning impact on women, children and adolescent health, and welcomed the COP30 Parliamentary Meeting. The draft outcome document should acknowledge the Belém Health Action Plan and suggest ways in which parliamentarians could help implement it.

Ms. R. Abouras (Libya) said that climate change, which had caused migration, conflicts, violence and crimes, threatened societies, economies, justice and development, particularly in developing countries and countries that had endured conflicts. It was difficult to achieve economic

stability when dealing with climate challenges and ensuring post-conflict reconstruction and recovery. Therefore, Libya sought to achieve climate justice and increase climate adaptation at COP30. Parliamentarians at the IPU should launch an initiative to ensure that legislation promoted peace, security and development; upheld climate justice; and helped fund the green transition. Doing so would enable parliaments to lead in ensuring accountability and decision-making.

Mr. R. Norouzi (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that parliamentary diplomacy on climate could profoundly impact international cooperation. Parliamentarians could help design frameworks for governments to uphold international commitments and national sustainability policies, and they could ensure that measures delivered climate justice and protected future generations. COP30 represented a global opportunity to make bolder decisions and achieve greater institutional coordination. Countries worldwide must balance environmental protection with economic growth; failure to do so would have local, national and regional consequences. International cooperation, access to green technologies, sustainable financial resources, and the prevention of unilateral illegal sanctions were necessary for more effective climate action. Sanctions affected the global environment, food security and public health, creating a vicious emissions cycle. Developed countries must support and facilitate other nations' climate actions, and adopt measures to support parliamentary environmental protection activities.

Mr. J.P. Letelier (Governance Institute Andean Parliament) said that parliamentarians must urgently take action. Humankind would surpass climate tipping points before goals for 2050 could be achieved. To gain time, parliamentarians must understand that governments could not act alone. They could pass legislation to regulate methane, oil- and gas-related emissions, waste management and agriculture. Although developed countries must act, the Global South was also responsible for methane emissions. The draft outcome document should therefore emphasize the need to reduce methane emissions by 2030.

Mr. S. Ty (Cambodia), welcoming the COP30 Parliamentary Meeting, said that parliamentary engagement was critical to delivering inclusive, transparent and accountable national climate commitments. The draft outcome document should: (1) prioritize the vulnerable in less developed countries who were already severely impacted by climate change despite contributing the least to global emissions; (2) call for strong climate finance mechanisms that directly supported local adaptation and resilience, particularly for small-scale farmers, women and Indigenous communities; (3) highlight parliaments' role in overseeing NDCs and ensuring that climate policies aligned with national development goals and the SDGs; and (4) integrate youth and civil society perspectives into the parliamentary process around COP30. The COP30 Parliamentary Meeting would help highlight that climate action must be just, inclusive and people-centred.

Ms. C. Roth (Germany) said that there was no climate justice without human rights. The draft outcome document should therefore highlight the particular impact of the climate crisis on women and children, and the significant role that women played in combating climate change. It was important to discuss climate refugees, of whom there were over 40 million. Indigenous people from the Amazon should be invited to COP30 to explain how climate change was impacting them, and the possibility of collaborating with the Minister of Culture of Brazil to present artistic displays of the climate challenge should be explored.

Ms. H. Fayez (Bahrain), noting that the Parliamentary Meetings at the previous two COPs had been held in the Green Zone, asked why that would not be the case for the COP30 Parliamentary Meeting.

Mr. M. Karakaya (Türkiye) said that managing the climate crisis and building a sustainable future were among the most critical challenges of the century and required a shared and global sense of responsibility. In that regard, COPs were significant platforms for fostering multilateralism and international cooperation. Türkiye shared that sense of responsibility, continued to honour its commitments with determination, welcomed Brazil's presidency of COP30 and would actively participate in the conference. Türkiye's candidacy to host COP31 reflected its readiness to bring together different voices to find effective climate solutions.

Ms. S.S.F. Hashaam (Pakistan) said that the world had pledged almost US\$ 11 billion to help Pakistan recover from the devastating flood in 2022. However, only a fraction of that sum had reached those who remained homeless. The gap between pledges and action defined the global climate

response. At COP30, Pakistan would seek equity that was grounded in the principles of justice and shared responsibility, not generosity. Climate finance must reach those on the climate frontlines and the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage must deliver. Pakistan had legislated for renewable energy, built climate-resilient homes, gave women ownership of rebuilt homes and committed in its NDCs to cutting emissions by 60% with international support. However, no nation could rebuild while others delayed. COP30 must restore trust by measuring solidarity in terms of delivery, and ensuring fair and accessible finance and justice. For billions across the Global South, climate justice was a matter of survival.

Mr. H. Costa (Brazil) said that COP30 would host activities concerning Indigenous peoples to highlight the challenges that they faced and their proposed solutions. They were best placed to preserve and defend the Amazon rainforest because they lived in it. There would also be debates and presentations on Brazilian culture, including Indigenous culture.

The COP30 Parliamentary Meeting would take place very close to the Green Zone. To access that zone, parliamentarians must ask their delegation for credentials.

Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee

The Chair said that the candidates nominated to fill the vacancies on the Bureau of the Standing Committee were Mr. M.A. Bouchouit (Algeria) for the African Group for a first term and Mr. A. Gerasymov (Ukraine) for the Twelve Plus Group for a second term.

The nominations were approved.

The Chair said that, at the 143rd IPU Assembly, it had been agreed that there must be gender parity in the positions of President and Vice-President, and that every geopolitical group should preside over the Standing Committee at least once. Therefore, from October 2025 to October 2027, the President of the Standing Committee should be a female Bureau member from the Arab Group, and the Vice-President should be a male Bureau member from the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC). The Secretariat had received nominations for Ms. M.S. Al Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates) for President and for Mr. C.A. Rendón García (Mexico) for Vice-President.

The nominations were approved.

The President said that, given the scope of the resolution to be drafted, the Bureau proposed that the Standing Committee dedicate all of its time at the 152nd IPU Assembly to preparing and debating the resolution.

The proposal was approved.

The sitting rose at 12:25.

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

SITTING OF TUESDAY, 21 October 2025

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 09:25, with Ms. C.L. Crexell (Argentina), Vice-President of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda (C-IV/151/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary records of the Committee's session held at the 150th IPU Assembly in Tashkent (April 2025)

The summary records were approved.

The election process for the UN Secretary-General: Modalities and political underpinnings

The Chair, introducing the item and recalling that no woman had ever served as United Nations (UN) Secretary-General, said that the Bureau of the Standing Committee had decided to organize a panel discussion on the process involved in making the appointment to that position, with a focus on the gender aspect. Following background information, members would hear presentations from the participating panellists: Ms. C. Gallach, Board Secretary, Global Women Leaders (GWL) Voices; and Ms. M. Noel Leoni, Deputy Executive Director, GQUAL Campaign. A member of the Bureau would also introduce a draft motion on the subject.

Mr. A. Motter (Senior Adviser, Economic and Social Affairs, Office of the Permanent Observer of the IPU to the United Nations), accompanying his remarks with a digital slide presentation, said in providing background information that a new UN Secretary-General would take office on 1 January 2027, with hopes high for the first-time appointment of a woman to the post. The related selection and appointment process would be conducted pursuant to UN General Assembly resolution 79/327 of 5 September 2025, which was an updated version of previous resolutions on the same subject of revitalizing the work of the General Assembly. The process would be initiated during the final quarter of 2025 through a joint letter of the Presidents of the General Assembly and Security Council inviting Member States, whether individually or as a group, to nominate candidates for the post. The two Presidents would jointly inform Member States of candidatures, as and when submitted. Information relating to each nominated candidate would be publicized on a dedicated UN web page.

All candidates were required to provide a vision statement, disclose their funding sources, avoid any conflicts of interest, and participate in webcast interactive dialogues organized by the President of the General Assembly. No timeline was specified for the vote on the candidates and, while containing no rules on gender, the resolution reiterated the regret first voiced in the 2024 Pact for the Future that, in the 80 years of UN existence, no woman had ever held the position of Secretary-General, which had been occupied by nine men consecutively. There were also no rules on geopolitical rotation, although it was tacitly understood that the post should not be filled twice in succession by persons from the same region.

In accordance with Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Secretary-General would be appointed upon recommendation of the Security Council. Given that its five permanent members could each use their power to veto a candidate, the Security Council effectively had the greatest say in the selection and appointment process, especially considering that the General Assembly invariably adopted its recommendations.

Ms. C. Gallach (Board Secretary, GWL Voices), panellist, speaking via video link, said in her presentation that it was time – and both right and fair – for a woman to head the United Nations and serve as the world's top diplomat. It was, moreover, a necessity in a world full of geopolitical complexity, division, conflict and other challenges. A woman at the helm of the UN would bring a new leadership style and with it the strong and decisive approach urgently needed to transform the multilateral system.

Women leaders were accustomed to listening, building bridges, making and executing plans, and working with a multifaceted focus to drive impact and change – all essential qualities for a new UN leadership faced with so many extraordinarily difficult challenges. The matter was less one of whether a woman could lead the United Nations than one of having the right leadership to promote real systemic change, including a new cycle of appointments across the board.

The United Nations had been built on the ideal of equality and women's equal rights with men, as indicated by the language in its Charter, which was thanks to the decisive women who had participated in its foundation at the San Francisco Conference in 1945. Women had been waiting ever since to lead the United Nations and were ready to do so. A single woman candidate had first been presented for the position in 2006, whereas in 2016, women had accounted for 7 of the 13 candidates. On that occasion, the discussion around the candidates had been much more open than previously, which was an important change but with no different outcome. The time to do the right and fair thing had now come.

The Chair, thanking Ms. Gallach for her interesting and lively contribution, said that women everywhere had amply demonstrated their qualities and capabilities, including in driving political change, and that the campaign for women to assume key positions enabling them to effect global transformation and peace must continue.

Ms. M. Noel Leoni (Deputy Executive Director, GQUAL Campaign), panellist, also speaking via video link, said in her presentation that her organization was a member of the Steering Committee of the 1 for 8 Billion campaign working to promote a UN Secretary-General selection process that reflected the UN principles of inclusivity, equality, transparency and accountability. The IPU commendably recognized the critical importance of that process and the crucial role of parliaments in shaping the related criteria.

As set out in successive UN General Assembly resolutions, the rules governing the process represented hard-won gains that must be protected but required still further strengthening to encourage a change long overdue. To that end, there should be a more substantive and shared understanding of the qualifications, skills and profile required for the post so as to attract suitable candidates, guide the preparation of their vision statements, and allow the General Assembly to hold candidates recommended by the Security Council to the highest standards. Parliaments could help by determining the desired qualifications and ensuring that candidates nominated by their governments met the criteria.

Secondly, with over 90 UN Member States having already expressed strong support for the appointment of a woman, it was time for nominations to be made accordingly and for the Security Council and General Assembly to give weight to gender balance in their deliberations. A woman's appointment would speak to UN legitimacy and resonate with values enunciated in the Charter of the United Nations and other relevant instruments. The IPU Member Parliaments could contribute by urging their governments to nominate highly qualified women for the position, holding them accountable on that score, and promoting a broader discussion as to why it mattered.

Thirdly, General Assembly resolution 79/327 made no provision for any meaningful participation in the debate by civil society, parliaments or other actors. Parliaments could nonetheless question candidates in the interactive dialogues, hold hearings with them and promote wider public engagement.

The forthcoming selection process would test multilateralism and the capacity to renew the UN promise while global cooperation was under strain. It was also an opportunity to reveal trust, democratize global governance and show that the United Nations could lead by example, with parliaments serving as powerful allies in the effort to secure an appointment reflecting the world's demands for transparency and equality.

The Chair, thanking Ms. Noel Leoni for sharing her proposals, said that parliaments should as far as possible seek to carry out the suggested actions to promote the appointment of a woman as UN Secretary-General.

Ms. S. Atallahjan (Canada), member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee, panellist, presenting a draft motion entitled *Electing the first woman to the post of UN Secretary-General*, said that the draft highlighted the view that it was time to select a woman as the next UN Secretary-General after 80 years in which the position had been held nine times by men. While the Pact for the Future and General Assembly resolution 79/327 noted the importance of due regard for gender balance and regretted that there had never been a woman Secretary-General, neither directly appealed for a

woman to be selected in 2026. Although having no immediate say in the selection process, parliamentarians could, through the IPU, offer a parliamentary perspective and express their collective view, which was the intent of the draft motion.

The motion called for two significant actions from the IPU Member Parliaments, in particular those from Latin America and the Caribbean, a region considered next in line for the position on the albeit unofficial basis of geographical rotation. First, they should hold briefings to take stock of the modalities and timings for the selection and appointment process; and secondly, they should engage with their governments to initiate a search for a large pool of women candidates from among the many equipped to hold leadership roles. In the coming months, there was much to be done to express the parliamentary voice on the important and consequential selection process in 2026. To date, one man and two women had put their names forward as potential candidates.

In conclusion, she requested support for the draft motion but with the amended title of *Recommendation to elect the first woman to the post of UN Secretary-General*.

The Chair thanked Ms. Ataullahjan for her tremendous contribution to the Committee's work with the draft motion, which was supported by the Bureau, and invited discussion from the floor.

Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium), after noting that women's representation in high office still often left something to desire, said that the amendment to the title of the draft motion was a welcome improvement on the original, which had made the appointment of a woman appear obligatory, whereas it was rather a matter of appointing the best candidate from among the available pool of men and women candidates. The idea was to attract more women into that pool, which had always tended to be male-dominated, and thus provide choice as to the right candidate.

Mr. E. Bustamante (Peru) took the Chair.

Mr. S. Shamseddin Hosseini (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the achievements of UN Secretary-Generals spoke to the unparalleled importance of the position and to the qualities required to play a leading role in global governance. In recent years, however, the United Nations had sometimes failed to fulfil its paramount responsibility to defend peace and human rights, as clearly evidenced in Gaza by the genocide and by the killing of hundreds of UN staff. The Organization was expected to respond to changing needs and developments and to address shortcomings in its processes through reform.

The process for the selection of the UN Secretary-General must be transparent, fair and conducted in line with the principle of inclusive democracy and the rule of law so as to bolster trust in the institution. Alongside political experience, key qualities needed for the position, irrespective of gender, included managerial ability, interpersonal skills, independence, impartiality, competence and commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Ms. N. Altaca Kayışoğlu (Türkiye) said that, as the face of multilateral global governance, the UN Secretary-General must be highly competent, honest and committed to the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations. The selection process should also be open, inclusive, transparent, fair and egalitarian. The hope was that women candidates would come forward and be given equal consideration with men for the post.

Mr. A. El-Aaleme (Morocco) said that the real question was how to ensure that the new appointment genuinely reflected the will of the international community, as opposed to being decided by a closed-door consensus, and guarantee that the appointee would be a woman. Despite the increased transparency of the selection process, the final decision still remained with the Security Council where its five permanent members had the veto power. In the resulting imbalance, the General Assembly was distanced and national parliaments also marginalized. The selection criteria, moreover, were somewhat vague or based on geopolitical considerations rather than on competence or UN priorities.

Steps over the coming 18 months should comprise discussion of the selection criteria by the UN General Assembly and national parliaments; public hearings with candidates before the IPU; circulation of assessment reports to governments and the public; and an inter-parliamentary campaign promoting the nomination of women for the post. With the selection process symbolizing the international system and democracy, the more transparent, equitable and accountable it was, the stronger and more legitimate the United Nations would be. The parliamentary role was to translate that principle into practice.

Ms. S. Kheng (Cambodia), noting that her country had under the blue UN flag found precious peace after tragedy and despair, said that such peace was nonetheless fragile and must be nurtured through cooperation, dialogue and respect for international law. Recognizing enduring peace as the foundation for development, equality and dignity, Cambodia remained firmly committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes and advocated stronger international mechanisms for monitoring and sustaining peace in vulnerable regions. It was time for a bold and far-reaching transformation towards a United Nations that reflected current reality and future challenges, with all countries equally heard and respected. The institution would then be equipped to prevent conflict, protect peace and restore hope to post-war nations and to communities striving for equality and justice.

Mr. B. Albinmohammed (Bahrain) said that, despite their qualities, UN Secretary-Generals had too often been unable to fulfil their goals and desires. The matter was not, however, one of improving the selection criteria; rather, it concerned the overall lack of UN enforcement mechanisms and of balance between heavyweight interests and the UN mandate. To discharge their role effectively, UN Secretary-Generals should be vested with greater autonomy and have those mechanisms at their disposal. Funding issues also gave rise to complications stemming from the gap between the participation of Member States and their interest in what should be an equal international institution for all. It would be instructive to hear the panellists' views on how to address such shortcomings.

Ms. K. Sehrawat (India) said that, as chief administrative officer and the public face of the United Nations, its Secretary-General played a crucial role in preventive diplomacy, peace and security and international cooperation. The appointee must embody the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and remain deeply committed to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. The selection process for indeed all senior UN positions must be open, transparent and inclusive. The introduction of vision statements and formal dialogues with Member States and the public would significantly enhance accountability and trust in the institution. Such gains would furthermore enhance the legitimacy of the chosen leader and bolster UN credibility. Support for ensuring a truly representative and merit-based process reflecting the will of the international community must continue.

Mr. H. Obeidat (Jordan) said that the Security Council needed radical reform to allow the UN Secretary-General to act without pressure or influence, especially with so many States marginalized. The United Nations had proved incapable of stopping ethnic cleansing, genocide, war and starvation, a point in question being Gaza, where matters had improved thanks only to the intervention of specific countries. Rather than the formalities entailed in the appointment of the UN Secretary-General, the focus should be on compatibility with the noble UN principles relating to equality and women's empowerment. It was fundamentally right and imperative for women to access the highest positions. Questions remained, however, around the potential risks associated with certain proposals and around the achievement of a reform that was not a genuine structural reform to expand the membership of the Security Council.

Mr. M. Almheiri (United Arab Emirates), after recognizing the proven track record of women in other high positions, said that the appointment of a woman Secretary-General would hopefully bring about the desired change. Irrespective of gender, however, any appointee to the position would encounter the same obstacles as long as the same mechanisms and structures remained in place and major powers continued to lack belief in the institution. As to parliamentarians, they wanted better and increased engagement with the UN Secretary-General and in all major UN events other than just the High-level Week of the General Assembly.

Ms. T. Chaisang (Thailand) said that empathy and diversity were not weaknesses but the foundation of good leadership. Along with gender balance, both had now been added to the standard requirements for UN leadership: competence, integrity, independence and a steadfast commitment to the Charter of the United Nations. Thailand strongly supported the call for qualified women candidates to be actively considered for the position. A woman's appointment would make history and embody the equality and inclusiveness championed by the United Nations. Parliamentarians must encourage open debate on nominations for the position, while the new incumbent must inspire universal trust and lead with vision, courage and moral authority. Eighty years on, the United Nations should show the world that leadership had no gender.

Ms. L. Nyelele (Zimbabwe) said that her Parliament's engagement in parliamentary diplomacy was guided by, among others, the African Union's Ezulwini Consensus calling for reforms to democratize the UN system, including the process for selecting the Secretary-General, which was overly influenced by geopolitical interests and lacked regional balance. African representation was persistently lacking, despite the continent's pivotal role in peacekeeping and development, and the modalities of the selection process were largely dominated by the veto-wielding members of the Security Council. Africa advocated a merit-based process prioritizing competence, integrity and regional rotation over political bargaining. The upcoming race for the next Secretary-General presented a unique opportunity to embrace reform and reimagine the UN leadership. In that vein, the regional rotation for the post could be formalized to make the United Nations more representative, accountable and responsive to the needs of all regions, especially the Global South.

Ms. C.L. Crexell (Argentina) resumed the Chair.

Mr. C.-I. Corendea (Romania) wondered with reference to geographical rotation why an Eastern European candidate was not considered next in line for the post of Secretary-General.

Mr. Xin Xiangyang (China) said that, in the pursuit of his objectives, the present UN Secretary-General had won wide recognition and praise, setting a high standard for his successor, who would determine the future direction to be taken by the United Nations in the interest of its Member States, including those from the Global South. China supported the appointment of a highly qualified woman candidate, which would resonate with Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) aimed at the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment and at boosting women's leadership. Broad political experience, excellent diplomatic skills, impartiality and fairness were among the qualities required in the appointee, who must furthermore understand and prioritize the concerns and interests of developing countries, be resilient to pressure, and remain principled in leading the United Nations through challenges towards a brighter future.

Mr. W.I. Shiimi (Namibia) said that his country respected gender equality and would wholeheartedly support the appointment of a woman as UN Secretary-General. It was essential, however, to adopt a united approach and avoid any division that might occur if it was argued that a woman would do a better job than a man. Also to be encouraged was a transparent process, with women nominated on merit and not because of their gender. His question was whether any region had priority when it came to the appointment.

Mr. S. Kose (Sweden), thanking Ms. Ataullahjan for her important initiative, said that it was a reminder that the question of who led the United Nations was not to do with rules but with values and the kind of world that nations aspired to build together. It was indeed time to appoint a woman to the position – not as a token act but as a promise kept, because equality was a right and not a gift. A transparent and merit-based process mattered for building trust and for strengthening the United Nations on which the world depended. Parliaments, through the IPU, were the democratic link between people and global institutions, carrying the voices of those who believed that fairness was stronger than force. He asked what practical steps parliamentarians could take to ensure a truly open and merit-based selection process; and how the United Nations could move from words to action so that its leadership reflected the diversity and equality for which it stood.

Mr. W.M. Douglas (South Africa) said that the world's most important multilateral institution could not claim moral authority while its leadership was chosen through a process with limited transparency and minimal input from the General Assembly, contradicting the very principles of democracy and equality that it espoused, especially in terms of gender representation. In 2025, South Africa had co-facilitated a zero draft resolution proposing a series of reforms to that process, an issue on which parliaments worldwide should actively engage with governments and demand transparency from their Security Council representatives. Parliaments should also build cross-regional coalitions for reform, champion women candidates, and monitor the implementation of any reforms adopted. It was both their right and responsibility to ensure a selection process meeting twenty-first century standards. His question was whether Africa, with its high population of youth and women, should not qualify to represent future generations and play a role in critical future development.

Mr. D. Laouhingamaye (Chad), welcoming the draft motion, said that efforts should be focused on the Security Council and its five veto-holding members with the aim of ensuring that only women candidates were put forward, as had happened in the elections for the current IPU President, guaranteeing that a woman would win.

Ms. C. Gallach (Board Secretary, GWL Voices), panellist, speaking via video link, said in response to the discussion that the contributions throughout had been very encouraging in their evidently strong support for the appointment of a woman as UN Secretary-General. Alongside the Security Council, the General Assembly was, too, an important forum with a decisive role in the matter and deserved attention from parliamentarians. In addition to both those forums, the GWL Voices campaign of rotation for equality would focus on civil society, which also had a fundamental role in influencing the final decision.

Concerning the process, transparency was a particularly important aspect to pursue in line with the emphasis in General Assembly resolution 79/327, which called for strengthened transparency between the General Assembly and the Security Council. The dialogues with candidates were also important and among the vital practical steps that parliamentarians could take vis-à-vis their governments towards enhancing the process.

A GWL Voices report confirmed the negative picture of women's representation in the multilateral world, having found that that only 7% of all permanent representatives to the United Nations were women and that 19 organizations within the UN system had never had a woman in charge. If Member States could be influenced to appoint a woman Secretary-General, the impact on women's presence in top UN positions would positively further the aim of creating more representative, fairer and more transformative multilateral structures.

Ms. M. Noel Leoni (Deputy Executive Director, GQUAL Campaign), panellist, speaking via video link, said that the interventions heard were indeed encouraging and revealed the commitment to a selection process embodying all the features highlighted in the discussion. As to the concerns expressed around structural reform and other challenges, they were not necessarily for the UN Secretary-General alone to resolve but also required States to join in exploring solutions.

Interactive dialogues were a key opportunity to engage with candidates, learn more about their qualifications, positions and visions, and ask hard questions. Ultimately, however, what mattered was the support of States for the elected candidate and their recommitment to multilateralism and its values. Parliaments had a pivotal role to play in the process as representatives of the people also served by the United Nations. In closing, she re-emphasized her earlier remarks on ways of enhancing that process and contributing to the discussion on the appointment of a woman Secretary-General as an important transformative measure befitting of current times.

Mr. A. Motter (Senior Adviser, Economic and Social Affairs, IPU), panellist, said that he would circulate the motion, as presented, to the UN General Assembly to make it heard loud and clear within UN Headquarters in New York.

The Standing Committee unanimously adopted the draft motion, as orally amended, by a show of hands.

The sitting rose at 11:10.

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2025

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 15:05, with Ms. C.L. Crexell (Argentina), Vice-President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

UN80: A most ambitious and far-reaching makeover for the UN system as a whole

The Chair, after drawing attention to the information on the UN80 initiative contained in the agenda set out in document C-IV/151/A.1, introduced the panellists whose presentations would set the stage for the ensuing discussion: Mr. G. Ryder, United Nations (UN) Under-Secretary-General for Policy, Chief Coordinator of the UN80 initiative; Mr. P. Linnér, Programme Director, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation; and Ms. B. Adams, Board Chair, Global Policy Forum.

Mr. G. Ryder (UN Under-Secretary-General for Policy, Chief Coordinator of the UN80 Initiative), speaking via video link, said in his presentation that the UN80 initiative launched by the UN Secretary-General in March of 2025, the 80th anniversary year of the United Nations, was a widescale

attempt to reform and modernize the UN system. With the multilateral space under considerable pressure, the geopolitical challenges were substantial and had tested the effectiveness, if not the credibility, of the institution's response capability. Another challenge was the acute liquidity crisis resulting from the failure of certain major UN contributors to pay their financial dues. More generally, the United Nations also faced a values crisis in terms of whether international cooperation remained the preferred option of Member States and parliaments in the face of the increasingly prevalent "my country first" discourse, which was essentially incompatible with effective multilateralism.

The first of the three UN80 workstreams was focused on making system-wide efficiencies to increase synergies, reduce duplication and harness modern communication technologies to beneficial effect. By the end of 2025, the General Assembly would conclude its major discussion on the proposed programme budget for 2026, which comprised a 15% cut in the budget of the UN Secretariat, entailing a 19% reduction in posts and representing the effort to improve and economize. In addition to downsizing, the workstream was a strategic attempt to invest in what mattered most and deprioritize in areas requiring economies.

The second workstream related to the implementation of the mandates included in resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and the Economic and Social Council, amounting to date to some 40,000 in all. An inter-governmental group was conducting an in-depth review of those mandates to examine how they were created and delivered, determine their effectiveness, impact and relevance, and retire those since duplicated or overtaken by events, with the findings due by the end of March 2026. A substantive advancement of that workstream would represent a major reset in the UN approach to its work by creating a refocus on priorities, stripping out unnecessary bureaucracy and increasing impact for those whom it served. Generating the most attention and intensive consultations was the third workstream involving the identification of UN structures and programmes that could be merged, retired or realigned to those same ends.

Opinions of those workstreams differed among Member States, with some favouring a higher level of ambition in the proposals tabled and others arguing for a full reinvention of the UN system. While far from obvious, a major reorganization would entail bringing the 193 Member States into alignment to overcome the deep geopolitical divisions conditioning UN work. With the Secretary-General approaching the final year of his mandate, the process of selecting his successor would be ongoing throughout 2026, when the political decisions of Member States would significantly influence the progression or possible redirection of the UN80 initiative.

Mr. P. Linnér (Programme Director, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation), also speaking via video link, said that the success of humanity in creating the United Nations came with a responsibility to safeguard and support the Charter of the United Nations and its principles, without which it could no longer survive. As national legislators and democratic watchdogs, parliamentarians had their own special responsibility to keep abreast of UN developments, help shape the Organization towards maximum possible efficiency and transparency, and ensure that it received all agreed funding in terms of both quantity and quality, comprising minimums of 30% earmarked, 15% unearmarked and 30% pooled funding; all three main targets set for 2027 in the UN Funding Compact were already far off course.

Many small and medium-sized Member States were already heavily engaged in the UN80 initiative, to which his foundation had also offered support. The engagement of parliamentarians with their respective foreign ministers and constituencies would greatly add to the inclusivity of the process. The United Nations was for all humanity and must help to safeguard its normative role and functions in line with its Charter.

Despite the liquidity crisis, UN officials and leaders should avoid overly focusing on the immediate staff cuts and instead remain principled and centred on where the United Nations brought the greatest impact on the ground for its beneficiaries. In that connection, parliamentarians also had an important role to play in monitoring and engaging with the United Nations in their home countries.

Ms. B. Adams (Board Chair, Global Policy Forum), speaking via video link, said that the advent of UN80 was a key time to consider UN funding in terms of both quantity and quality, examine priorities and challenge Member States collectively to ensure that the United Nations was equipped to discharge its mandate and respond to present and future crises. The quality of available resources could be significantly improved through measures to redress existing funding imbalances, the first relating to earmarking. Between 2010 and 2023, earmarking as a percentage of total UN resources had doubled and now accounted for almost two thirds of spending on development cooperation. In addition to aggregate contributions, parliaments could assess distribution to determine whether

funding was core funding or tightly earmarked for specific agencies and programmes. Without the larger percentage, the United Nations would become increasingly more focused on crisis response and increasingly less focused on enhancing its crisis prevention capacity.

The second imbalance requiring closer scrutiny related to operational activities for development, which covered long-term sustainable development and responses to disaster- or crisis-driven humanitarian crises. It would be preferable, however, if the UN80 initiative should place the latter in a separate category, the reason being that the humanitarian response was steadily and relentlessly overwhelming the contribution towards the former.

The third imbalance resided in the fact that the top five UN Member State contributors provided 38% of total UN revenue, with a total of 48% provided by the top 10. Parliaments could usefully ascertain at what point their respective countries generally paid their UN contribution. In 2025, a total of 136 had done so by the end of the third quarter but 57 still had unpaid dues, which should be considered in the light of the current UN liquidity crisis and the pressures on budget management. In monetary terms, the contributions already paid accounted for approximately three fifths of the regular budget. The unpaid two fifths were mainly down to one major contributor and a few others still owing very large amounts.

In conclusion, efforts to fix those financial aspects of the equation by way of a much more detailed understanding and accountability in national settings, in respect of how Member States were funding and supporting UN multilateralism, were an essential part of the reform. The intention was to reshape the United Nations so that it reflected the interests of all UN Member States, as opposed to the few.

The Chair invited comments and questions from the floor.

Mr. C.-I. Corendea (Romania) said that the United Nations faced the daunting task of addressing global challenges on a reduced budget, all while expectations on it continued to grow and financial and political support slackened. Its regular and peacekeeping budgets were miniscule compared with national expenditures, and financial predictability was undermined by factors relating to contributions, making long-term planning difficult and weakening the Organization's ability to respond swiftly to emerging crises.

Despite the fiscal squeeze, the United Nations could remain effective and deliver by prioritizing areas where it had unique legitimacy, embracing networked multilateralism, modernizing and employing innovative financial mechanisms. UN effectiveness, however, reflected the priorities of Member States, in particular the major powers dominating the Security Council and contributing the bulk of funding. Along with renewed commitment to collective action, that effectiveness depended on the political will and courage of Member States to revitalize multilateralism in a fragmented world.

Mr. S. Shamseddin Hosseini (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the first key challenge for the United Nations related to structural inefficiency, exemplified above all in the Security Council, where the influence and disruptive political behaviour of certain permanent members negatively affected its legitimacy and credibility. The second related to its ability to respond effectively to new global threats and realities, with decline in public trust another major concern. Member States must join in holding countries to account for their role in the institution's dysfunction. Action was needed to replace discriminatory privileges such as the veto power with more democratic decision-making; redefine the concept of multilateralism; reform the institution's financial mechanism to ensure independence from influence; increase parliamentary input to the reform process; and strengthen global solidarity.

Mr. A. Singh Thakur (India) said that the process of making the United Nations more effective, nimble and fit for purpose must go beyond financial efficiency to include functional and structural transformation through reform aimed at guaranteeing inclusive and representative decision-making, reinvigorating efforts for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring efficient resource utilization, and streamlining overlapping processes. To those ends, the fulfilment of financial obligations on time and without conditions was essential. India reaffirmed its commitment to participating constructively in the UN80 initiative, which must complement the Pact for the Future towards making the United Nations more digitally prepared, outcome oriented, people centred and accountable, including through cooperation with parliaments. The UN inability to prevent ongoing conflict undermined its credibility, highlighting the urgency of reform and the need to summon the political will to construct an institution better equipped to deliver on its mission.

Ms. S. Atallahjan (Canada), highlighting her country as the seventh largest contributor to the United Nations and as having paid its assessed contribution in January 2025, said that she would be interested to know what was meant by bringing Member States into alignment and what impact its shrinking reserves would have on the Organization's work.

Mr. G. Ryder (UN Under-Secretary-General for Policy, Chief Coordinator of the UN80 initiative), speaking via video link, said in reaction to the discussion that the challenges faced by the United Nations had three dimensions. The first was financial and related to the fact that nearly one half of the regular budget to which all Member States were obliged to contribute was covered by just two Member States, whose rivalry conditioned life at the United Nations. With one not paying its contributions in full and on time and the other paying nothing, the UN financial situation was inevitably precarious and vulnerable. In addition, some of the voluntary contributions accounting for 80% of UN funding had in 2025 been brutally reduced without warning, with dramatic consequences for the Organization's humanitarian work and financial sustainability. The present funding system, however, was based on the premise that all Member States would in good faith pay their full contributions on time and not use their financial influence for political leverage. The Organization was furthermore obliged to reimburse to Member States any monies unspent from the full budget by the end of the financial year, a rule that applied even if contributions had not been received, which was a quick recipe for bankruptcy. Earmarked funding, moreover, was symptomatic of a transactional multilateralism devoid of the common purpose needed for the United Nations to be effective.

The second dimension was political in that UN difficulties could never be resolved without bona fide commitment to the multilateral system. Much could be done, however, to help Member States rebuild such commitment and their confidence in that system, currently subject to a vicious circle whereby the more the United Nations was unable to reach its full potential, the more confidence in it was eroded. The Organization was further discredited by the inability of the Security Council to reach agreed positions on crucial conflict challenges.

The third dimension related to the UN capacity to reform and eliminate duplication and inefficiency. If the Organization continued its decision-making as practised in 1945, it would come across in 2025 and beyond as outdated and inappropriate. As demonstrated in the 2024 Pact for the Future, it was integrating new and emerging issues into its work without departing from its core functions while also seeking to accelerate delivery of the SDGs through reform of the international financial architecture. The UN80 initiative was a similar demonstration of efforts to meet the challenges for change.

Concerning the impact of current financial circumstances on the Organization's work, lives were being lost to HIV/AIDS, assistance was not reaching those at risk of starvation, and troop numbers were being drawn down from peacekeeping operations. Away from the internal complexities involved in running the UN system, it was important to focus on that impact caused by decisions taken and by the behaviour of Member States.

It was vital to keep open the lines of communication and cooperation with parliamentarians, who were ideally placed to promote open discussion on the three-dimensional challenge outlined. The United Nations could test its capacities and credibility by engaging with parliamentarians and convincingly making the case for investing both politically and financially in its work. He was grateful to the IPU for affording him the opportunity to do just that.

The Chair, thanking Mr. Ryder for his contribution to the important discussion, said that the world was fortunate to have the United Nations, which, despite its shortcomings, had done incredible work over the decades to maintain international peace, meriting the efforts to improve it through reform.

Mr. A. Kitthananan (Thailand) said that the UN80 reform agenda was a bold reimagining of the UN role in a world of unprecedented challenges. With its transformative potential, the United Nations could deliver effectively, even on a reduced budget, but must become leaner and smarter while no less ambitious or compassionate. It must refocus its energy towards peacebuilding, humanitarian response and sustainable development, maintain its presence in vulnerable regions, and remain inclusive. For their part, parliaments must demand regular reporting on mandate reductions, agency mergers and cost savings to ensure an efficient, effective and accountable reform process. National priorities must also be aligned with global mandates and parliamentary diplomacy elevated with good practices shared and citizens' voices reflected in decision-making. Thailand stood ready to contribute towards such a transformation.

Mr. H. Obeidat (Jordan) said that it was essential to review the effectiveness of UN policies and approaches relating to the maintenance of international peace. The United Nations had emulated the League of Nations in failing to prevent conflict or secure the Palestinian right to self-determination and independence. Within the Security Council, the veto power was used excessively and decisions often politicized, effectively depriving many of their rights. African, Asian and Latin American States should have the equal opportunity with others to participate in the work of UN bodies. Currently, however, that work and the UN ability to provide humanitarian assistance where needed were being hampered by political interference, including from major powers holding permanent seats on the Security Council and refusing to comply with their obligations.

Ms. Lyu Zhongmei (China) said that the multiple traditional and non-traditional challenges facing the international community related to security threats, development gaps, the global governance mechanism, and rising unilateralism and protectionism. With the world in need of multilateralism and a strong United Nations, China attached great importance to the UN80 initiative and was following it closely. States withholding or delaying their contributions must be urged to fulfil their obligations. As to reform, it must seek to achieve cost reductions and efficiencies, address overlapping mandates, and enhance UN effectiveness in international affairs. It should also firmly uphold the Organization's authority and status, promote balanced progress in peace and security, development and human rights, and advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Lastly, it should remain open and transparent, consider Member States fully, especially if developing, and build wide consensus.

Mr. N.M. Hadebe (South Africa) said that certain aspects of the proposed reforms required urgent reconsideration. The impact of the proposed budget cuts on the human rights pillar was especially worrying and their timing deeply troubling. To reduce human rights capacity risked comprising investigations into atrocity crimes, weakening support for victims and offenders, undermining global standards enforcement, and signalling that human rights were negotiable rather than foundational. Reform was necessary but must strengthen – not diminish – the core UN mandate and avoid hollowing out substantive programmes, particularly those protecting the most vulnerable. The Security Council must also be transformed into a representative and transparent body reflecting Global South voices, including through permanent African representation.

Ms. N. Lusiyoma (Zimbabwe) said that Security Council reform was among the measures required to achieve meaningful progress through consensus and increase UN effectiveness in responding to complex global challenges. Africa had for decades consistently called for a more inclusive, equitable and responsible UN system reflecting the realities of a multipolar world and the aspirations of the Global South. To that end, UN80 must address long-standing imbalances, especially in the Security Council, where Africa remained underrepresented, its centrality to global peace and development efforts notwithstanding. Her Parliament's position on UN reform was guided by the African Union's Ezulwini Consensus calling for fair representation for Africa within the Security Council and in key UN positions, including that of Secretary-General, to rectify what was a historical injustice. Africa stood ready to lead and Zimbabwe to contribute towards building a new United Nations fit for purpose, justice and the future.

Ms. F. Belhirsch (Netherlands) said that the reputation of the United Nations and the multilateral framework was under pressure, with budget cuts and defunding often motivated by political opportunity or dislike of the Organization's work. Lobby groups spreading disinformation also sometimes pressurized parliaments into avoiding communication with UN organizations. Disinformation had also led to the targeting of humanitarian aid workers. She wondered how such challenges could be tackled to restore the UN reputation and the multilateral framework.

Mr. B. Akburak (Türkiye) said that the rules-based international order had always been indispensable for peace and security but was now confronted by new realities epitomized by armed conflict and regional and global power competition. The effectiveness of global governance mechanisms was consequently undermined and public confidence in multilateralism also weakened by socio-economic inequalities. The UN80 reform agenda was welcome as a vital means of creating efficient, inclusive and accountable mechanisms able to cope with challenges. The inability of the United Nations to ensure international peace and security overshadowed its praiseworthy efforts touching the lives of millions in search of a better life, and highlighted the dysfunctional nature and workings of the Security Council. Unless international law was applied equally to all, lasting peace and security would remain elusive.

The Chair asked whether any analyses were available on the proportions spent on bureaucracy as opposed to on policies and programmes.

Mr. P. Linnér (Programme Director, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation), speaking via video link, said in his concluding remarks that the UN financial challenge was indeed massive and could not be overstated. In addition to the political and reform challenges also described was the growing challenge associated with such issues as climate crisis, complex violent conflicts, and human rights violations. The hope was that the more the United Nations was squeezed on those fronts, the quicker Member States would renew momentum behind multilateralism generally and the Organization specifically. Parliamentarians had a crucial part to play in helping to build that momentum for a stronger, more effective, more transparent and more inclusive United Nations.

Ms. B. Adams (Board Chair, Global Policy Forum), speaking via video link, said in response to the discussion that reform of the Security Council had long been on the agenda, notably in regard to the number of permanent members, which had been determined at a time when there had been only 51 politically independent countries, whereas currently there were 193, which was an entirely different equation. With regard to funding, blended finance made sense as a way forward if the current opportunity was taken to reexamine the related criteria.

Concerning public support, COVID-19 and the climate crisis had taught that daily lives were influenced by faraway events, giving rise to the question of how best to represent local constituents and their daily priorities in a context of influential cross-border multilateral spaces. In addition to their advantage in financial oversight, parliamentarians were experts in dealing with wide-ranging issues affecting day-to-day living in multiple ways. Financing was clearly not the solution to the challenges facing the United Nations and could in fact block progress, depending on its direction and concentration and not least on the decision-making process. UN financing should enable the Organization to be independent of individual national priorities as well as reflecting them, which posed a difficult conundrum to which parliamentarians in their daily dealings could relate.

Concerning spending on bureaucracy, the Organization published an abundance of information, much of it still couched in UN diplo-speak but valuable in its detail for anyone looking to examine it closely and make the funding question more transparent. When approving funding for the United Nations, it was important for parliamentarians to look at the ratio between voluntary and non-voluntary funding and, within the voluntary portion, at the ratio between earmarked and core funding. They must also set standards by not earmarking more than 50% of funding before their governments had contributed to the core work.

The tiny human rights allocation within the UN budget was a long-standing issue. No longer possible to ignore, the increasing scale of inequalities and discrimination stemmed from the failure to commit to human rights, which could not be secured. A human rights-based approach grounded in all processes going forward was essential and would also directly address much of the public dissatisfaction with life and with the UN's inability to tackle its realities.

The Chair thanked the panellists for their generosity with their time and knowledge.

Ms. P. Torsney (Head of the Office of the Permanent Representative of the IPU to the United Nations) said that the motion on Security Council reform adopted by the Standing Committee in March 2024 was a readily available tool that all members could take back home to their parliaments to promote a discussion on the subject. For the Committee's session at the 152nd Assembly in Istanbul, the Bureau had decided to organize a briefing and discussion on the Article 109 campaign. The aim of the campaign was to mobilize Member States around invoking Article 109 of the Charter of the United Nations, which provided for a General Conference that was yet to happen on renewal of the Charter. The planned briefing would no doubt inspire members to further the campaign within their respective parliaments.

Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee

The Chair said that the candidates nominated to fill the vacancies on the Bureau of the Standing Committee were: for the African Group, Mr. J. Uerikua of Namibia; for the Arab Group, Ms. R.S. Alyahya of Saudi Arabia; for the Asia-Pacific Group, Ms. M.I. Marcos of the Philippines; and for the Twelve Plus Group, Ms. M. Tender of Portugal.

Ms. V. Centeno of Ecuador had been nominated to succeed her as President of the Standing Committee, with Mr. F. Al-Nouiri of Libya as Vice-President.

She took it that the Standing Committee wished to agree to the election of those candidates.

It was so decided.

Other business

Ms. P. Torsney (Head of the Office of the Permanent Representative of the IPU to the United Nations), recalling that Friday, 25 October 2025 was United Nations Day, said that the President of the UN General Assembly had, with IPU assistance, communicated a letter to all IPU Member Parliaments requesting them to celebrate the event, perhaps with the video that she had also communicated to them. For those interested in attending the forthcoming annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations in New York, the anticipated dates were 9 and 10 February 2026.¹

Other meetings that parliamentarians might seek to attend as part of their country's delegations included the Second World Summit for Social Development, to be held from 4 to 6 November 2025 in Qatar and at which the IPU would also host a Parliamentary Forum; and the 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, to be held in March 2026 in New York.

The sitting rose at 16:40.

¹ The dates were subsequently adjusted to 12 and 13 February 2026 at the request of the President of the UN General Assembly.

Forum of Women Parliamentarians

SITTING OF SUNDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2025

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 10:30 with Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, in the Chair.

Opening ceremony

The President welcomed participants to the 40th Session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. She thanked all delegations, including the men present, emphasizing that gender equality was an issue for everyone, not only for women. She expressed special appreciation for the IPU Vice-President, Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka, and the IPU Secretary General, Mr. M. Chungong, praising his leadership in promoting gender equality and noting his planned retirement in 2026.

She reflected with pride on the Forum's history, paying tribute to the women who had shaped it and advanced equality over the decades. Despite progress, the hard-won rights and freedoms of women remained under threat, demonstrating the urgent need for continued action. With women making up only 27% of parliamentarians worldwide, parliamentarians must work to increase representation and to address the harassment and violence that drove many women to resign. Equally, gender equality must be integrated into all policy areas.

The year 2025 marked three major milestones on gender equality and women's rights: the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 25th anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, and the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Forum. It was therefore a moment of reflection, recommitment and acceleration on women's issues. In that context, the IPU had launched the *Achieving gender equality, action by action* campaign advocating for ten transformative actions that parliaments and their members were urged to take to: (1) promote parity in parliament and politics; (2) encourage gender-sensitive institutions; and (3) combat gender-based violence and discrimination. She encouraged all members to join the campaign.

Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka (Poland), IPU Vice-President, said that for over 40 years, the Forum had been a driving force for gender equality, promoting women's rights and opportunities, and keeping women's perspectives and priorities high on the agenda.

In reference to the draft resolution from the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights entitled *Recognizing and supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent this practice*, she stressed that women and girls were often the primary victims of such violations – violations that were often linked to broader issues of exploitation, conflict and structural gender inequality. Highlighting the connection to human trafficking and the global responsibility to protect women and girls, she called on parliaments to create frameworks that ensured transparency, support, recognition and reparation for victims. Cooperation, clear laws and respect for international standards were needed.

The panel discussion entitled *Transforming leadership: Overcoming new challenges to gender equality* to be held later was an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of leadership, particularly women's leadership. She encouraged participants to use their experiences to mentor others and to turn barriers into bridges.

General recommendation No. 40 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems and the IPU plan of action for achieving gender parity in parliaments, adopted at the 2025 IPU Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians in Mexico, charted a path forward for women. Delegates were encouraged to support gender equality at a time when women's rights and freedoms were being questioned, including by joining the IPU campaign *Achieving gender equality, action by action*.

Adoption of the agenda (FEM/40/A.1-rev)

The agenda was adopted.

Activities to advance gender equality

Ms. M.B. Mophuting (Botswana), briefing the Forum on the recent work of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, said that, in Tashkent, the Bureau had reviewed the findings of the IPU report on sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in the Asia-Pacific region. The report had shown that over 80% of the women parliamentarians surveyed had experienced psychological violence while 60% faced online gender-based abuse – a higher percentage than in other regions.

The Bureau had tested an innovative e-safety training for women in partnership with UN Women and Australia's e-Safety Commissioner, which included practical methods and advice to promote self-protection on social media and online. It deemed the training valuable and recommended that it be made widely available.

Parliamentarians from the Asia-Pacific region were encouraged to use the report to raise awareness and break taboos around violence against women in parliament, organize events, and most importantly, implement solutions, including those proposed in the report. A new regional study on the same topics was now under way in the Americas and the Caribbean, following similar studies in Europe, Africa and Asia-Pacific. Parliamentarians were invited to contribute via confidential interviews.

The panel discussion to take place later would address the theme *Transforming leadership: Overcoming new challenges to gender equality*. It had been proposed by the Bureau, with the aim of encouraging delegates to share experiences and explore new models of women's leadership. Delegates were also invited to the parity debate entitled *Men and women MPs championing gender equality and equal care in parliament*.

Ms. S. Mikayilova (Azerbaijan), reporting to the Forum in her capacity as member of the Gender Partnership Group, said that, at the current Assembly, women were expected to make up a total of 37.1% of delegates – a figure similar to the Tashkent Assembly and higher than in the last couple of years. While progress continued, gaps in gender parity at the IPU Assemblies remained. Out of 125 delegations made up of at least 2 members, 8 were all-men and 1 all-women. There were 11 single-member delegations, 9 of which were men and 2 women delegates. In total, only 40 delegations were gender-balanced, down from 47 such delegations in Tashkent.

The Group welcomed the release of the second edition of the toolkit *Gender-Responsive Assemblies*. The toolkit, which offered guidance on how to create inclusive environments and promote women's participation, would be presented in more detail later that day.

The Group had also reviewed progress on the implementation of the IPU *Policy to prevent and address harassment, including sexual harassment, at IPU Assemblies and other IPU events*, as set out in the policy itself. Actions were being taken to make the policy more visible, and for the first time, anti-harassment training would be offered to delegates at the current Assembly. Delegates were encouraged to reach out to the Secretariat should they wish to carry out similar trainings in their respective parliaments. Since the policy's adoption two years previously, 11 incidents had been reported and protective measures had been taken in all cases. She welcomed the growing willingness of participants to report incidents, reflecting greater awareness and confidence in the IPU's response mechanisms.

Lastly, the Group would continue dialogues with delegations from countries where women represented less than 10% of parliamentarians, offering peer-to-peer support to promote gender parity.

Ms. N.B.K. Mutti (Zambia) drew attention to the 15th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament, which had taken place on 28 July 2025. Discussions had reflected deep concerns about the state of the world marked by rising polarization, declining trust in institutions and ongoing conflicts, with women and girls bearing the greatest burden while remaining underrepresented in leadership. Four key areas of action had been agreed during the summit. First, it was important to rebuild trust in democracy through inclusion – parliaments must be representative, gender-sensitive and free from violence, and women, especially young women, must be supported to exercise leadership safely and effectively. Second, gender equality must be placed at the heart of peace and security efforts, with a gender lens applied at every stage of the process and women playing leading roles in peace negotiations, humanitarian responses and recovery efforts. Third, women's leadership was central to ensuring sustainable and inclusive progress in science, innovation and digital-green transitions. Fourth, gender parity must become the norm rather than the exception given its essential role in creating democratic legitimacy and effective governance.

In that context, she invited delegates to join the *Achieving gender equality, action by action* campaign. The Forum was encouraged to continue turning commitments into concrete actions, strengthening women's voices, championing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, and mobilizing parliaments to advance peace and equality worldwide.

Ms. Z. Hilal (Secretary of the Forum) said that 2025 had been a significant year for gender equality marked by the abovementioned gender equality milestones. Despite progress, worrying trends could be observed, including rollbacks on women's rights and stagnation in women's participation in parliament. As such, the IPU had focused its attention on gender equality, having hosted several important events, including the Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians in Mexico, where a flagship plan of action for gender parity had been adopted. The plan would be submitted for adoption to the Governing Council at the current Assembly.

Other important achievements included the adoption of amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules designed to advance gender parity, and the *Achieving gender equality, action by action* campaign, which had attracted the support of dozens of parliamentarians. The IPU Secretariat stood ready to assist parliamentarians in implementing the 10 transformative actions of the campaign, including by facilitating peer-to-peer support.

Notable progress had also been made in building partnerships and coalitions, particularly with young people, civil society and women's movements. At the United Nations General Assembly, the IPU had hosted intergenerational dialogues between parliamentarians and young men and women leaders, while the 11th Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, held in Peru, had focused on gender equality.

The President thanked the Government of Mexico, particularly President Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo, the country's first woman president, for supporting the IPU Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians. The conference would become an annual event, with Serbia hosting the 2026 edition and Uruguay interested in hosting a future edition. Plans were also under way to organize regional conferences of women parliamentarians. She encouraged Member Parliaments to express interest in hosting such conferences.

Ms. I. Stamatović (Serbia) invited delegates to attend the next Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians which would take place from 2 to 4 June 2026 in Belgrade.

Contribution to the work of the 151st Assembly from a gender perspective

The President drew attention to the draft resolution from the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights entitled *Recognizing and supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent this practice*. The Forum was invited to examine the draft resolution from a gender perspective with a view to proposing amendments. The Bureau of Women Parliamentarians had nominated its member Ms. D.-T. Avgerinopoulou (Greece) as Chair of the debate and its First Vice-President, Ms. T. Vardanyan (Armenia), as Rapporteur.

The nominations were approved.

Mr. M. De Maegd (Belgium), co-Rapporteur of the draft resolution, said that illegal intercountry adoption was not merely an administrative irregularity but a grave human rights violation, disproportionately affecting women, especially single, poor, marginalized or minority mothers whose children were often taken without consent, sometimes through deceit or force. Such practices, which amounted to child trafficking, stripped children of their identity and mothers of their dignity.

It was vital to recognize the ongoing reality of the problem and affirm to victims that they were not alone. Affected women must be provided with legal, administrative and psychological support along with appropriate reparations. Access to records and DNA testing, as well as cultural reconnection programmes for victims, were also essential. Judges, police, diplomats and social workers must be trained to detect and prevent illegal adoptions.

The draft resolution, which sought to confront those issues and redress injustices, was anchored in one key principle: poverty, disability, migration status or social norms should never justify separating children from their mothers. By upholding that principle, it was possible to protect the dignity, rights and humanity of both mothers and children.

Mr. S. Patra (India), co-Rapporteur of the draft resolution, said that many families and even whole countries were unaware of the illegal aspects of adoption, particularly in the context of intercountry adoptions. He looked forward to the insights of women parliamentarians who, as mothers and sisters, were uniquely attuned to the impact of the issue on children.

Ms. D.-T. Avgerinopoulou (Greece), member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, took the Chair.

The Chair said that the following discussion aimed to examine the gender dimensions of illegal international adoptions, with the goal of drafting gender-related amendments to the draft resolution. Participants were invited to reflect on the following: (1) in what ways did illegal international adoption affect women and girls differently from men and boys; (2) how could the gender-related root causes of illegal international adoption, such as discrimination against women, particularly unmarried mothers, women from ethnic minorities and women living in poverty, be reduced; (3) under what conditions could international adoption serve the best interests of the child, particularly the girl child; (4) how could law enforcement practices in combatting illegal international adoptions be made survivor-centred and gender-responsive while keeping the best interest of the child at the core; and (5) how could parliamentary diplomacy help prevent illegal adoptions and protect victims, paying particular attention to gender dimensions.

Ms. M. Alshehhi (United Arab Emirates) proposed that operative paragraph 12 on conflict zones be amended to include a call for the needs of women and girls to be met. Given that women and girls living in such contexts were disproportionately affected by human trafficking, there was a need for targeted protection. A new operative paragraph should also be added advocating for a gender perspective to be integrated into all measures on illegal international adoption.

Ms. S. Mette (France) drew attention to the amendment proposed by France to operative paragraph 16, which called for parliaments to preserve archives relating to international adoptions. Such archives contained essential personal history for both children and families; preserving them supported transparency, helped prevent illegal adoption practices and safeguarded children's rights. Civil society echoed her position, having similarly stressed the importance of referencing archive preservation in the said paragraph.

Ms. N. Boulhan Houssein (Djibouti), strongly condemning illegal international adoptions, which destroyed identities, severed family bonds and took away the dignity of mothers, said that the draft resolution must recognize the gendered impacts of illegal international adoptions, which disproportionately impacted women and girls. There was a need to adopt targeted measures, including immediate medical and psychosocial support, simplified access to justice, restitution of identity for affected children, and systematic data collection disaggregated by sex and age. Cross-border cooperation was needed to prevent, investigate and respond to such crimes, including mandatory training for legal and social actors to prevent stigmatization and revictimization, ensure the provision of effective remedies and set out secure information exchange protocols. Parliaments should foster international cooperation and follow-up mechanisms so that words could be translated into effective, concrete action for the protection of vulnerable children and their mothers.

Ms. H. Fayez (Bahrain) said that illegal international adoption was not merely a procedural violation but a violation of identity, belonging and family that inflicted deep pain. As such, the draft resolution should be guided by three pillars: (1) recognition and equity; (2) support and justice; and (3) prevention. Recognition and equity involved recognizing illegal adoption as a form of human trafficking and restoring victims' right to identity. Support and justice meant providing psychosocial support, establishing truth mechanisms and initiating State-led processes to acknowledge harm and enable healing. Prevention required stronger legislation, enhanced transparency, robust oversight over intermediaries, effective law enforcement as well as international cooperation to facilitate information exchange and tracking of cross-border networks. Women parliamentarians, many of whom were mothers, were well-placed to champion those pillars, ensuring that adoption remained an act of love rather than trafficking.

Ms. K. Slassi (Morocco) expressed strong support for the draft resolution, emphasizing that measures to address illegal international adoption must prioritize children's rights and acknowledge how vulnerabilities were exploited, particularly against mothers and girls. She called for a threefold

approach: (1) officially recognizing victims through practical measures such as providing legal and psychological support and preserving family bonds; (2) strengthening oversight of intermediaries and adoption agencies, including by issuing proper documentation; and (3) promoting gender-sensitive transboundary cooperation, with training on gender issues provided for judges, experts and psychosocial personnel.

Ms. D.E. Mpapane (South Africa) said that women and girls continued to face systemic discrimination rooted in patriarchal norms that devalued girl children and stigmatized unmarried mothers. Discrimination restricted their autonomy over reproductive and family decisions, which in turn exposed them to the coercion, misinformation and exploitation that occurred in intercountry adoptions. In some cases, women were even denied the right to confer citizenship to their children, further deepening their disempowerment. Women from marginalized communities, particularly those affected by poverty, lack of education and social exclusion, were especially vulnerable to the above violations.

Support for victims of illegal intercountry adoption must be guided by the principles of non-discrimination and gender equality, ensuring that the specific harms suffered by women and girls, both as birth mothers and adoptees, were recognized and addressed through targeted remedies. It was particularly important to recognize the psychological trauma of coerced separation, the legal and social barriers to reclaiming parental rights and the long-term identity struggles faced by women and girl adoptees.

Preambular paragraph 16 of the draft resolution should be amended to include the term “patriarchal norms”. New operative provisions should also be introduced calling on States to: ensure that all remedies and support mechanisms for victims of illegal intercountry adoptions were gender-sensitive and upheld the principle of non-discrimination, in line with international human rights obligations; provide legal, psychosocial and economic support to birth mothers, particularly those who were coerced or misled into relinquishing their children; and remove legal barriers that prevented women from conferring citizenship and accessing justice.

Ms. S.S.F. Hashaam (Pakistan) said that her country was translating the global agenda for gender equality into binding laws and lived reality. Parliament had recently enacted the Child Marriage Restraint Act (2025), which prohibited marriage under the age of 18 for girls, thus safeguarding girls’ rights to childhood, education and choice. Other key legislative initiatives included the Thalassemia Prevention Bill (2022) and the Domestic Violence Bill (2021), aimed at ensuring women’s health, safety and dignity. In addition, the Maternity and Paternity Leave Act (2023) granted six months of maternity leave and one month of paternity leave, recognizing caregiving as a shared social responsibility. Women currently held 20% of seats in the National Assembly, with political parties promoting women’s leadership in decision-making roles. Through those reforms, Pakistan was delivering on Sustainable Development Goal 5 (gender equality) and fulfilling Pakistan’s obligations under the CEDAW Convention and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Ms. M.G. De Venecia (Philippines) said that illegal intercountry adoption was not only a violation of children’s rights but also a gendered injustice that exploited women and girls in vulnerable situations. In the Philippines and many developing countries, the majority of biological parents relinquishing children were women – often young, unmarried and living in poverty – pressured by social stigma, misinformation or economic hardship and unable to give free and informed consent. Both mother and child became victims: the former lost her child, and the latter lost their identity, nationality and family ties. The gendered roots of the issue must be addressed. Parliamentarians were encouraged to challenge discriminatory norms, strengthen social protection for women in crisis and combat poverty. Evidence suggested that expanding income support programmes for women reduced voluntary child relinquishment.

Intercountry adoption should occur only when domestic care options were exhausted, and must be transparent and free of coercion or profit. She called for legislative measures such as mandatory cooling-off periods, independent verification of consent and public audits of adoption agencies. Law enforcement responses must be survivor-centred and gender-responsive, and affected mothers and adoptees should have access to support services, including legal aid, counselling and identity restoration. Parliamentary diplomacy was vital to promoting accountability and global safeguards through mechanisms such as bilateral tracing and data-sharing.

Ms. V. Techateerawat (Thailand) said that illegal intercountry adoption affected women and children differently and often arose from discrimination and harmful social norms. Many mothers, particularly those who were young, poor, unmarried or from minority groups, were pressured to

relinquish their children, while girls were at risk of sexual exploitation and boys of child labour, both losing their families, cultures and identities. She strongly supported the draft resolution which addressed those gender-related root causes.

Her Parliament had acceded to the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption and strengthened national laws, including the Child Adoption Act (1979) and the Anti-Human Trafficking Act (2008), to ensure that all adoptions followed legal procedures and served the best interests of the child. The Anti-Human Trafficking Act (2008), which penalized the use of adoption as a way to exploit children, was gender-sensitive, recognizing that girls and boys faced different risks and ensuring equal protection for both. Parliamentary committees actively monitored adoption processes to ensure transparency, genuine consent and accreditation of agencies, while also reviewing cases, providing legal aid and supporting mothers in crisis to address the root causes of illegal adoption such as poverty and discrimination.

Thailand called for survivor-centred and gender-responsive practices, emphasizing that adoption of children from ethnic groups must respect their right to preserve their cultural and ethnic identity. There was a need for child protection measures in conflict zones, including school-based awareness campaigns, youth networks and use of diverse media platforms to combat trafficking. Overall, adoption must never serve as a cover for trafficking but rather remain a legal, transparent and ethical process that protected children and respected the dignity of women.

Ms. M. Valente (Angola) said that illegal international adoption was a serious human rights violation, disproportionately affecting women and girls, particularly mothers in vulnerable situations, who were losing their children through coercion, fraud or misinformation. Supporting the draft resolution would help transform norms into action and ensure that international adoption remained an act of love rather than commerce. She proposed stronger mechanisms for investigating networks, agencies and individuals profiting from illegal adoptions, with special attention to those exploiting women's vulnerabilities.

While Angola had introduced national measures against human trafficking, a central body was needed internationally to ensure registration, accessible psychological, legal and social support for victims, and a gender-sensitive approach. The resolution should include specific provisions to protect affected women and children and hold perpetrators accountable.

Ms. K. Sehrawat (India) said that the drivers of illegal intercountry adoption were multifaceted and deeply rooted in political, legal, social, cultural and environmental contexts at both the national and international levels. India, a signatory to the Hague Convention, had entrusted its Central Adoption Resource Authority with regulating and overseeing ethical and lawful adoptions. The Juvenile Justice Act (2015) and Adoption Regulations (2022) safeguarded the rights of vulnerable children, while constitutional provisions and laws against human trafficking and exploitation of minors provided broader protections. Social initiatives such as one-stop centres offering legal, medical and psychological support to violence-affected women, and a 24-hour women's helpline further reflected India's commitment to the welfare, protection and empowerment of women.

She drew attention to the rise of international commercial surrogacy, noting that in the absence of global regulations, such practices risked facilitating child sales and illegal adoptions. India's Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021 restricted surrogacy to once per woman's lifetime to prevent exploitation. Delegates were urged to translate their discussions into concrete actions.

Ms. M.M. Chinomona (Zimbabwe) said that illegal adoption was not gender-neutral, with women and girls disproportionately affected – either as vulnerable birth mothers coerced into relinquishing their children or as girls trafficked under the guise of adoption. Poverty, gender inequality and limited access to justice further compounded their vulnerability. Responses must therefore be grounded in a gender-sensitive approach. Parliaments had a duty to ratify and implement international instruments such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Hague Convention paying particular attention to gender vulnerabilities. Equally, they must enact transparent national laws that regulated adoption procedures and protected against exploitation.

Zimbabwe had ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990, and in June 2025, its cabinet had approved the ratification of the Hague Convention. The rights of women and children, including protection from exploitation and abuse, were also guaranteed in the Constitution. Noting that parliamentary oversight was critical in protecting women and girls from illegal adoption, she supported the call, noted in the draft resolution, for parliaments to investigate the drivers of illegal adoption and ensure justice for victims. Parliaments were encouraged to forge partnerships with a view to sharing information, harmonizing legal standards and coordinating enforcement efforts.

Ms. R. Alyahya (Saudi Arabia) said that the draft resolution should more strongly integrate gender equality norms, aligning with the CEDAW Convention and the Beijing Declaration, to better protect women and girls from exploitation and coercion. Women's rights organizations, gender equality institutions and affected mothers themselves must be consulted in designing national frameworks. International cooperation on the issue was needed and international and regional bodies should incorporate gender perspectives into their work on cross-border adoption. Regular reporting on the gender dimensions of adoption was recommended, as illegal adoptions disproportionately affected girls. Clear policies should be introduced to empower affected women and girls to seek justice, representation and rehabilitation.

International adoption could benefit children only when conducted ethically, transparently and as a last resort, after all family reunion and domestic care options were exhausted. The adoptive family must be able to provide a secure and nurturing environment – including access to education and healthcare – uphold gender equality and respect the child's cultural and personal identity. Such measures helped protect children from harmful practices such as child marriage, child labour or gender-based violence.

Saudi Arabia's adoption system respected religious and cultural specificities, providing care while preserving the child's original identity. Her country recognized the kafala system as a legitimate alternative to adoption.

Ms. A. Kalmari (Finland) said that adoption should never be treated as a business and called for stronger control, transparency and reporting, including measures such as DNA testing and registration. She drew attention to the situation in Ukraine, where some 16,000 children had been forcibly taken to the Russian Federation and adopted by Russian families. Some children were even being selected via websites that allowed filtering by characteristics such as age, gender and eye colour – a form of digital human trafficking. Those children had the right to return to Ukraine and be reunited with their mothers.

Ms. E. Azad (Islamic Republic of Iran) paid tribute to the courageous women throughout history – scholars, physicians, teachers, artists, entrepreneurs and parliamentarians – who had contributed to science, leadership and social transformation, noting in particular the Iranian women who had demonstrated unprecedented unity during the 12-day aggression against her country by Israel in June 2025. Societal progress depended on the active participation of women and the support of men as allies in pursuing gender justice. As such, her country had established institutions across parliament, universities and civil society to promote women's participation in political and social decision-making. She underscored the importance of mentorship, equal educational opportunities, and intergenerational dialogue to ensure no woman was denied the chance to lead or serve. Today, more than ever, the world needed the voices of women to build bridges of understanding, empathy and justice.

Regarding the draft resolution, she stressed the need to respect cultural diversity and national values while prioritizing children's rights and the role of family and mothers.

Ms. J. Sabao (Zambia) said that illegal intercountry adoption posed a threat to social and economic development and was being addressed in Zambia through strong anti-trafficking measures. The Children's Code Act (2022) provided a legal framework for domestic and international adoptions, prioritizing the best interests of the child and aligning with international standards. The Zambian Women Parliamentarians Caucus played a key role in advocating for gender-responsive laws and programmes, funding for child protection and stronger oversight to prevent illegal adoption and trafficking. It also mentored young women and girls, fostering their leadership and participation in child protection efforts, and would soon operate as a parliamentary committee to advance gender-responsive legislation. Parliamentary initiatives, such as the on-site crèche, supported early childhood development by providing education, nutrition and care for young children. Tackling illegal adoption required strong legal frameworks, effective child protection systems, gender sensitive approaches, meaningful youth participation and collaboration nationally, regionally and internationally.

Ms. K. Gajewska (Poland) drew attention to the illegal deportation of nearly thousands of Ukrainian children by the Russian Federation, describing it as one of the largest ongoing violations of children's rights. Emphasizing that the issue was not one of politics but of common humanity, she urged the international community to reunite the children with their families and ensure that children were never again used as tools of war.

Ms. C. Mix (Chile) noted that over 20,000 Chilean children had been illegally adopted during the dictatorship from 1973 to 1990. Parliamentarians must work to end such illegal adoptions through legislation and regulatory measures, thus improving access to justice for victims. It was equally important to promote the ratification of international conventions, including the Hague Convention, and establish a DNA database to help children reconnect with their families.

Ms. S. Burey (Canada) expressed support for the draft resolution which aligned with international children's rights and human rights conventions as well as with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the country's gender-based analysis policies. Stressing the importance of an evidence-based resolution, she highlighted the scientific link between adverse childhood experiences and lifelong health outcomes and encouraged the inclusion of such evidence to strengthen the resolution and combat misinformation. As such, the amendment submitted by Canada to preambular paragraph 9 should include the following sentence: "and inflict lasting effects of adverse childhood experiences which lead to lifelong chronic health, mental health, substance use and addiction conditions."

Ms. F.M.P. Konseibo (Burkina Faso) said that international illegal adoption should never be treated as a source of income. She called on States to safeguard children's identity and nationality, carefully vet potential adopters and follow up on adoptions. Parliamentarians must enact laws to prohibit illegal adoption practices and penalize those involved.

Ms. K. Carter (New Zealand) said that protecting children from exploitation, trafficking and harm was paramount, and their right to safe, loving and stable homes must be upheld. New Zealand's Parliament had recently voted under urgency to halt international adoptions after court cases revealed that loopholes in the outdated Adoption Act (1955) had enabled exploitation and trafficking. While the decision had faced criticism for a lack of consultation, it was necessary to prevent further harm, and efforts were under way to allow adoptions to restart under improved safeguards. She stressed that temporary fixes were insufficient and called for comprehensive reform of the New Zealand adoption system, including stronger protections against trafficking and closer partnerships with Pacific nations to ensure that children's rights, culture and well-being remained at the centre of future policies.

Ms. A. Van Langen-Visbeek (Netherlands) said that in the late 1960s, coerced adoptions were legal and common in the Netherlands, sharing her personal experience as the child of an unmarried mother who had faced pressure to give her up. Although such practices were nowadays illegal, they persisted in many countries, and measures were needed to prevent their occurrence and recurrence. Studies should be conducted in different countries to identify and address the factors that had led to irregular adoptions.

Ms. F. Cham (Gambia) said that illegal international adoption was a silent crisis with profound gender dimensions, affecting the most vulnerable in society. Noting the importance of strong domestic legislation, she urged parliamentarians to review their national laws with a view to closing loopholes, ensuring strict oversight of adoption agencies and criminalizing illegal practices. It was equally important to foster parliamentary diplomacy, cooperation and dialogue. By sharing best legislative practices across borders, countries could create a global legal safety net that left no room for traffickers to operate. Parliamentarians should push for ratification of international conventions such as the Hague Convention as well as the establishment of joint parliamentary committees to monitor cross-border cases, share intelligence and ensure child-centred return and reintegration mechanisms. The plight of stateless mothers and children must also be considered.

Mr. W.M. Aye (Myanmar) highlighted the urgent situation in Myanmar following the military coup, emphasizing the disproportionate impact on women and girls, who faced heightened risks of gender-based violence, displacement, loss of livelihoods and restricted access to education, healthcare and essential services. Despite assuming key roles as providers, protectors and leaders in community resilience, peacebuilding and humanitarian response, women remained marginalized in formal decision-making and peace processes, thus undermining efforts towards lasting peace. All actions concerning Myanmar must integrate a strong gender perspective, ensuring that women's participation in governance, peace and recovery was central rather than symbolic.

Democratically elected parliamentarians, particularly women, were also under threat, facing detention, intimidation and exile, which undermined both democracy and women's political advancement. Parliamentarians around the world must stand in solidarity with their counterparts in Myanmar, raise their voice through parliamentary diplomacy and take coordinated action to defend democratic institutions and their officials.

Lastly, she warned that, under the harsh reality of military rule, human trafficking and transnational organized crimes such as illegal international adoptions were on the rise, and called on parliamentarians to work together in harmonizing laws, strengthening oversight of cross-border adoption and embedding a gender-sensitive approach into child protection policies.

Ms. I. Lazutkina (Russian Federation), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, rejected the allegations made by the representatives of Poland and Finland, stating that claims regarding websites for selecting children were false and served only to distract from the violations of international humanitarian law committed by Ukraine. It was clear that the accusations of child kidnapping were part of a broader campaign by the West against her country. She stressed that adoptions to the Russian Federation were overseen by the International Committee of the Red Cross, and mediated by Qatar and the Vatican. Her country had always provided objective, unbiased information and had never obstructed the reunification of children with their families. The resolution must therefore remain neutral without referencing or making accusations against specific States, including the Russian Federation.

The sitting was adjourned at 12:55 and resumed at 14:30 with Ms. R. Abunayan (Saudi Arabia), member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, in the Chair.

Panel discussion on *Transforming leadership: Overcoming new challenges to gender equality*

The Chair opened the panel discussion, the purpose of which was to share women's leadership experiences and lessons learned, and introduced the panellists.

Ms. S. Kuugongelwa-Amadhila (Namibia), panellist, said that leadership existed in everyone, and formal positions merely formalized what was already present, particularly in women who had long led in families, communities and economies, often without recognition. Public leadership for women always began with the decision to step forward, often into spaces where they were not expected or welcome.

She shared her own experience of stepping into a senior public leadership role early on in her career – straight out of university with limited experiences and little time to prepare. She had been fortunate to receive mentorship from leaders, both men and women, across generations and backgrounds, whose support and belief in her had proved instrumental. The path, however, was not without resistance. As a young, unmarried woman without children, she had encountered scepticism, her presence questioned, her ideas doubted and her mistakes magnified. There were moments of harsh criticism and subtle forms of bullying, particularly in public forums and through media coverage. Her experiences, however, were not unique; women across countries and institutions continued to face barriers, including gender stereotypes, limited access to resources, gender-based violence and media bias. Such pressures could discourage women from taking up leadership roles.

Given those challenges, it was vital to promote women's overall participation, including through mandatory quotas, and to have support systems in place such as mentorship and wellness programmes. Laws and policies were needed to enable women to lead without compromising family responsibilities, such as maternity benefits and childcare support, and digital protections against cyberbullying were equally vital. Collaboration among women, rather than competition, and the engagement of men as allies were also essential.

She stressed that setbacks were part of the leadership journey and urged women to persist in the face of challenges viewing them as an opportunity for growth, sharing experiences, opening doors for others and fostering diversity in leadership. Inclusion was not a zero-sum game but a way to strengthen institutions, broaden perspectives and deliver mutual benefit.

Ms. C. Roth (Germany), panellist, said that the struggle for equality, participation and justice for women in political leadership was ongoing. Women had to work harder than men to be accepted, facing constant scrutiny, hatred and discrimination, with women of colour, women with disabilities, and LGBTQI+ women, who experienced multiple overlapping barriers, particularly impacted. She called for solidarity with women, particularly with those from the abovementioned marginalized groups. True leadership reflected diversity in societies, making it essential that women and marginalized groups were not only represented but empowered in decision-making. Diversity was vital for democratic legitimacy, social progress and sustainable governance.

Recalling her decades-long political career, she emphasized the importance of raising one's voice, contradicting others without fear, refusing to be modest and remaining independent. When women were silenced, democracy was silenced. Far-right actors increasingly weaponized gender as a tactic, which only demonstrated the power of feminist progress.

Global crises, including war, democratic erosion, climate collapse, disinformation and rising authoritarianism, were not gender neutral, making feminist leadership even more essential. She paid tribute to the women of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ukraine and the Global South, who were courageously resisting oppression, defending their rights and leading change under extraordinary challenges.

In Germany, women held only 32.5% of seats in the Bundestag despite comprising 52% of the population, which was unacceptable. Quotas, parity laws and family-friendly parliamentary procedures, such as parental leave, flexible schedule and childcare, as well as feminist leadership training had proven effective in increasing women's participation. Mentorship further helped support emerging leaders by helping build networks and confidence.

Transforming leadership meant redefining power from dominance to shared influence – from “power over” to “power with”. Inclusive leadership models centred on empathy, cooperation, sustainability and justice were essential for the survival of democracy, particularly in times of fear and division.

Ms. A. Ellis (Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships and Networks at the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory, Arizona State University Global Institute of Sustainability and Innovation), panellist, recognized the historic leadership of her country, New Zealand, in women's political rights, recalling its landmark achievement in 1893 as the first country where women obtained the right to vote. She emphasized, however, that women were not simply granted rights – they had actively fought for them, chaining themselves to parliamentary railings, organizing networks and engaging male allies to enact change.

Reflecting on her early career, she recounted early personal experiences of gender-based exclusion in the workplace, despite the existence of equal opportunities legislation, including being denied access to official meetings as a diplomatic trainee because of her gender. She had navigated those challenges by speaking out, asserting her rights and mobilizing support from senior men and women. Those experiences had taught her the importance of courage, perseverance and solidarity among women, as well as the powerful role of male allies in advancing gender equality.

She had carried those lessons into other roles. At Westpac Banking Corporation, while leading initiatives to support women entrepreneurs, she had transformed initial scepticism into highly successful programmes with significant economic impact that ultimately delivered half a billion New Zealand dollars in annualized revenue. A similar story had unfolded at Access Bank where she had sought to secure business loans for women in Nigeria. Initially met with scepticism, she had eventually been able, under the mentorship of Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, presently Director-General of the World Trade Organization, to obtain funding – albeit in much smaller amounts than requested – which had ultimately become the bank's most successful business loans and lines of credit that year. She had also helped establish the Global Banking Alliance for Women in the year 2000 and invited delegates to engage their banks in the initiative.

Through her work, she had discovered that discriminatory laws still limited women's access to finance, leading her to launch the Women, Business and the Law project at the World Bank. The project examined legal economic rights for women in 190 countries, revealing that women still enjoyed only 64% of the legal economic rights of men – a gap that, if closed, could add trillions to the global economy. There was therefore a strong business case for women's economic empowerment.

She encouraged the international community to expand women's representation in diplomacy, politics, business and other leadership roles to ensure that women's perspectives shaped policy and practice globally. Greater participation of women in parliaments was essential for addressing global crises. Concluding with a quote from poet Amanda Gorman, she emphasized that despite ongoing obstacles – harassment, backlash, and systemic barriers – it was possible to create a new dawn for women.

Ms. M.M. Chinomona (Zimbabwe) said that, despite growing recognition of the value of gender diversity in leadership, women continued to face obstacles in ascending to decision-making roles across politics, business and civil society. She too had experienced those challenges; her personal path to leadership had been long and arduous – a testament to the resilience and endurance required of women to navigate systemic barriers.

Her journey had begun in 1975 when she had left secondary school to join Zimbabwe's liberation struggle. She had fought on the front lines alongside men in pursuit of her country's independence, survived attacks and undertook military training abroad. Despite those credentials, she had faced continued marginalization in post-independence politics, often being side-lined in favour of her male counterparts who lacked comparable experience.

Undeterred, she persevered, balancing family responsibilities, including raising children, while pursuing a political career – a task she described as mammoth in scale. In 1990, she had become one of Zimbabwe's first women Members of Parliament and subsequently went on to serve in multiple leadership roles. However, patriarchal suppression remained the biggest challenge to women's participation, including limited access to financial resources. Indeed, she had relied on personal resources to fund her campaigns.

She concluded by sharing five key lessons from her journey: (1) unity and cooperation among women were essential to ensure their inclusion at the tables of power; (2) persistence and perseverance would always yield results; (3) women must embody the change they wished to see in the world; (4) it was essential to support aspiring women leaders through encouragement and mentorship; and (5) engaging male counterparts, including traditional and political leaders, was necessary, even in the face of resistance.

Ms. M.T. Mosena (Lesotho) said that women currently held 30% of seats in her Parliament due to the mixed member proportional representation system, but that progress remained slow in a heavily patriarchal society. Committed to advancing gender parity, she actively encouraged women and youth to enter politics not only as supporters of men but as leaders in their own right, including through mentorship, coaching and community engagement initiatives in and outside formal parliamentary structures. She had personally launched a campaign to support women and young people in navigating pathways into political leadership and worked to ensure parliamentarians were exposed to the lived adversities of women so that advocacy could be grounded in reality.

In the face of pushback on women's rights, she stressed the importance of those in leadership positions using their status to amplify the voices of women, rather than to intimidate them, and noted that breaking taboos and challenging patriarchal norms around women's leadership remained essential to changing the status quo. Efforts must be guided by data, research and evidence, rather than intuition alone, if they were to effectively influence policy. She called for gender-sensitive laws and policies, greater awareness around the importance of gender equality, and constructive dialogue to respond to pushback and conflict. When women led, societies grew.

Ms. T. Chaisang (Thailand) said that she had been inspired to enter politics by her late father, who had been a parliamentarian dedicated to community service. Entering politics as a woman had not been easy in a society where traditional gender stereotypes persisted, with women deemed too soft or weak for leadership. Those attitudes, however, had only strengthened her resolve to prove that women could lead with strength, wisdom and compassion. Her work engaging directly with communities, visiting small villages and listening directly to people's stories, had reinforced the idea that women did not have to act like men to gain respect; leadership grounded in empathy was in itself strong.

While social media had been an important tool on her journey for engaging young people and sharing her vision, it had also exposed her to online hate. She had chosen to respond by staying calm, sticking to facts and refusing to be silenced.

Ultimately, politics was not about gender nor about force or power, but about giving voice to those who could not speak for themselves.

Ms. K. Slassi (Morocco) said that the presence of women in leadership was a key indicator of democratic progress and the effective implementation of the principle of gender equality enshrined in the Constitution. Access to power for women was not a gift or privilege but the outcome of sustained civil and party-driven movements to reform national legislation and implement international commitments. Women often faced marginalization and exclusion within party structures, while simultaneously maintaining traditional family responsibilities, making their journey to leadership long, tiring and hard-earned. She posed the critical question of what women brought to power, noting that their participation enriched leadership in the era of artificial intelligence (AI) by weaving in human and emotional intelligence. Women tended to adopt participatory approaches, foster teamwork, mediate internal conflicts and reduce organizational tension. Research, including by the World Bank, had also linked women's presence in leadership to decreased corruption. Overall, women's leadership had the potential to give a new face to power.

Ms. I. Lazutkina (Russian Federation), emphasizing the significant role of women across political, economic, social and spiritual spheres, said that the Russian Federation had a historical legacy of advancing women's rights, including by being among the first countries to grant women voting rights and by introducing pre-kindergarten education to support working mothers. Increasing numbers of women were taking senior executive roles in government and parliament, with policies in place that catered to the interests of women, children, families and minorities. Research showed that women legislators often prioritized social issues such as health and childcare.

The Russian Federation had taken measures to empower women leaders in all areas of life while ensuring they could continue caring for their families. It actively promoted women's participation in global governance and humanitarian initiatives, including peacekeeping operations, and had adopted national measures to empower women socially, politically and economically, combat discrimination and violence, and improve women's health. Regular events such as the Eurasian Women's Forum and the BRICS Women's Business Alliance consolidated women's leadership globally, bringing women together to address issues such as climate change, food security, technological progress, migration, healthcare and poverty. Thanks to women's empowerment initiatives, women's business activity in the Russian Federation had reached 74%.

Ms. R. Maachaoui (Tunisia) said that women's participation in parliament was a key indicator of societal progress, justice and equality. She praised Tunisia's history of women's leadership, noting that today Tunisian women held high positions, including twice serving as Prime Minister, and played a significant role in economic, social and political decision-making. While Tunisia had made significant progress, challenges remained: women's participation was still constrained by economic and social barriers, as well as political violence, which undermined both democracy and diversity. Women's participation should not be measured in numbers alone but also in their capacity to influence and take initiative inside legislative and political institutions.

To advance women's participation, she emphasized the need for comprehensive support for women, including legal protections, economic empowerment and safe environments that respected diverse opinions. Key actions should include: establishing permanent mechanisms to monitor and support women parliamentarians and activists, particularly those at risk of violence; sharing expertise and success stories between countries; legislating on violence against women in politics; engaging men as partners rather than competitors; and issuing a declaration condemning political violence against women.

Ms. S. Falaknaz (United Arab Emirates) said that women's empowerment, which fostered justice, equality and human dignity, was the cornerstone of development and had therefore been central to her country's development vision. The legislative and institutional frameworks of the United Arab Emirates supported the full participation of women across all sectors, thanks to which women now occupied half of parliamentary positions and actively shaped national policies. Paying tribute to Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak for her pioneering role in promoting gender equality, she concluded that transformative leadership relied on belief in change, respect for justice and equality, and collaboration. In that context, building a fairer and more just future was not possible without women's participation.

Ms. T. Narbaeva (Uzbekistan), recognizing that women were fundamental to sustainable development, peace and progress, said that parliaments must create opportunities for women and protect their rights. In Uzbekistan, promoting women's active participation across all spheres had been a State priority, and efforts to strengthen legislation, parliamentary oversight and national programmes had yielded tangible results. Women now held 38% of parliamentary seats and 35% of executive positions, the number of women entrepreneurs had more than doubled over the past five years, and access to higher education had increased, with women comprising 53% of bachelor's degree and 63% of master's degree students. Social protection measures, such as large-scale employment programmes and measures to develop women's entrepreneurship were also in place, supporting vulnerable groups in particular, including single mothers, women with disabilities and victims of violence.

She expressed concern for women affected by conflict and humanitarian crises, emphasizing that the international community must demonstrate humanity, solidarity and responsibility. The IPU, as a unique platform for dialogue and cooperation, had a special role to play in that regard.

To advance women's participation effectively, parliamentarians must exchange legislative and policy best practices, expand training and support programmes for women, and establish mechanisms to aid women in crisis and post-conflict situations. The ultimate goal was to ensure that every woman, regardless of circumstances, had the right to a decent life, including work, education and participation in decision-making.

Ms. D. Simeonova (Bulgaria) said that women's leadership and success were never achieved alone but through community, mentorship and solidarity. She was thus proud to be co-founder of an organization which trained and mentored women that sought to enter politics, equipping them with the tools, confidence and networks to run for office, lead campaigns and withstand bias and online abuse. Those women were already making great real-life impact at community level – advancing disability inclusion, giving voice to survivors of domestic violence and opening conversations on difficult social issues.

However, solidarity must not be limited to women supporting women. Men, within the IPU and within national contexts, must also be engaged in the fight for women's rights. Equally, the value of women's leadership must be taught in education systems as a path towards a fairer, safer and more democratic world.

Although Bulgaria had made progress – five women had served as Speakers of Parliament, including the current Speaker – women still comprised only 23% of parliamentarians and 5% of ministers, and cultural norms and online abuse continued to deter women from entering politics. She called for multidimensional strategies including equitable campaign funding, national and international mentorship programmes, and improved work-life balance policies.

Ms. M. Valente (Angola) said that her political journey, shaped by determination and solidarity, had taught her the value of education and empathy – empathy meaning the ability to recognize differences. After moving to Portugal, she had returned alone to Angola as a minor following the country's independence, driven by her desire to serve her country and help build a new nation. It had been her faith in a collective future that had sustained her through the most difficult moments. Throughout her journey, she had received support from other women – her mother, friends and colleagues – who had helped her balance motherhood, study and politics, as well as male allies who had recognized her work. Those experiences had shown her that no woman ever rose alone, and that equality was built through shared effort. Having served over 40 years in parliament, and previously as Deputy Minister of Planning and Minister of Commerce, she wished her legacy to reflect the power of knowledge and commitment. Her call to young women was to believe in themselves, invest in education and uplift each other; the strength of a nation depended on the unity of its women.

Ms. S. Kheng (Cambodia) said that gender equality was not only a matter of justice but the foundation of sustainable development, enabling societies to become stronger, fairer and more innovative. Her Government's commitment to advancing women was reflected in policies supporting women's education, entrepreneurship and leadership. She stressed, however, that women did not succeed alone. Solidarity across families, communities and societies – and men becoming partners in equality – was essential to unlocking women's potential.

Peace was the foundation of all progress – a truth that Cambodia knew deeply. Through dialogue and a win-win policy, Cambodia had rebuilt from conflict, lifting millions out of poverty, expanding education and healthcare and strengthening governance. Within that journey, Cambodian women had risen not as victims, but as leaders of the future. Today, Cambodian women were public servants, entrepreneurs, educators and innovators, guiding communities, supporting families and driving progress with creativity and compassion.

Although current border tensions persisted, Cambodia remained committed to dialogue, peaceful resolution, mutual respect and adherence to international law. She called on the international community to defend peace, justice and cooperation, noting that peace strengthened all – and peace for women meant progress for humanity.

Ms. D. Alzayed (Bahrain) said that gender equality was a fundamental human right, though levels of representation and barriers differed across countries. She encouraged greater efforts to engage younger women in political life and called for dedicated budgets for women's political empowerment.

There were no religious or societal barriers in the Arab region preventing women's political participation. She expressed pride in the progress made by women, particularly in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, acknowledging the support of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the role of supportive male allies. In Bahrain, women's empowerment was enshrined in law, and national mechanisms existed to support women's training and participation in politics, tailored to their needs. While challenges remained, she was confident they could be overcome.

Ms. S.M. Zehri (Pakistan) described her work in the Senate, particularly as Chair of the Senate Functional Committee on Human Rights, to advance equality through legislation, oversight and advocacy. Representing Balochistan, a province marked by resilience despite long-standing deprivation, her focus had been to ensure that the voices of marginalized groups, especially women, labourers and vulnerable communities, were not just heard but acted upon.

Reaffirming that human rights were not abstract principles but people's daily realities, she listed several bills to which she had contributed on issues such as rape, factory safety for women and mental health protections, including for survivors of trauma – the latter ensuring that justice not only punished but healed. Other issues addressed in the Senate included honour killings, labour exploitation, trafficking, child abuse and climate-related displacement. As a result of that work, Pakistan's women were not only participants in the global human rights arena but active shapers of it.

She acknowledged that progress often came with resistance from entrenched structures. However, by building bipartisan alliances, legislating for safer digital spaces and engaging men as partners, resistance could be turned into resilience. True transformation began with every woman who stood up for justice. It was not measured only in numbers but in changed mindsets and was hope inspired.

She defined transformative leadership as moral courage: the courage to act when it was easier to stay silent. Women were encouraged to lead not through power but through purpose, not through dominance but through dignity. Empathy must be woven into governance, integrity into institutions and trust into the future. In so doing, a world could take shape where gender no longer determined destiny and where girls no longer had to ask permission to lead.

Ms. M.A. Ache (Andorra) said that her country had achieved parity in parliament, with women occupying 14 out of 28 seats, and near parity in Government, where 6 ministers were women, noting that such outcomes were not accidental but the result of decades of collective work. Recalling that, in 1973, women in Andorra had not even had the right to vote, she stressed that true transformation had occurred when women's representation had increased.

Women in politics often had to redefine power, bringing to the table qualities such as active listening and collaboration. As such, parity improved the quality of debates and decision-making, making politics more inclusive and more reflective of citizens' lives. In Andorra, women's empathy and listening skills had been instrumental in driving advances on digital well-being, health and women in sport.

Faced with global pressures threatening women's rights, she emphasized the double responsibility of parliamentarians to resist and to inspire – resisting sexist discourse on and offline, and inspiring through education and culture. In doing so, it was possible to demonstrate that power could be exercised differently and with greater gender sensitivity.

Ms. S. Nyirahamibana (Rwanda) highlighted Rwanda's approach to leadership which aimed to uplift all citizens, particularly women. Gender equality and women's empowerment were seen as collective commitments, with men and women working together to build an inclusive society. Under President Paul Kagame, Rwanda had implemented policies and laws ensuring women's participation in politics, protection from gender-based violence and equal access to education and finance. She drew a contrast between the pre-1994 situation, where women had faced severe gender stereotypes, minimal access to financial resources and limited leadership opportunities, and the present-day situation, where they were influential leaders. Rwanda was now the top-ranked country in the world with a majority of women in parliament, with women holding 64% of seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 54% in the Senate. The country's progress could be attributed to good governance.

Ms. S.J. Elago (Philippines) highlighted the work and mission of the Gabriela Women's Party – a woman-led party, to which she belonged, named after Gabriela Silang, a revolutionary hero who fought for Filipino independence from colonial rule. Since entering Congress in 2016 as its youngest woman legislator, and recently returning with a fresh mandate in the position of Assistant Minority Leader, she had come to realize that women's empowerment was meaningless without addressing hunger, landlessness, low wages and other forms of economic marginalization. The work of her party was therefore rooted in economic justice.

Members of the Gabriela Women's Party filed bills that demanded decent living wages for workers, land for farmers, support for fisherfolk, local job creation and industrial development. They fought for hospital budgets and anti-corruption measures, ensuring social assistance reached those in need, including single mothers. They marched on the streets for fair crop prices and to prevent demolition of housing. Committed to leading alongside marginalized people, including women,

her party engaged directly with constituents, holding community consultations and listening to people's concerns and aspirations – understanding that uplifting the marginalized uplifted entire communities. In that work, she had learnt that the fight for equality must involve everyone, including men and boys, as partners and allies.

Although her party had played a key role in passing landmark laws, such as those addressing violence against women and children, legislation alone was insufficient; the deeper challenge was transforming the culture of sexism and discrimination that enabled violence. Confronting resistance to women's rights required collective action, not only through parliamentary advocacy but also through grassroots movements, protests, educational campaigns, and the use of creative approaches such as dance and murals.

She called for global solidarity, urging parliamentarians to amplify the struggles and stories of Filipino women, and to support the ongoing fight for dignity, justice and peace.

Ms. J.S. Mananiso (South Africa) said that her Parliament's Select Committee on Security and Justice, of which she was chair, was working on addressing the gender dimensions of key issues such as crime, immigration and judicial oversight. On crime, women and girls in her country, particularly from vulnerable communities, were disproportionately affected by gender-based violence, including domestic violence, sexual assault and femicide, and faced significant barriers in accessing justice due to fear of retaliation and social stigma. On immigration, women migrants were exponentially exposed to human trafficking and sexual exploitation, and faced greater challenges in accessing healthcare, legal aid and employment. On judicial oversight, the lack of gender-sensitive training and diversity in the judiciary as well as systematic bias affected the fairness of rulings, especially in cases involving family law or gender-based violence.

To address those disparities, the Committee had implemented a standing directive requiring all its briefings to include gender-disaggregated and demographic data, enabling assessment of the differential impact of government interventions and promoting inclusive, equitable and gender-responsive governance. She drew attention to initiatives such as the *16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children* campaign and the 7Bs initiative, *Books Before Boys Because Boys Bring Babies*, to prevent teenage pregnancy and promote girls' education. Young women must be empowered to champion their own interests.

Ms. A. Erdoğan (Türkiye) said that global political participation and decision-making had not yet reached desired levels while fundamental human needs, such as peace, justice and freedom from poverty, remained under threat. Women must grow stronger and more effective, advancing their struggle and leveraging their rights to make the world a better place. Ongoing conflicts, particularly in Gaza, disproportionately affected women who were constantly striving to protect and provide for their children. Continued oversight and support, including delivery of humanitarian aid, were essential to sustaining the ceasefire. Highlighting positive efforts, she praised the Global Sumud Flotilla, which had delivered food to Gaza, and acknowledged the participation of a woman parliamentarian from Türkiye in that mission.

Ms. Lyu Zhongmei (China), recognizing women as drivers of social progress, outlined China's approach to advancing women's political participation. First, the country was working to strengthen legal safeguards for women, including through the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Women (1992) which, among other things, called for the appointment of women, especially from ethnic minorities, to leadership roles in government, social organizations and enterprises. Similarly, the Electoral Law (1979) mandated appropriate representation of women in the National and local People's Congresses; as a result, women now held 26.5% of national legislative seats – up 1.6% from the previous term. Second, China was building the capacities of women through targeted training for women officials and grassroots leaders. Third, it was fostering a supportive environment by inspiring enthusiasm, initiative and creativity in women, and highlighting the contribution of women leaders in decision-making and governance.

China had also played an important role in global gender equality initiatives. It had, for instance, hosted the 2025 Global Leaders' Meeting on Women in October 2025, which coincided with the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and was involved in the organization of a seminar for women legislators from Africa.

Ms. F.M.S. Ali Abbas (Chad), having personally experienced injustice and discrimination, said that she had entered politics to change norms, laws and budgets and to work on sustainable solutions for women and children, particularly on the issue of child marriage. Gender equality was a national

priority in Chad and the introduction of quotas requiring at least 30% women's representation in parliament had yielded visible results: women now represented 36% of seats in the National Assembly and 34% in the Senate. It was clear that quotas strengthened women's political representation.

Nonetheless, obstacles remained, including a closed political culture and persistent gender stereotypes which told women that politics was not for them. Her response had always been to work, deliver results and remain present in the field. Though it had been a constant struggle, women continued to encourage her every day.

She highlighted the rise of online gender-based violence, noting that it must be identified, documented, challenged and never normalized. Women must never be left alone when targeted. Digital spaces must be monitored as vigilantly as institutional spaces so that women and girls were safe and able to contribute as a force for development.

Overall, it was important to consolidate the gains of quotas into real responsibilities, budgets and concrete outcomes for citizens.

Ms. M.M. Ortiz Diloné (Dominican Republic), inspired by the legacy of the women of her constituency, Villa Mirabal, who were emblems of courage and political resistance, said she had entered politics young, becoming one of the first women mayors of her town at only 33 years old and now a Senator. As a young woman in politics, her journey had been marked by obstacles as well as opportunities, but she had always persevered with diligence and commitment. One of the key lessons she had learned was to persist and resist – motivating others and serving as an example for more women to step into positions of power.

Women in politics continued to face significant political violence, particularly online, but she stressed the importance of turning such adversity into determination and action.

Ms. K. Sehrawat (India) highlighted her journey from local governance, serving as mayor of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation, to currently serving as a Member of Parliament representing West Delhi. She was one of many women leaders in India who had transcended barriers to assume positions of power, demonstrating India's commitment to democracy, inclusive participation and equality.

Under the leadership of the current Prime Minister, the national approach had shifted from women's welfare to women-led development. For instance, one third of seats in the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies were now reserved for women. Flagship initiatives such as *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao*: Caring for the Girl Child, and *Mission Shakti* focused on women's education, safety and empowerment. Economic inclusion was also a central pillar of the approach: the *Stand-Up India* scheme had facilitated credit and entrepreneurship for women, and millions of women were receiving job-related skills training through programmes such as *Skill India*.

She concluded that empowering women was central to national progress, reflecting that the world prospered when women prospered.

Ms. D. Bühler-Nigsch (Liechtenstein) underscored the central role of solidarity and inspiration in advancing women in politics. She noted recent progress in Liechtenstein where, following the 2025 elections, the representation of women in parliament had risen to 32%, and for the first time both the Head of Government and Deputy Head of Government were women. Those outcomes were not coincidental but the result of targeted efforts to promote women's empowerment. Initiatives such as the *Diversity in Politics* project had been instrumental in boosting solidarity, electoral change and cross-party networks for women. A comprehensive gender equality strategy was also being developed, with the Equal Opportunities Department and women's organizations already active in related work. Liechtenstein remained committed to providing support so that the next generation of women could pursue long and successful political careers.

Ms. E. Azad (Islamic Republic of Iran) emphasized the importance of women in national development, noting that, since the 1979 Revolution, her country had made significant progress on women's rights, including decreased illiteracy rates and a growing presence of women in managerial and executive positions. She recalled that since 1979 the number of educated women had risen from 30% to 85% with women now constituting around 50% of university students, 27% of university faculty members and 30% of physicians. They also held approximately 30% of senior management roles and had increasingly been elected to local and municipal offices. She stressed that those developments reflected the Islamic Republic of Iran's commitment to advancing women's rights within its own cultural and religious framework – a pathway that enabled inclusive and comprehensive progress.

She rejected comments made by the representative of Germany, asserting that her remarks misrepresented the situation of women in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Germany should focus on its own domestic challenges, including femicide, and stop supporting policies that harmed women and children in conflict settings, such as the policy to supply lethal weapons to Israel.

Ms. P. Cox (United Kingdom) said that, in 2028, the United Kingdom would mark the centenary of the extension of fully equal voting rights to women. Women parliamentarians were using that moment to launch a centenary action campaign aimed at inspiring more women and girls to enter politics and to achieve a diverse and gender-equal parliament by 2028. The campaign was led by Helen Pankhurst, descendant of Emmeline and Sylvia Pankhurst, key leaders of the British suffragette movement, which had paved the way for electoral reform previously blocked for decades. The campaign had built a coalition of 100 UK organizations advocating for gender parity in parliament. Although women now made up 40% of the UK Parliament, further progress was required. As such, the campaign would connect closely with the IPU's *Achieving gender equality, action by action* mission. Equally, she would continue to work with parliamentary outreach teams to engage young people on political issues.

Ms. M. Al Lamki (Oman) said that, in Oman, women's participation in leadership had steadily grown over the years guided by the vision of men and women as equal partners in society. Oman had recently celebrated Omani Women's Day, an annual occasion that recognized women's achievements. She stressed that transformative leadership meant shaping a fair, inclusive and forward-looking society – leadership that listened, empowered and built bridges across societies and generations. In her role on the State Council, she worked to ensure that women's perspectives were integrated into national decision-making, not symbolically but as an essential dimension of sustainable progress. She also aimed to amplify women's voices in the digital sphere. Advancing women's rights, however, still faced cultural and structural resistance. Her approach was to confront such resistance through dialogue, data and diplomacy. Ultimately, transformative leadership was not about holding power but sharing it. When women led with integrity, vision and compassion, they lifted entire societies, shifting both policies and mindsets for the future.

Ms. M. Byrne (Ireland) highlighted Ireland's progress in women's political participation, noting that, in 1918 voting rights had been granted to women aged 30 and above, with the first woman parliamentarian being elected in 1919. Since then, 151 women had been elected to Parliament, and women currently represented around 26% of members. She herself was the second woman Deputy Speaker of Parliament in Ireland's history.

The Government had brought in measures to support women's participation in both local and national politics, including gender quotas and board membership rules, and women now held almost 28% of senior management positions on boards. Ireland had also seen two women presidents out of nine and currently had three women cabinet ministers, with two women running in the upcoming presidential election.

She highlighted Ireland's international efforts, including the Irish Aid programme, which supported women's rights and gender equality in developing countries. One initiative under the programme was to support Zimbabwe in building intra-parliamentary dialogue to enhance women's and youth participation in politics. Effective women's leadership required honesty, courage and decisive action.

Ms. F.M.P. Konseibo (Burkina Faso) said that family and education formed the foundation of society, with women, particularly mothers, at the heart of both. Transformational leadership could help elevate the value of women, provided they received the necessary training, support and confidence-building. She stressed the importance of leaving no woman behind, particularly vulnerable women, such as those living with disabilities, encouraging their participation in education, awareness-raising and positions of responsibility. Equally, men must also be included as responsible partners in promoting gender equality.

Ms. L. Souto (Mozambique) said that gender equality was both a fundamental human right and essential to sustainable development, stressing that women's participation in leadership brought unique perspectives and contributions to progress. Mozambique had made considerable advances in promoting gender equality by incorporating international and regional commitments into national laws and policies. Those included measures to prevent and sanction gender-based violence and child marriage, and to keep girls in school. However, she cautioned that recent gains risked being reversed

due to climate impacts and terrorism in the northern regions of the country. While the Constitution enshrined in law that men and women had equal social, political and economic rights, further efforts were required to fully realize gender equality in practice.

The discussion was suspended to launch the second edition of the International Gender Champions' Gender-Responsive Assemblies Toolkit.

Mr. M. Chungong (Secretary General of the IPU), Chair of the Global Board of International Gender Champions (IGC), underscored the importance of moving beyond rhetoric on gender equality, urging parliamentarians, who had the power and influence to move the needle forward, to “walk the talk” and make gender equality a tangible reality.

He drew attention to the second edition of the *Gender-Responsive Assemblies Toolkit*, which was a practical instrument designed to guide multilateral institutions in promoting leadership and gender-responsive decision-making, through a set of clear standards in that regard. The toolkit drew on the experiences of institutions within the IGC network, including the IPU, incorporating lessons from decades of progress.

He paid tribute to the Forum of Women Parliamentarians which had been at the forefront of progress on gender equality within the IPU over the Forum's 40-year history. Thanks to its efforts, the IPU had implemented gender quotas, established anti-harassment policies and integrated gender parity into its Statutes and Rules. Granting privileges to gender-balanced delegations while limiting voting rights for single-sex delegations had proved to be another effective incentive in promoting parity. He noted that women now constituted nearly 40% of delegates at the IPU Assemblies but stressed that full gender parity remained the ultimate objective. The IPU would continue to build on its achievements, embedding a culture of parity within the organization and providing a safe space where men and women could work equally without coercion, violence or harassment.

Parliamentarians were encouraged to apply, adapt and disseminate the toolkit, treating it not as a symbolic resource but as a practical guide to effect real change. Gender equality was non-negotiable, and women in deliberative bodies worldwide must be fully empowered to lead and influence decision-making.

Ms. C. Kraft-Buchman (CEO and founder of Women at the Table and a co-founder of the IGC) said that the *Gender-Responsive Assemblies Toolkit* had first been launched in 2018 and was now in its second edition. Developed collaboratively by the IGC and the IPU, the toolkit had been created to address a clear need within assemblies and organizations eager to make participation more inclusive but which lacked a concrete road map to do so. The second edition drew on the lessons learned since the publication of the first edition and aligned with General recommendation No. 40 of the CEDAW Committee, which made parity in decision-making a matter of rights rather than preference, facilitating its operationalization.

The toolkit contained living institutional practices that had supported organizations in clearing hurdles on gender equality. For example, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change had integrated gender balance requirements into its governing body, supported by a gender action plan to ensure accountability; the World Meteorological Organization held annual gender days and had an advisory panel of experts on gender mainstreaming under its executive council; the International Telecommunication Union had established a dedicated gender and youth office and a global mentoring network to cultivate women leaders; the Director-General of the International Labour Organization sent letters to Member States ahead of conferences reminding them to send gender-balanced delegations; and at the IPU, parity targets were embedded in the Statutes and Rules, with sanctions for single-sex delegations. Those measures, which demonstrated how structural reforms and accountability mechanisms could drive meaningful change, did not occur by accident but began with the decisive action of leaders willing to move from aspiration to real change.

She highlighted the potential of innovative tools, including data analysis, machine learning and AI, to support further progress. Those tools could monitor not only who participated in Assemblies but who spoke, on what topics and with what influence, thereby strengthening the process of making Assemblies more inclusive.

The toolkit itself was structured around a three-part cycle: (1) planning for gender parity before Assemblies; (2) modelling equality in participation and decision-making during Assemblies; and (3) evaluating outcomes and sharing data after Assemblies. She urged parliamentarians to actively implement the toolkit, starting immediately with even a few actions. When gender equality became the “operating system” of Assemblies, it transformed not only representation but the very nature of leadership and expanded what was possible.

The discussion was resumed.

Ms. L. Gumnior (Germany) stressed the need to acknowledge that parliamentary culture had been shaped by men and built on patriarchal structures. Achieving meaningful change therefore required systemic reform, with women leaders taking the lead to challenge gender stereotypes and leverage tools such as gender-sensitive laws and quotas. She underscored the importance of solidarity, noting that resisting being silenced was far easier when supported by colleagues. She also noted the value of role models, citing her colleague Ms. Roth as an inspiring example for younger women and emerging parliamentarians.

Ms. K. Dorjee (Bhutan) said that, although women represented half the voting population in Bhutan, only 4% of parliamentarians were women. While expressing appreciation for the IPU's support, she stressed that far more needed to be done to expand women's representation. She paid tribute to the leadership of the Fourth and Fifth Kings of Bhutan, under whom women had advanced significantly in national development, demonstrating that gender equality in her country was seen not just as an aspiration but a responsibility. Yet, political parties and institutions had not fully translated that principle into practice. There was no shortage of capable women but a shortage of space, opportunity and support for them to lead. With elections scheduled for 2028-29, Bhutan was committed to achieving 30% women's representation by 2030 – an ambitious objective given the current baseline, but achievable. Bhutan intended to make use of the *Gender-Responsive Assemblies Toolkit* as an important reference and called on the IPU to consider holding the Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians in Bhutan in 2027.

Ms. G. Ngendanganya (Burundi) highlighted significant progress in advancing gender equality and women's leadership in her country, noting that women were increasingly driving community transformation and economic development. Gender quotas had helped to increase women's representation, with women now holding around 39% of seats in the National Assembly and 46% in the Senate. Continued political will was essential to sustain that progress. She stressed the need to dismantle cultural barriers so that women could continue to occupy decision-making roles.

Ms. I. Khalid (Canada), marking her tenth year as a Member of Parliament, highlighted that a common theme emerging from discussions was the scale and severity of online violence against women. Studies showed that women in politics, as well as women journalists and professionals, were disproportionately targeted by online abuse, disinformation and hate speech. If parliaments wanted more women to enter politics, they must first ensure that there was a safe environment for participation. Delegations must consider advancing the issue at the IPU through an emergency item, noting that Poland was working on such a proposal. Cooperation was needed to find concrete solutions and ensure the growth of women's representation nationally and across the IPU.

Ms. R. Brooking (New Zealand) said that several political parties in her country had made a deliberate decision to ensure that approximately half of the candidates most likely to be elected were women, using the opportunities presented by the mixed-member proportional representation system. As a result, the last parliament had been majority women, with women also holding half of the cabinet positions. Such outcomes were not accidental but the product of intentional choices. However, following a recent change of government, women's representation had fallen, and regressive developments had occurred, including a law that undermined pay equity.

New Zealand had had three women Prime Ministers – Jenny Shipley, Helen Clark and Jacinda Ardern – whose leadership journeys continued to inspire. She recommended that parliamentarians engage with Jacinda Arden's recent book and film addressing the pressures that women faced in high profile positions.

Ms. G. Jordan (Suriname) said that her country had recently elected its first woman President – a historic milestone and powerful symbol of progress. However, despite such advances, women in politics continued to face escalating personal and gender-based attacks, particularly online. Those attacks often targeted women not for their work or ideas but for their identity as women, seeking to silence, discredit and question their integrity, with harm also extending to their families and children.

Delegations should consider what concrete measures they were taking to protect women in politics from online attacks, how social media platforms were being held accountable and what could be done to make digital spaces safer. She also sought advice for women leaders, especially in smaller democracies, on how to remain strong, focused and resilient in the face of persistent online hostility. Women in politics were not seeking permission to lead – they already were leading, and their presence was essential, not symbolic.

Ms. I. Stamatović (Serbia) said that it was her belief that significant progress had been made in advancing women's participation in public life, though much more remained to be done. In Serbia, women currently represented around 40% of the Parliament, with nine women ministers, and the former Prime Minister – a woman – now served as Speaker of Parliament. Serbia had also recently established a ministry for gender equality, which had launched many significant projects to strengthen women's participation in politics and economic life, including a new conference focused on empowering women to enter leadership roles. Serbia would also host the Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians in Belgrade in June 2026. She stressed the importance of women empowering other women, fostering collaboration rather than competition, and reminded delegates that current gains were built on the work of women who came before.

Ms. A. Naeem (Maldives) said that she was one of only three women in her country's 93-member Parliament, despite women being strongly represented at grassroots level. She said that women parliamentarians in the Maldives – as in many countries – faced organized disinformation, deepfakes, hate speech and online harassment, which silenced voices and deterred women from entering or remaining in politics. The current Government had acknowledged the urgency of the situation and was taking steps to reach gender parity. A special programme entitled *Practice Parliament for Women 2025* had been put in place to build women's understanding of democratic processes and empower them with the skills and confidence to participate. She called for support in developing mechanisms to help women enter and remain in politics, and stressed that collective efforts, including through IPU support, could amplify women's voices and impact.

Ms. F. Bustreo (Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH)) said that women's leadership had demonstrable positive impacts on health outcomes. Citing research, she noted that countries led by women during the COVID-19 pandemic recorded significantly fewer deaths, and that women leaders in the health sector tended to advance stronger policies on reproductive, maternal and child health. Nevertheless, the global health sector remained overwhelmingly male-led despite women constituting 80% of service delivery. She urged parliamentarians to identify, support and cultivate women leaders in health, given the wider societal benefits for women, children and adolescents. She also highlighted the campaign advocating for the first woman Secretary-General of the United Nations and invited support for that objective.

Ms. F. Öncü (Türkiye), Second Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, took the Chair.

Report on the discussion on the draft resolution on the agenda of the 151st Assembly

Ms. T. Vardanyan (Armenia), First Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, reporting on the Forum's debate on the draft resolution entitled *Recognizing and supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent this practice*, said that the debate, chaired by Ms. D.-T. Avgerinopoulou (Greece), member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, featured interventions from 25 delegates who had taken the floor to address the topic from a gender perspective. The discussions had highlighted that a key driver of illegal adoption was structural inequality that was deeply gendered, and often exacerbated in contexts of conflict, displacement, poverty, marginalization and social exclusion. Young, unmarried, poor and minority or migrant women were especially vulnerable to the deception and misinformation that led to illegal international adoptions. The combination of patriarchal norms, discrimination and socioeconomic exclusion led to vulnerabilities that were gendered in nature. These gendered factors needed to be addressed to prevent such illegal adoptions from occurring and to protect victims.

Participants had stressed the importance of officially recognizing the phenomenon as a form of trafficking, causing lifelong trauma, and called for a rights-based, victim-centred approach to redress. Parliamentarians should align national legislation with international standards such as the CEDAW Convention, improve monitoring and victim support systems, including legal and psychological support, and train law enforcement officials, social workers and judges to detect and address the matter.

The principles of non-discrimination and gender equality must be embedded throughout all policies. Ignoring gender would perpetuate inequalities and deny justice, truth and reparation to biological mothers, adoptive mothers and adopted children. Amendments would be proposed to reinforce the draft resolution accordingly.

The report was adopted.

Election to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

The Chair said that the Forum was invited to elect one representative from the Asia-Pacific Group to replace Ms. L. Reynolds (Australia) on the Bureau who was no longer a parliamentarian.

Ms. Z. Hilal (Secretary of the Forum) said that the Asia-Pacific Group had nominated Ms. S. Claydon (Australia) to fill the vacancy.

The nomination was approved.

Venue and date of the 41st session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians

The Chair said that the 41st session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians would take place during the 152nd IPU Assembly in Istanbul, Türkiye, in April 2026.

The sitting rose at 17:45.

Forum of Young Parliamentarians

SITTING OF MONDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2025

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 14:30 with Ms. J. Sierra (Uruguay), Member of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians, in the Chair.

The Chair 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/151/A.1-rev)

The agenda was adopted.

Opening remarks

The Chair explained that she was presiding over the Forum in the absence of the President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians and in line with the rules of the Forum, in her capacity as the youngest member of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians.

She welcomed the participants and the Members of the Bureau present. She also welcomed the IPU Secretary General and Vice-President and thanked them for their support to the Forum, and more broadly to youth participation and leadership. The Secretary General was commended for his steadfast support since the Bureau's inception, as was the IPU Vice-President for attending the 11th IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, held in Peru one month prior.

Many young people continued to be excluded from politics. Standing at the forefront of international efforts to promote youth participation, the IPU led by example, amending its definition of a young member of parliament (MP) from MPs below 45 years old to MPs below 40 years old. Organizational rules also ensured that young parliamentarians were given leadership roles within the IPU and accorded a dedicated segment in the General Debate. The IPU Member Parliaments should maintain that momentum and ensure that at least one young MP was part of their country delegations. She looked forward to working with the Forum to that end.

Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka (Poland), IPU Vice-President, said that she had been inspired by the young MPs' energy, vision and courage at the 11th IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians and was pleased to witness that same spirit at the current sitting. Based on the theme *Uniting generations for gender equality*, the Conference had achieved gender parity among participants for the first time. Intentional inclusion created equality. The young parliamentarians' commitment to equality and forward-thinking policies had given her renewed hope. Gender equality strengthened youth empowerment and vice versa, which in turn bolstered democracy. She looked forward to the strengthening of those links during the sitting, as well as the synergies between the campaigns *Achieving gender equality, action by action* and *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!*

Mr. M. Chungong (IPU Secretary General), congratulating the newly elected members of the Bureau, underscored the Organization's determination to continue to work with young MPs. Young parliamentarians provided a fresh perspective and courage to solve the world's most pressing issues, which was inspiring and of immense wealth for the IPU. That spirit of renewal was needed, especially given the theme of the Assembly, *Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis*. While the conflicts across the world stretched the limits of collective response, young people, who were most often affected, were among those most determined to drive change, which was evident each time the Forum met. Young MPs had the power and responsibility to lead differently, based on cooperation and innovation. The IPU not only advocated for youth leadership, but exemplified it through the Forum. The young MPs were encouraged to continue providing new ideas and shaping the future of the Organization.

Updates on youth participation

The Chair provided an overview of activities since the 150th Assembly. Two sessions of the Empowerment Series for young MPs had been held: one in June 2025, *Building peaceful and inclusive societies: The role of young MPs and interfaith dialogue*, and another in August 2025, *International Youth Day showcase: Platforms and initiatives for youth political empowerment*.

National activities to promote youth participation and empower young MPs had also been held, including a capacity-building activity in Chad on leadership, mentorship and communication. In July 2025, the World Conference of Speakers of Parliament had featured an important panel discussion entitled *Women's and youth participation in parliament in a time of polarization and adversity*. In September 2025, the 11th IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians had been held, based on the theme *Uniting generations for gender equality*. Other international events in which young MPs had participated included the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum, the Global Young MP Initiative of the World Bank Group and the P20 Meeting of Young Parliamentarians. In line with the IPU priority theme of the year, the young parliamentarians had carried out a series of activities to advance gender equality.

Efforts to promote and implement the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign had continued, with over 2,500 pledges received as of October 2025, including pledges from more than 94 Speakers and 1,065 MPs from more than 150 countries. She encouraged further engagement with the campaign during the Assembly and urged Member Parliaments to sign up and pledge and to promote the initiative among colleagues.

Ms. Z. Hilal (Secretary of the Forum), outlining new data on youth participation in national parliaments and accompanying her remarks with a digital slide presentation, said that young people continued to be vastly underrepresented in parliaments with new data showing that youth representation had not advanced since 2023, which was lamentable considering the significant support given to youth participation. It had been reported that 37% of chambers of parliament did not have an MP aged 30 and under. Of all MPs worldwide, women aged 30 and under accounted for 1.2% of MPs, while women aged 40 and under accounted for 6.9%, representing a decrease in both categories since 2023. Although globally, gender balance was stronger among young parliamentarians, achieving gender equality required continuous efforts and decisive action.

There was some stagnation compared to the 2023 figures, such as in the percentage of parliaments with a youth caucus and the percentage of countries preventing young people who were old enough to vote from running for office, which stood at 70%. Three parliaments had established youth caucuses since the publication of the previous report, several had introduced quotas for young parliamentarians, and quotas had become more ambitious.

In light of the lack of progress from 2023, there needed to be renewed commitment to take specific action, especially through the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign, which had identified key actions to address the underrepresentation of young people in parliament.

The Chair said that it was alarming to see the stagnation in youth participation overall and the regression in participation among young women parliamentarians. There should be enhanced efforts to promote youth participation in all countries.

Ms. L. Gumnior (Germany) said that conservative parties in her country believed that capable MPs needed to have several years of experience. It was important to have young parliamentarians from diverse backgrounds. Much needed to be done to promote youth participation in Germany, as young MPs remained the exception and their average age was 42. While international forums for young parliamentarians allowed them to share their views, it was crucial to include young MPs in the development of agendas so that topics relevant to them were discussed by the wider Assembly. Young MPs were encouraged to empower their delegations to change their view of young parliamentarians.

Mr. M. Monteagudo Torres (Andorra) said that the average age of parliamentarians in his country had remained stable between 43 and 46 since 2000 and almost 36% of parliamentarians were below 40 years of age, owing to his Government's commendable capacity-building efforts. The Parliament of Andorra ensured compatibility between parliamentarians' office and professional background and there was awareness-raising among citizens about the importance of youth involvement in decision-making. Young MPs in Andorra held significant responsibilities, including leadership roles. Cooperation between young MPs and older MPs in his country made decision-making more effective and consolidated the presence of both men and women young MPs.

Women accounted for 50% of parliamentarians in Andorra and many held leadership positions. Women parliamentarians should continue to pursue efforts to that end. Men and women parliamentarians complemented one another and should prioritize working based on consensus, as should young and older MPs.

Mr. R. Zare (Islamic Republic of Iran), highlighting the importance of public participation and the role of young people in his country, said that all officials were appointed through direct or indirect election and that young people played decisive political and social roles. The minimum voting age was 18 years old. The Islamic Republic of Iran had taken comprehensive measures to educate young people and increase their participation in national and social decision-making, by prioritizing youth-centred civil society organizations, enhancing the role of young people in innovation, resilience and sustainable development, and calling for the removal of illegal obstacles, including unilateral coercive measures and action that undermined development. Young people had the energy and creativity to drive a responsible future.

Mr. M.A. Zambrano Vera (Ecuador) said that, following an election in his country that year, the new Parliament had seen an increase in women's participation from under 35% to 45% – the country's largest percentage of women parliamentarians – and in youth participation from 4.38% to over 13.25%, as a result of reforms to the Democratic Code establishing an electoral list quota of 50% for women's participation and 25% for youth. Political will had also been key to Ecuador's progress. Although some parties might well satisfy the quotas, many failed to appoint young parliamentarians to key positions. The political bloc to which he belonged, the National Democratic Action, had, under the President's leadership, placed significant trust in young people, appointing them to leadership roles.

Mr. J. Nyevera (Zimbabwe), highlighting that his Parliament was guided by the Youth2030 Strategy of the UN, outlined key findings of the *Global youth participation index report 2025*, including that young parliamentarians needed to fill the gap between their intentions and actions and continued to be underrepresented in formal decision-making spaces, particularly in fragile or conflict-affected regions, despite their increased visibility. Limited resources and political support continued to undermine full implementation of youth strategies, especially in low-income countries. It had also been reported that 28 countries lacked youth representation in their lower houses of legislation, and many young people still faced barriers to accessing online governance platforms. Zimbabwe adhered to the African Youth Charter, which promoted young people's rights and participation across all sectors, and the Continental Framework for Youth, Peace and Security, which sought to integrate young people into peacebuilding efforts across Africa.

To address gaps, youth representation should be strengthened through quotas, youth parliaments and advisory roles and resources needed to be allocated to capacity-building, ensuring inclusive access to vocational training, civic education and digital literacy, particularly for marginalized groups. Accountability must be boosted, such as through transparent reporting on youth engagement by governments and businesses. Gender barriers must be tackled, including by addressing restrictive norms and early marriage. All public programmes should include youth engagement strategies and budget lines. It would also be useful to ring-fence youth budgets. Parliaments could consider introducing mandatory annual ministerial reports on youth outcomes based on measurable indicators and disaggregated by sex, age, disability and location.

Mr. K. Khelifati (Algeria) said that youth participation was a responsibility to humanity. Algeria empowered its young people to undertake a strategic role, as they were essential to a country's development. Algeria ensured that young people were present in decision-making and occupied high-level positions in the Government and had appointed young advisers to the President, given that a youth perspective was necessary for countries' sustainability. Posts had also been dedicated to innovation to meet the needs of the digital age. In light of the young people's role as guarantors of human rights and hope when addressing crises and establishing justice and peace, his country supported all initiatives promoting youth representation, gender equality and a youth perspective in sustainable development strategies. The *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign should incorporate a digital platform to foster dialogue among young parliamentarians globally.

Mr. W. Soto Palacios (Peru) said that youth participation was key to democracy, as was gender equality to sustainable development. Young people had shown that they were capable of defending transparency and democracy in times of crisis. It was therefore necessary to ensure their inclusion by removing age restrictions for election to office, promoting quotas and providing political training. Given

that women still faced income gaps and were underrepresented due to violence, there needed to be laws and budgets to promote gender equality. Parliamentarians were urged to promote youth participation and gender equality as a democratic duty, ensuring diverse youth representation and justice in young parliamentarians' exercise of power.

Mr. Y. Mollaberdivev (Turkmenistan) said that his country was carrying out significant work to ensure the promotion of rights, comprehensive social protection and State support for young people, such as through the Law on State Youth Policy, which regulated youth participation, and the Strategy for International Cooperation of the Youth of Turkmenistan for 2023–2030, which recommended activities to enhance young people's potential, supported their initiatives and had led to the Parliament's establishment of a group of young parliamentarians. Turkmenistan consistently strengthened its partnerships with foreign parliaments and international organizations, including through the active functioning of inter-parliamentary friendship groups in the country's Parliament. In August 2025, his country had hosted the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, which had seen the adoption of the youth declaration entitled *Building Bridges for LLDC Futures*, which aimed to ensure youth participation in decision-making.

Mr. I. Novikov (Russian Federation) said that a parliamentary policy had been established to enable young people to share their views in high-level contexts, including in politics. The Council of the Federation considered draft laws put forward by young parliamentarians, and its incorporation of young people had improved decision-making mechanisms. Young people were provided with regional and federal political training and had taken part in constitutional amendments on youth policy in recent years. Youth parliaments had been launched in all areas of the country's affairs. The Russian Federation had shared with certain countries its initiatives to build the capacity of young people to ensure more active and inclusive youth participation.

Mr. L. Mendes (France) said that while efforts had been made by his country's National Assembly, young parliamentarians under 40 years of age accounted for only 23% and women parliamentarians only 36% of the National Assembly. The world was changing quickly, and the political class was lagging behind. All political parties in all countries needed to unite to combat discrimination based on gender, age, disability and sexuality, for example, to avoid disjointed struggles against discrimination and affect global change.

Mr. A.A. Koko (Chad) said that his country's Constitution encouraged youth participation at all levels. Candidates could run for the National Assembly and local elections from 25 years of age and for the Senate from 35 years of age. The IPU had organized a training session for young parliamentarians in Chad in June 2025, which had led to discussions on an action plan to effectively implement the guidance provided during the training and the launch of the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign. The Minister of Youth had signed the campaign and Government consultations were under way to introduce quotas. There should be follow-up and accountability to assess countries' progress on the good practices shared within the context of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians.

Ms. B. Muzhaqi (Albania) said that although it was possible to become a member of Parliament from 18 years of age in her country, there was not strong representation among parliamentarians under the age of 30, thus requiring enhanced efforts. However, youth representation below the age of 40 was much higher than the global average, at around 25% in the previous legislature. To improve youth representation in all fields, Albania had implemented its National Youth Strategy, which aimed to boost the representation of young people in local youth councils, including through quotas for the LGBTQI+ community, marginalized communities and ethnic minorities, so that their ideas could be represented in Parliament. Albania's National Youth Council acted as a representative body for youth organizations, allowing civil society to contribute to parliamentary processes. The country's parliamentary committees dealt with youth as a specific subject, and its youth parliamentarian group was a forum where parliamentarians of all ages actively promoted young people's interests. Albania had an innovative parliamentary candidate-selection platform that attracted young people from different professional backgrounds.

Mr. I.B. Ehindero (Nigeria) said that, following the 2019 general election, in which there had been a marked increase in youth representation, there was slight improvement in the 2023 general election; youth representation, mainly among parliamentarians between the ages of 25 and 35, had risen from 3% to 3.92% in the House of Representatives, and from 8.9% to 9.2% in the State

Assemblies. Furthermore, in the 2023 election, two parliamentarians under the age of 29 had secured seats in the National Assembly, and four women parliamentarians under the age of 35 had been elected across three State Assemblies, the youngest of whom was 26 years old. It was the first time young women legislators below 30 years of age had been elected to the National and State Assemblies. Nigeria's Minister of Youth was 36 years old, the youngest to date. Thanks to the Not Too Young to Run bill, efforts were under way to reserve seats for at least one woman in each State.

Ms. S.M. Garza de la Garza (Mexico) said that over one third of the population in her country was under 30 years old. However, politics remained a myth for many or was dominated by older generations. It was important to promote the participation of young parliamentarians, as they had fresh ideas and called for inclusive and humanitarian policies that better addressed realities. Youth participation strengthened democracy, representation and public trust. In Mexico, through programmes such as the Youth Parliament, young people had shown that it was possible to be engaged in politics with passion, good values and purpose, and that leadership depended not on age, but on commitment and patriotism.

Mr. J.C. Abalos (Philippines) said that young people played an increasingly dynamic role in politics and governance in his country. About 5% of the members of the House of Representatives were aged 30 and below, while 21% were under 40. Although young people remained underrepresented in the national legislature, their engagement was significant outside the realm of politics. In 2023, the Youth Council elections had recorded a turnout of about 76% nationwide, showing that young people were eager to participate in civic life when given the space and trust to do so. The Youth Councils provided training in policymaking. The House of Representatives had prioritized youth-centred measures, including the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Bill, which promoted education, social protection and health services for young people; the Magna Carta of Out-of-School Youth, which guaranteed access to learning and employment opportunities; the Sports Voucher Bill, providing financial support for grassroots athletes and encouraging wider youth participation in sports; and the Assisted Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Regulation Act, which aimed to protect the rights of the surrogate mother, intended parents and unborn child. The House Committee on Youth and Sports Development worked with international partners, including the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs to strengthen the national youth agenda, and had advanced regional youth cooperation by actively contributing to the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

However, some challenges remained. The Philippines Congress had no formal youth caucus, and many young leaders encountered structural barriers, such as financial limitations and stringent eligibility requirements. Those challenges presented opportunities for reform, mentorship and coalition-building. His country therefore supported the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign and was working towards creating a cross-party youth focus, expanding youth mentorship programmes and institutionalizing pathways from local youth councils to national leadership. Empowering young people provided fresh perspectives on politics and strengthened democracy.

Elections to the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians

The Chair said that the Bureau was requested to fill one vacancy for the African Group.

Ms. Z. Hilal (Secretary of the Forum) said that the African Group had nominated Ms. J. Quashie (Ghana) as a candidate for election as a member of the Bureau.

The Chair asked if the Forum accepted to elect Ms. Quashie to serve as a member of the Bureau.

It was so decided.

Contribution to the work of the 151st Assembly

The Chair said that the discussion would focus on providing a youth perspective on the General Debate theme *Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis*.

Mr. H. Ebrahim (Bahrain) said that young people were directly impacted by the ongoing humanitarian crises. However, they were not simply victims but the main actors able to transform challenges into opportunities and shape a fairer future through responses based on humanitarianism and sustainability.

Mr. M. Almheiri (United Arab Emirates) said that current crises mainly affected young people. It was therefore important to make the youth voice heard to craft innovative solutions, facilitate the exchange of expertise between parliaments and launch national awareness programmes involving young people across all fields. His country remained committed to ensuring youth participation in all spheres of life, improving its emergency response to global crises and enhancing the use of parliamentary diplomacy to deliver aid, especially to young people. The United Arab Emirates had launched initiatives to provide education in conflict-affected areas, such as through the Zayed Humanitarian Legacy Initiative, which had provided remote education in Gaza. The country was also carrying out efforts to involve young people as humanitarian workers and volunteers. Solidarity was paramount.

Mr. S. Durrani (Pakistan) said that humanitarianism required protecting life, preserving dignity and standing by those in need, even when circumstances tested people's patience and capacity. Pakistan had hosted millions of Afghan refugees since the 1980s, one of the world's largest and longest-lasting refugee populations. While Pakistan continued to uphold its humanitarian responsibility despite limited resources, it had lost over 90,000 lives and over US\$ 150 billion owing to the terrorism and cross-border militancy often beginning across the Afghan border. Nevertheless, Pakistan continued to advocate for peace, stability and human dignity, as compassion could not be selective and humanitarian action was a moral obligation that must be guided by justice and fairness. His country had consistently defended Palestinians' right to live freely and with dignity, sending humanitarian aid and medical supplies to Gaza, repeatedly condemning the Israeli aggression and calling for an immediate ceasefire and respect for international humanitarian law. Pakistan had supported international resolutions for ceasefire and humanitarian corridors, aware that humanity should transcend politics. Domestically, the National Action Plan aimed to combat terrorism and extremism, while protecting humanitarian and moral values. Regarding UN peacekeeping missions, his country was among the largest contributors. Young people should have a clear understanding of humanitarianism – it was a commitment to seek justice, support victims, including refugees, and demand accountability for violence.

Mr. S. Ty (Cambodia) said that there needed to be institutionalized inclusion of young people, making them central to peacebuilding and parliamentary diplomacy, especially in post-conflict settings, as young people were generally the most affected by conflicts. Having been a victim of illegal international adoption, his country welcomed the draft resolution entitled *Recognizing and supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent this practice*, which should include a youth-sensitive approach to supporting adoptees seeking their identity and origin, strong cross-border cooperation mechanisms to prevent future abuse and enhanced measures to boost awareness and accountability, especially through civil society and social media so that young people could lead advocacy efforts. The youth perspective for that draft resolution and the draft resolution entitled *Parliamentary action against transnational organized crime, cybercrime and hybrid threats to democracy and human security* should include the following post-conflict recovery emphases: the identification of young people not only as victims, but also as agents of peace, particularly through truth-telling, reconciliation and the rebuilding of democratic institutions; and youth economic empowerment, fair access to jobs and a standard tax justice framework that ensured that multinationals contributed to the future of young people, especially in developing countries.

Cambodia remained committed to advancing the campaigns *Achieving gender equality, action by action* and *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!*. Efforts were underway to promote youth quotas and mentorship programmes in local and national politics, support young women leaders through targeted capacity-building and awareness-raising among senior parliamentarians to sponsor and support youth inclusion laws. The struggles for gender equality and youth participation in parliaments were interlinked, and he was proud to be part of the generation that would lead that struggle. Young parliamentarians were urged to continue to push for concrete action, inclusion and accountability.

Mr. B.B. Nodada (South Africa), underscoring the dangers and uncertainty faced by children and young people owing to converging global crises, said that upholding humanitarian norms was not about diplomatic process but about young people's access to education in war zones, survival and safety from violence, and whether their futures mattered as much as geopolitical interests. It was a matter of ensuring intergenerational justice and of shaping a future rooted in dignity and solidarity, a charge that young people had the energy, vision and moral authority to lead. Young people faced traditional and emerging threats. Humanitarian systems designed decades prior could not adequately protect against twenty-first century threats. South Africa's commitment to humanitarian norms came

from its lived experiences. Young people had driven the country's liberation from apartheid, including by risking their lives to establish education as a human right, and had built global solidarity movements, proving that local struggles required international support and that young people were agents of change. Young people globally should benefit from international solidarity. Young parliamentarians needed to champion humanitarian values in national legislation and oversight, scrutinize budgets to ensure adequate funding for human rights and humanitarian action, amplify the youth voice in global forums, advocate for inclusive rights-based policies, promote digital accountability, ensuring the ethical and transparent use of emerging technologies, and build coalitions with civil society, especially youth-led organizations, to monitor and respond to violations. Countries had no future unless they invested in young people.

Ms. I. Khalid (Canada) said that ensuring youth involvement in democracies was the IPU's most important task. Young people were not the future but the present. Youth movements across the world had shown that young people held parliaments to account. It was therefore necessary for the Organization to be open and build trust, particularly amidst misinformation and disinformation, by creating a space for young people in democratic systems through the election of young parliamentarians who would encourage further youth participation and strengthen democracy and whose innovation was necessary to address humanitarian crises. Strengthening justice, accountability and anti-corruption legislation would be key to creating that space. Not only should democracy serve all people, but everyone should sense that they were included, which was a key value for young people.

Ms. R. Maachaoui (Tunisia) said that that day marked the 198th anniversary of her country's national flag, which had been fought for with the blood of free people. Tunisians were proud and free and the only people that could decide their fate. Tunisia opposed any intentions to intervene in its autonomy, which was unacceptable. Upholding humanitarian norms was an ethical and moral obligation and was a call to stand in solidarity for dignity. The international community was urged to examine the suffering of Palestinian women and children, which bore testament to the lack of morality globally, and to uphold its responsibility to protect the Palestinian people and put an end to all the crimes and violations of human rights.

Ms. Xiao Jingxi (World Health Organization (WHO) Youth Council), noting with satisfaction that the 151st Assembly had prioritized food security and nutrition through the workshop on food security, said that young people, women and displaced communities often bore the brunt of crises yet remained underrepresented in the political space. Young parliamentarians have a vital role to play in turning humanitarian principles into action by shaping inclusive laws, safeguarding rights and holding governments accountable. The Council's Youth Declaration on Creating Healthy Societies outlined 10 calls to action in health education and literacy, accessible and sustainable healthcare and youth leadership. Parliamentarians were urged to promote equitable, resilient and crisis-ready health systems by: protecting and financing resilient primary healthcare to ensure essential services reached communities in times of crisis; integrating health, climate and digital literacy into education systems and supporting young people's access to information and technology; prioritizing mental health for young people and women, including prevention within humanitarian responses; and institutionalizing meaningful youth participation in shaping health and humanitarian laws. The WHO Youth Council stood ready to deepen its collaboration with the Forum, including by exploring structured modalities for engagement and participating in the IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in 2026 to advance shared priorities.

The Chair, encouraging the members of the Forum to participate in the General Debate, said that the discussion would shift to the draft resolution entitled *Recognizing and supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent this practice*. She invited Mr. K. Ait Mik (Morocco), Rapporteur of the youth overview report on the draft resolution, to take the floor.

Mr. K. Ait Mik (Morocco), Rapporteur, summarizing the youth overview report on the draft resolution, said that it had been difficult to provide an exact figure for the number of illegal adoptions worldwide because of a lack of reliable data and the clandestine nature of such practices. An amendment addressing that issue had been adopted that morning in the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights. While millions of people were affected in almost all regions, the countries most impacted faced socioeconomic vulnerabilities, natural catastrophes or armed conflicts. Young MPs had emphasized the need for a systemic approach and the importance of recognition and support for the victims of illegal adoption – both adopted persons and their families – as central to

efforts by governments and parliaments. It was necessary to implement preventative measures, particularly by strengthening laws and establishing rigorous verification mechanisms to ensure legal compliance, and carry out legal reform based on collaboration, commitment and empathy. Victim recognition was essential to establish the truth regarding the circumstances of the adoption, provide a legal basis for reparations, evaluate the psychological and social impact and limit exploitation risks. Young MPs had also called for enhanced psychological support, reintegration programmes and legal assistance to seek justice or find families of origin. It was crucial for young parliamentarians to speak up for victims, call for legislative reform and promote innovative solutions that used technology to improve transparency.

Mr. F.M. Dy (Philippines) said that illegal international adoptions robbed children of their inherent right to a name, nationality and family. The Philippines, like many developing countries, had dealt with the advantages and disadvantages of international adoption and called for emphasis to be placed on education, public awareness, ethical adoption and child rights. Raising awareness, particularly among young people, would train the next generation to value transparency, compassion and accountability. The Philippines was carrying out efforts to strengthen domestic adoption laws and curb child trafficking. Parliamentarians should acknowledge the potential of digital platforms to shape narratives and mobilize action. They were also encouraged to support youth-led social media campaigns that told victims' stories and promoted legal and ethical adoption practices and to partner with civil society, academia and youth networks to develop community-based vigilance mechanisms to prevent child trafficking, thereby underscoring the transformative power of digital advocacy and young people's active role in shaping public conscience.

He welcomed the draft resolution's call for psychological assistance, access to archives, DNA tracing and cultural reintegration programmes allowing victims to rediscover their origins without fear of losing their civil rights or nationality. Young parliamentarians brought fresh resolve for compassion and justice in policymaking and should ensure dignity, transparency and love in each adoption. In advancing the draft resolution, the Organization should affirm that restoring identity restored humanity and should safeguard children's rights through education, solidarity and youth leadership.

Mr. A.-F. Gheorghiu (Romania) said that his country had ratified the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, recognizing the importance of ensuring that each adoption was ethical, legal and in the child's best interest. Romania's legislation strengthened protection, including by ensuring individualized children's protection plans, and restricted international adoption to appropriate family members under strict supervision. Yet illegal intercountry adoption remained a threat constituting a form of human trafficking that caused trauma for children and biological and adoptive parents, which violated human rights and basic morality. The amendments to the draft resolution submitted by his delegation aimed to introduce safeguards for confidentiality and children's protection, identify competent authorities and determine the responsible State when considering reparative measures through legal compensation mechanisms, thus ensuring justified and practical justice. Young leaders provided a unique perspective because of their commitment to innovation, cooperation and vigilance, and were urged to uphold the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, prioritize identity protection and empower victims to reclaim their rights and heritage. Romania stood ready to continue strengthening its legal framework and to cooperate internationally with a view to creating a safe, transparent and ethical adoption system. Parliamentarians should act decisively and with courage and justice, to guarantee a loving, secure environment for each child.

Mr. A. Tongjaisod (Thailand), highlighting that his country was a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Hague Convention, welcomed the draft resolution. Thailand's Child Adoption Act and the amendment thereto, which imposed heavier penalties, ensured the best interests of children, adoptive parents and birth parents. Its Department of Children and Youth was responsible for approving domestic and international adoptions. International adoptions of Thai children must comply with Thai law and the Hague Convention. Parliaments could play a crucial role by prioritizing child rights, including through amendments and compliance with international law, ensuring oversight to guarantee transparent adoptions and uphold the child's best interest at every stage, undertaking independent investigations to identify failures that allowed illegal adoptions and consequently deliver justice for victims. They could also ensure public advocacy and collaboration with civil society to promote social acceptance of adoption and encourage inclusive participation. Young parliamentarians should raise awareness of adoption among children and young people and through the use of technology, including big data and artificial intelligence (AI), identify possible cases of illegal adoption and propose solutions.

Ms. N.M. Mhlongo (South Africa) said that the thousands of illegal and unethical intercountry adoptions across the world were not isolated incidents but reflected systematic failures that had denied children their identity, heritage and basic rights. Youth adoptees were excluded from conversations about remedy and reform. Her country wished to propose that the draft resolution provide for the creation of reparation funds to support affected youth with education, healthcare and legal aid, the digitalization and preservation of archives and the inclusion of youth-led advisory councils to shape adoption policies and oversight.

Contribution to the work of the 152nd Assembly

The Chair, based on the proposals made by the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians, proposed nominations for the Rapporteurs of the youth overview reports on the draft resolutions to be considered at the upcoming IPU Assembly by the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, entitled *The role of parliaments in establishing robust post-conflict management mechanisms and restoring a just and lasting peace*, and by the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, entitled *Building a fair and sustainable global economy: The role of parliaments in combating protectionism, reducing tariffs and preventing corporate tax evasion*. The proposed nominations were, respectively, Mr. H. Ebrahim (Bahrain) and Mr. W. Soto Palacios (Peru).

The nominations were confirmed by the Forum.

The Chair said that an amendment to the IPU Statutes had been passed to allow the Forum to submit amendments to resolutions to incorporate a youth perspective. Therefore, at each of the Forum's meetings, a discussion would be held on the resolutions being discussed at the following Assembly and views taken into account by the Rapporteur of the youth overview report. Proposed amendments would be submitted by the Bureau on behalf of the Forum. She invited the young MPs to share their views on the draft resolution *The role of parliaments in establishing robust post-conflict management mechanisms and restoring a just and lasting peace*.

Ms. V. Centeno Arteaga (Ecuador) said that young MPs played a significant and active role in peacebuilding, which required their courage, vision and commitment to ensure that all post-conflict mechanisms led to lasting and inclusive peace and dignity for all. Ecuador's National Assembly strove to protect the most vulnerable and build an accessible justice system free of corruption. However, peace required not only the absence of violence, but also opportunities provided to young people, such as Ecuador's educational and professional reintegration programmes. Young parliamentarians should strengthen their commitment to building parliaments that reflected young people's diversity, creativity and resilience.

Mr. J. Ngalamulume Bakakenga (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that, despite warnings from the international community, his country had opened its borders without distinction to over a million refugees fleeing the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, including former genocide perpetrators. It had chosen solidarity despite the lack of adequate infrastructure and abundance of health, safety and logistical risks, including the introduction of armed groups in refugee camps, community tensions and the destabilization of sustainable development in the east of the country, where young MPs still faced considerable challenges undermining their ability to carry out their mandate on the ground. Given that the Democratic Republic of the Congo prioritized remaining loyal to one's origins and addressing citizens' concerns, young MPs forced to move from their regions because of their responsibilities had a stronger determination to be the voice of their regions in national and international spheres and ensure that local resources benefited locals. Many Congolese young MPs participated actively in parliamentary committees and cooperated internationally to improve their efficiency. Although the country's politics was dominated by outdated thinking, its young parliamentarians were bringing about change for a more just society and called for collective and coordinated support to guarantee lasting stability in the east of the country and for national reconstruction and peace.

Ms. I. Khalid (Canada), underscoring that trauma was intergenerational, said that post-conflict management required justice and accountability. Over the previous decade, her Government had worked with Indigenous communities to develop a truth and reconciliation system based on healing. A similar approach should be included in the draft resolution on post-conflict management. It was necessary to ensure diversity, equity and inclusion in such truth and reconciliation systems, particularly regarding youth participation. To that end and to achieve lasting peace, misinformation, disinformation and hate speech should be targeted within countries and the Organization to safeguard truth and trust.

The Chair invited the Forum to discuss the draft resolution to be discussed at the upcoming IPU Assembly by the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, entitled *Building a fair and sustainable global economy: The role of parliaments in combating protectionism, reducing tariffs and preventing corporate tax evasion*.

Mr. I. Wamunyima (Zambia) said that while international trade and investments lifted millions of people out of poverty, protectionism, inequitable tariffs and corporate tax evasion continued to affect young people. The capacity of young Zambian parliamentarians had been built to address tax evasion, including through participation in the African Parliamentary Network on Illicit Financial Flows. The Post-Legislative Scrutiny Caucus had been established by Zambia's Youth Parliamentary Caucus to evaluate the efficiency of laws after adoption and ensure that taxes imposed on imports and exports not only protected conglomerates, but also promoted the growth of domestic industries. As regional collaboration was key, the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) had been leveraged to promote harmonized approaches to taxes and tariffs across the SADC. Young parliamentarians in Zambia had shown an interest in seconding members of the Parliamentary Committee on Trade and Economy to provide oversight on all of the executive's tax policies. Young MPs had also ensured public participation and partnered with civil society to enhance their technical understanding of the subject matter and thus strengthen their budget scrutiny capacities.

Q&A Panel discussion on the campaigns *Achieving gender equality, action by action* and *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!*

The Chair, recalling the six pledges of the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign, said that the campaign had led to specific changes, including introducing youth quotas, lowering ages of eligibility for office and creating youth caucuses. With advancing gender equality as the 2025 IPU priority theme, a new campaign entitled *Achieving gender equality, action by action* had been launched.

A video was shown on the new IPU campaign Achieving gender equality, action by action.

Mr. W. Soto Palacios (Peru), speaking in a pre-recorded video message, said that his Parliament had achieved 40% women's participation, having strengthened laws, addressed machismo and introduced gender quotas. Structural discrimination against women remained a global issue. Peru needed to address the inequality of roles between men and women. The Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) would continue to raise awareness to that end. Youth participation was vital to parliaments, as young people represented the present and future.

Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, accompanying her remarks with a digital slide presentation, commended the Chair for her leadership and Mr. Soto Palacios for facilitating the 11th IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians. Global gender parity in parliaments had risen to 27% in 2025, which, though welcome, was not enough. Young MPs accounted for only 2% of parliamentarians worldwide. She had led a constitutional reform in her country to align the age of eligibility for parliamentary office with that of voting – 18 years old. There were several young parliamentarians in Mexico, the youngest of whom was 21 years old. Globally, the number of women parliamentarians aged 30 and under had declined since 2023. Excluding women from decision-making weakened democracy. Her country had its first woman president and had hosted the IPU Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians, where the IPU plan of action for parity in parliaments had been adopted. Delegates were encouraged to attend the second such conference, which would be held in Serbia, in June 2026. The Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians was commended for its focus on gender equality.

Highlighting the 10 key actions of the new campaign *Achieving gender equality, action by action*, which should be reviewed and carried out by each Parliament, she underscored the campaign's call for commitments to be implemented through specific action. In light of the age and gender discrimination she had faced and her participation in efforts to lower the minimum age to run for the Senate to 25 years old, therefore leading to over 30 senators under the age of 40 in her country, MPs should assess ages of eligibility for voting and parliamentary office and the operations of political parties to incorporate more young parliamentarians, whose leadership, energy and ideas were crucial. The campaigns *Achieving gender equality, action by action* and *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* built on one another.

Mr. W. Soto Palacios (Peru) said that progress towards global gender parity had slowed and, in the case of women parliamentarians under the age of 30, had even regressed. Everyone stood to lose. The 11th IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians held in September 2025 in Peru had given young MPs a shared vision of achieving gender equality, equity and parity as a lived reality. There had been gender parity among the parliamentarians attending the Conference, demonstrating that change was possible with commitment. Increasing the number of women in decision-making allowed for enacting laws that promoted rights, inclusion and economic growth. At the Conference, young MPs had called for bold implementation of the IPU plan of action for parity in parliaments, including through gender and youth quotas. They had also urged governments to lower the age of eligibility for parliamentary office, cap campaign spending and make elections more accessible for diverse participation.

There had been a focus on appointing young parliamentarians and women parliamentarians to leadership positions. The young MPs had addressed the issue of hostile environments that alienated young people, particularly women, from politics, calling for zero tolerance policies on sexism, harassment and violence, and greater oversight of technology companies to ensure the safety of democratic participation in online spaces and gender-sensitive parliaments. Inter-generational partnerships were necessary to close the equality gap. The young MPs had therefore made a commitment to working with former parliamentarians and young civil society leaders. The Forum was encouraged to read and disseminate the Conference's outcome document. In the national context, efforts were under way in Peru to lower the age of eligibility for candidacy to the Chamber of Deputies to 18 years old, and to 30 years old for the Senate.

The Chair invited delegates to share their views on the campaigns.

Ms. N.M. Mhlongo (South Africa) said that gender equality was the foundation of inclusive democracy and sustainable development and was even more urgent when viewed through the lens of young people. Hosting the first P20 Meeting of Young Parliamentarians was a reaffirmation of South Africa's commitment to building a more inclusive global parliamentary community, where gender equality and youth empowerment went hand in hand. The joint statement adopted at the Meeting had outlined commitments to promoting gender equality in political representation, addressing structural barriers to women's participation, supporting youth-led initiatives to advance gender justice and ensure gender-sensitive parliamentary practices.

Mr. F. Metaza (MERCOSUR Parliament (PARLASUR)) said that gender equality measures should be permanent. Hate speech, in particular, must be eradicated, as it undermined democracy and open dialogue and often targeted women and minorities. Former President of Argentina Cristina Fernández de Kirchner had been a victim of a hate speech campaign, including through mass and social media, with a view to bringing several lawsuits against her, without any evidence, which had stigmatized her and her then minor daughter. In September 2022, a gun had been cocked at her head. He claimed that the intellectual and financial perpetrators of the attempted femicide had been officials of the Government of Javier Milei. The trial had lacked transparency and the perpetrators' imprisonment, which had dated back four months, had been announced on television by President Javier Milei only a few days prior. It had been a case of lawfare, which was common in many countries. He wished to advocate for the release of Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, as she was innocent. The international community was urged to pay attention to the situation in Argentina, where democracy had deteriorated under President Javier Milei.

The sitting rose at 17:20.

Open session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

Safeguarding humanitarian action in times of armed conflict

TUESDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2025

(Morning)

The session was called to order at 11:30, with Mr. A. Farrugia (Malta), President of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, in the Chair.

The President said in welcoming participants that, according to United Nations figures, over 300 million people in 2025 needed humanitarian assistance, primarily as a consequence of armed conflict. Regrettably, the situation of humanitarian action was now extremely challenging. Neutral humanitarian actors were being subjected to abuse, threats and acts of violence in armed conflicts worldwide, with a record number killed in 2024, a similar number severely wounded and others kidnapped or detained. In counter-terrorism settings, broadly regulated exceptions and measures had sometimes resulted in the criminalization of activities conducted by impartial and independent humanitarian organizations. Coupled with misinformation and disinformation, growing polarization and the politicization of humanitarian assistance endangered the capacity to deliver life-saving aid and ensure the safety of humanitarian workers. Parliamentarians could contribute significantly towards safeguarding humanitarian action, as enshrined in international humanitarian law (IHL), by reflecting the related obligations in their national laws and allocating the resources needed for humanitarian organizations to fulfil their missions in times of armed conflict.

The four panellists participating in the session would shed light on the challenges faced by humanitarian actors and on how parliamentarians could help. He asked the first panellist, Ms. E. Misola Richard, Legal Adviser at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to speak about principled humanitarian action, its protection under IHL, and steps required from States and national authorities to ensure that protection.

Ms. E. Misola Richard (Legal Adviser, ICRC), panellist, said that principled humanitarian action referred to humanitarian work guided by the action's widely recognized Fundamental Principles that enabled humanitarian actors such as the ICRC, Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) to operate in the most difficult and polarized environments. The first of those guiding principles was humanity, which was core to IHL and the prevention and alleviation of suffering. The second was impartiality, meaning the provision of life-saving assistance on the sole basis of need. The third was neutrality, which meant taking no sides in hostilities and never engaging in political, religious or ideological controversies or creating an impression otherwise. The fourth was independence, which referred to the capacity to act autonomously of any political or military objectives.

Those four principles were practical tools for humanitarian actors to use in their pursuit of principled humanitarian actions enabling them to build trust with all parties to a conflict, cross front lines and reach those in need. In terms of scope, such actions extended beyond aid to incorporate protection aimed at ensuring that authorities and all other relevant actors fulfilled their obligations and upheld the rights of individuals. In that connection, their intention was to prevent or address the indiscriminate effects of violations and safeguard the conditions needed for civilians to live in safety. Indeed, the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 explicitly provided that humanitarian actors must be granted all facilities enabling them to carry out their functions to ensure protection and assistance to victims of armed conflict.

IHL protected humanitarian action by making the parties to a conflict, specifically States and arms carriers, primarily responsible for meeting the basic needs of populations in territories under their control, failing which impartial humanitarian organizations were entitled to offer their services. Parties were required to accept and facilitate such services and to respect and protect humanitarian personnel, medical staff and relief consignments. Consent to humanitarian action could not be arbitrarily denied and must be given in good faith. In the interest of security, IHL allowed for control measures, provided that they did not cause undue delay or hinder relief generally.

The role of parliamentarians was to enact laws, policies and practices reflecting those obligations so as to protect humanitarian workers, facilitate access and prevent the politicization of aid. They should ensure that national frameworks permitted principled humanitarian action and supported – not obstructed – those delivering it.

The President, thanking Ms. Misola Richard for her intervention, invited the second panellist, MSF Legal Adviser Ms. J. Wong, to elaborate on the significant challenges facing the MSF in its efforts to deliver services in conflict zones, explain how MSF operations were affected by restrictions and measures adopted in counter-terrorism settings, and identify possible measures for addressing such challenges.

Ms. J. Wong (Legal Adviser, MSF), panellist, said that the main challenge facing the MSF related to the erosion of humanitarian medical space in particular. Hospitals and the medical mission were among the most protected under IHL, which had medical care as its cornerstone. Lately, however, hospitals and healthcare facilities had borne the brunt of targeted attacks, now a hallmark of almost every recent conflict in areas where health systems were overwhelmed by rising needs and growing suffering.

According to MSF statistics, security incidents had risen by more than 20% since 2023 to over 1,000. Earlier in the month, the MSF had marked the 10th anniversary of the earth-shattering aerial attack on its trauma centre in Kunduz, Afghanistan, in which 42 of its colleagues had been killed. The incident had subsequently been framed as a mistake. Today, the erosion of humanitarian medical space was exacerbated in settings where terrorism discourses and frameworks predominated and were legitimized, with such attacks no longer explicitly or implicitly characterized as mistakes.

IHL required belligerents in armed conflicts to allow the enemy, with no exception and including terrorists, to receive medical care on the basis of medical criteria alone. Crucially, an enemy's doctor was not the enemy. In the counter-terrorism context, what was once legitimate and protected under IHL had been reversed, creating a dangerously confusing environment in which the MSF medical mission was perceived as illegitimate, complicit with and supportive of criminal terrorists. MSF teams were increasingly hearing that they should provide medical care only to innocent civilians, whereas IHL called for medical care and humanitarian action benefiting all populations.

Under the predominant counter-terrorism framework, entire swathes of populations were no longer considered legitimate beneficiaries of humanitarian assistance. It was also becoming harder for the MSF to reach those with little or no access to medical care. Moreover, the MSF was now perceived as incapable of operating in the impartial and neutral manner envisaged by IHL, jeopardizing the security of staff, patients and the communities with which it worked.

The consequences ranged from the imposition of non-violent measures, including financial sanctions and administrative impediments, to the use of force against patients and medical staff and the targeting of medical infrastructures. Healthcare workers were also expected to be an extension of law enforcement. In view of that, Ms. Wong explained that her role was to provide legal support for MSF operations by, among other things, managing accusations of supporting terrorists and assisting in cases involving the arrest and detention of MSF staff. The increasingly common narrative was that IHL did not apply in those contexts because the armed actors were internationally designated as terrorists.

The humanitarian community had been calling since 2015 for top-down reinforcement of the IHL protection frameworks competing with strengthened domestic counter-terrorism frameworks. There had, however, been inertia among States in implementing either that call or indeed relevant Security Council resolutions dating back to 2016 and 2019 on protection of medical and humanitarian personnel in armed conflict and on preventing and combating terrorism and its financing.

Parliamentarians were therefore vitally needed to hold their governments to account for their failures on that score and to urge them to keep the protection of health workers and structures high on the agenda while exploring domestic solutions, such as sensitization training. Parliamentarians could also follow the good examples set by Chad and Switzerland in proposing the amendment of counter-terrorism legislation to include explicit humanitarian exemptions providing legal certainty for humanitarian staff and organizations, thereby helping to shift the discourse. Through such actions, parliamentarians could promote an end to the current discussion.

The President, thanking Ms. Wong for her intervention, asked the third panellist, Ms. S. Howard of the WFP, to share her experience on the topic, with a focus on the main challenges for the WFP in providing food assistance in conflict situations, and to pinpoint measures that the parliamentary community could take to support the WFP's humanitarian activities towards tackling hunger in conflict zones.

Ms. S. Howard (Director, Geneva Global Office, WFP), panellist, said that humanitarian organizations faced a situation of increasing global complexity further compounded by multiple factors. In 2025, resources contributed to humanitarian response had fallen sharply, representing for the WFP alone a 40% decrease in its overall funding comprised of entirely voluntary contributions. Coinciding with two concurrent famines affecting populations in Palestine and Sudan, that decrease to US\$ 6 billion demanded impossible decisions as to which needs were most dire and who required most support. At the same time, questions were being raised about the related data and whether they met the criteria for famine. In short, humanitarian principles were under threat and being politicized.

The WFP was often in headline news for its efforts to access the most vulnerable and support those identified, in light of its reduced budget, as the hungriest. At times, however, such access proved impossible. In addition to handing out food, the WFP was involved in scaling up solutions for supporting the reconstruction of markets. Access facilitated such solutions by enabling it to work with communities towards building their resilience. The main challenges for the WFP were how to reach those in need on a daily basis and ensure continuing support.

The WFP was keen to engage with the IPU to better understand how to support parliamentarians in their discussions with constituents on the topic and how to promote an ongoing grasp of the value of humanitarian principles and their global relevance. Those factors could then be reflected in funding or support for populations that the WFP sought to access. The WFP called on countries to contribute, where possible, towards helping the WFP's humanitarian response. The drop in resources had a daily impact and increased pressure on the WFP in its continuing efforts to mitigate an escalating humanitarian need. For countries unable to provide financial resources to the system, the emphasis was on compliance with multilateral commitments and norms aimed at protecting access to the most vulnerable and on responses that created an expectation of protection for those serving. WFP colleagues were currently detained on accusations of being political actors in countries with very high levels of hunger where the WFP was attempting to reach the most vulnerable. Its delivery of such relief, for which it remained firmly accountable to those funding it, relied on constant global support for the norms and standards governing humanitarian activity.

The President, thanking Ms. Howard for her intervention, asked the final panellist, Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka, Vice-President of the IPU and member of the Committee, how Polish laws and policies protected principled humanitarian action and humanitarian organizations operating within the country, how Poland had facilitated assistance to its Ukrainian refugees and what lessons it had learned.

Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka (Poland), Vice-President of the IPU and member of the Committee, panellist, said that her country supported humanitarian action and organizations through legislation, funding from the State budget, and partnerships. Humanitarian assistance was governed by a law on development cooperation, with related aid programmes proposed and reviewed by a dedicated board of which she was a member. Humanitarian aid was provided following a needs analysis to identify the most vulnerable groups among affected populations. Funding for humanitarian aid purposes was allocated to cover sudden unforeseen crises as well as protracted forgotten crises, all in proportion to their scale. The Polish Parliament also supported humanitarian aid, enacting laws governing, among other things, the delivery of medical care. Responses to sudden humanitarian crises and disasters were undertaken within the existing humanitarian crisis envelope.

Poland provided humanitarian aid in response to other crises, as in Gaza and Ukraine. The armed conflict in Ukraine had significantly affected Poland, whose assistance to its many Ukrainian refugees was another example of parliamentary action to facilitate humanitarian aid in an exceptional and intense crisis situation. Local governments were responsible for implementing and coordinating actions to deal with the crisis, including the establishment of reception centres. With refugees subsequently hosted by Polish citizens, there had been no need for refugee camps. The status of Ukrainian war refugees had been legalized under a special act of parliament, which also provided them with the benefit of public assistance. She and other Polish parliamentarians frequently visited Ukraine and consistently made aid available to hospitals, schools and other facilities attacked and destroyed in the war. For Poland and its Parliament, it was vital to have put in place the right legal and policy frameworks, and to continue the assistance provided to its closest neighbour from the outset, despite difficulties in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The President thanked Ms. Morawska-Stanecka for her intervention and invited contributions from the floor.

Mr. M. Dick (Australia), devoting his statement to the memory of an Australian aid worker recently killed while delivering food aid to Gaza, said that unparalleled violence against humanitarian workers had been witnessed across the world since 2024. Developed by an Australian-led group

established in that year, the new global Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel launched in September 2025 focused on three primary issues: improved adherence to IHL; safe and unimpeded humanitarian access; and strengthened accountability. The Declaration had been endorsed by 100 countries, with IPU Member Parliaments strongly encouraged to follow suit as well as advocate for endorsement. In so doing, parliamentarians would be playing their role in the protection of humanitarian personnel.

Mr. M.A. Tehrani (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that powers claiming to champion human rights and democracy, notably the United States of America and certain European countries, had undermined the foundations of international justice through selective policymaking and unconditional support for occupation and crimes. Contrary to Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions requiring the humane treatment of persons not engaged in hostilities, millions of defenceless Gazans had been deprived of their most basic human rights while the international community looked on. In Gaza, a scene of war crimes and crimes against humanity, IHL violations were ever more widespread and brazen. With regard to his country and its citizens, the actions of the Zionist regime constituted flagrant violations of the fundamental principles of IHL and human ethics. That regime's attacks on medical and relief workers were a further example of its many activities conducted against the spirit of the Geneva Conventions and the essence of humanity.

Mr. K. Suebsang (Thailand), speaking from experience as a former humanitarian worker, said that such workers were criticized and targeted, above all in conflict zones, for allegedly taking sides and lacking in humanity, neutrality and independence. It was therefore important for them to let it be known that nothing could be further from the truth. He had become a politician with the aim of transposing IHL into Thai law so as to help refugees and others in need of assistance in Thailand, but it was a difficult task. After two and a half years of pushing, he had not yet achieved that aim. He called on the IPU to ensure that humanitarian assistance featured large on the global agenda and to promote the incorporation of humanitarian principles into domestic legislation.

Mr. H. Mohammad (Malaysia) said that his country had participated in the Global Sumud Flotilla mission to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza. Unfortunately, however, the mission had been disrupted, with the team ultimately obliged to seek shelter and assistance in Türkiye. He would welcome advice as to how a small country such as Malaysia could best play its part going forward in the area of humanitarian assistance.

Mr. W.M. Aye (Myanmar) said that millions in his country were suffering amid armed conflict, enduring relentless violence, displacement and humanitarian catastrophe since the illegal military coup in 2021. With the atrocities and air strikes ongoing against civilian areas, humanitarian assistance was urgently needed but access was being deliberately restricted, in violation of IHL. The National Unity Government and the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) continued to cooperate with international humanitarian partners to ensure that impartial assistance reached all civilians in need, regardless of territory or affiliation. The CRPH called on the IPU community to assume its shared responsibility to protect life and dignity in conflict zones by standing with the people of Myanmar and preventing the use of such assistance as a weapon of war. It also thanked the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for its proactive measures to facilitate humanitarian access where needed in Myanmar.

Ms. K. Sehrawat (India) said that, with the values of peace, non-violence, non-aggression deeply rooted in its civilization, her country remained committed to safeguarding human dignity and was deeply concerned by the increasing attacks on aid workers and relief convoys, despite the protections guaranteed under IHL. The loss of almost 400 such workers in 2024 alone was a stark reminder of the risks entailed in the delivery of humanitarian assistance. In line with its heritage and the timeless principle of the world as one family, India played an active role in peacekeeping, disaster relief and global aid initiatives. Through its worldwide humanitarian outreach, it provided food, medicines and shelter, and deployed rescue teams to crisis zones, while its peacekeepers ensured the safe delivery of aid and the protection of humanitarian personnel. The shared commitment to protect civilians, respect IHL and safeguard the dignity of every human being must be upheld by all.

Ms. H. Maguire (United Kingdom), highlighting the dramatic increase in the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions targeting civilians, said that those civilians had not chosen to be a part of war but were being killed and injured by such weapons. Vast swathes of land were littered with huge quantities of unexploded ordnance, as in Ukraine, where it would take decades and billions of pounds to clear. Another concern was the massive environmental impact from the

leaching of heavy metals and explosive residue into the ground. She would like to hear the panellists' views on whether all countries should sign the Ottawa Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions so as to build on IHL and stop the indiscriminate harm to civilians.

Ms. M. Aldhaen (Bahrain) said that, in its unwavering commitment to promoting universal respect for IHL, her country consistently supported international efforts to strengthen its rules and ensure that its principles were upheld in every conflict, aligning in addition its own laws and policies with IHL standards. As part of its moral and legal duty under IHL, Bahrain delivered aid to vulnerable groups and dispatched volunteer doctors to treat civilians in conflict zones, where safe humanitarian access posed a major challenge. Respect for IHL involved protecting humanitarian personnel, maintaining human dignity and preventing further suffering, including by prioritizing international cooperation, supporting UN peace efforts, and building regional and national capacities for enhancing protection and response mechanisms. A unified law should be developed to ensure that all civilian infrastructure remained intact throughout any war.

Ms. E. Misola Richard (Legal Adviser, ICRC), panellist, said in response to the question about the Ottawa Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions that all parliaments should indeed encourage their governments to ratify both instruments, each of which had saved countless lives. It was important to continue drumming up support for their universalization and advocate their benefits, especially given the highly worrisome development in which States were withdrawing from or suspending the implementation of those instruments, risking the unravelling of IHL. No retreat in that direction should be met with silence, as there was no telling where it might end.

Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka (Poland), Vice-President of the IPU and member of the Committee, panellist, said that her country, having recognized the State of Palestine in 1988, had long been engaged in the situation there and that Polish citizens had also participated in the flotilla mission to Gaza. Parliamentarians must do their utmost to prevent armed conflict and its impact on civilians, who were always the most affected. Among refugees and displaced persons, women and children were especially vulnerable to violence, including sexual violence, which was another aspect of protection to be highlighted in encouraging governments to familiarize themselves with the Geneva Conventions. Countries adjacent to those in armed conflict invariably had to cope with refugees, who inevitably had humanitarian and other needs. She hoped that Gaza would be closer to genuine lasting peace by the time of the 152nd Assembly in Istanbul.

Ms. S. Howard (Director, Geneva Global Office, WFP), panellist, said that the discussion had accentuated the continued attention to needs, data and dialogue in the interest of understanding how to engage in addressing the challenge of humanitarian access. Amid complex political discussions, the solidarity shown by citizens with their actions and the efforts to channel that energy into foreign policy and response was heartening. The question about how smaller countries could best engage in humanitarian support brought to mind the examples of Somalia and Indonesia as top WFP resource partners. Parliamentarians could call on the WFP for cooperation in seeking ways of contributing meaningfully towards resolving what were global challenges.

Ms. J. Wong (Legal Adviser, MSF), panellist, said with reference to the integration of IHL obligations into domestic frameworks that parliamentarians should avoid working in silos, as the discussion was relevant to other discussions ongoing within, for example, the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism. Unless IHL obligations were transposed into counter-terrorism frameworks, the problem would remain.

Ms. M.-E. Ingres (Humanitarian Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, MSF) said that there were several possibilities open to smaller countries wishing to participate in humanitarian assistance. Their parliamentarians could use their important voice in multiple platforms to highlight the importance of IHL, civilian protection and support for humanitarian actors. Action was equally important, however, and the MSF appealed to all countries for help regarding 15,000 medical evacuees, who were being accepted by only a limited number of countries as it also meant taking in the patient's relatives.

The President, thanking all participants for a very fruitful discussion, said in summing up that parliamentarians could make a real difference in safeguarding humanitarian action in armed conflict and must take steps to promote change for the well-being of those affected by such conflict.

The session rose at 13:00.

Parity Debate

Men and women MPs championing gender equality and equal care in parliament

WEDNESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2025

(Morning)

The debate was called to order at 11:35 with Ms. T. Vardanyan (Armenia), First Vice-president of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, as the Moderator.

The Moderator said that the number of men and women in the room was testament to the level of interest and shared responsibility in promoting and protecting gender equality and women's rights. The debate would focus on the championing of gender equality and equal care in parliament. It would reflect on how parliaments could become more caring and gender-sensitive institutions by ensuring equal opportunities and support for men and women members of parliament (MPs) and parliamentary staff. In keeping with the IPU Plan of action for gender-sensitive parliaments and the Kigali Declaration on *Gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers of change for a more resilient and peaceful world*, equal care and men's role in advancing gender equality would be considered.

The year 2025 marked the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, yet no country had achieved full gender equality, or all the targets set under Sustainable Development Goal 5. The goal of gender parity was embedded in the IPU's Statutes and Rules. Delegations that were close to achieving gender parity were given visibility, while those that were single sex had their voting rights reduced. The culture of representation had shifted as a result; women comprised nearly 40% of delegates at the IPU Assemblies. The IPU practice advocated for the integration of gender equality in every area of work and a firm stand against gender-based discrimination and violence.

The Moderator introduced the panellists and invited them to share experiences, good practice, and lessons learned from their respective work and contexts.

Mr. C. Da Silva (Cabo Verde), panellist, noted that it was vital to address social norms that hindered women's political participation and leadership. Cabo Verde had made remarkable advancements but had not yet eliminated gender inequalities. Gender stereotypes persisted, alongside a traditional division of labour that was reflected in statistics that showed women had higher unemployment rates and spent more time on unpaid work. A parity law had been introduced that mandated equal representation of men and women whereby neither gender had a representation of less than 40% and no more than 60% in elections and decision-making positions.

The voice of male MPs was fundamental, since men played a key role in the construction of social norms and the persistence of gender stereotypes. The non-governmental organization he presided over was dedicated to engaging men and boys in promoting gender equality and preventing violence, and in changing men's mindsets. Men had a duty to address stereotypes and all forms of political violence, must raise awareness of parity laws and demonstrate that a balanced, inclusive and participatory democracy benefited all. Men's voices, influence and power should be used to remove the obstacles to women's full participation in political life and foster a political environment where merit had no gender and diverse perspectives enriched decisions.

Ms. Sun Mean Kim (Republic of Korea), panellist, observed that, although gender parity had not been achieved in the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, just over 20% of current members were women, which was the highest figure in its history. The Public Officials Election Act of 2004 had introduced a 50% quota for women candidates and a rule on alternating men and women candidates on proportional representation lists; women's representation had risen steadily as a result. In 2024, a policy had been introduced to enable both parents of a child to take up to six months' leave on full pay, either consecutively or simultaneously to make care a shared responsibility. Uptake by fathers had been slow but change was emerging in the public sector, where 50% of eligible fathers had taken parental leave in 2024.

Equality thrived when employment was secure. In the National Assembly, no sitting MP – man or woman – had taken parental leave, due to short terms, demanding schedules and traditional working ethics. Secretariat staff, who had relatively high job security, were more likely to use parental leave than parliamentary assistants, whose employment was dependent on the term of each parliamentarian. Gender equality did not end in the enactment of laws but began when all could make use of their provisions. Systems of care and work should guarantee stability, shared responsibility and dignity for all.

Ms. P. Cox (United Kingdom), panellist, welcomed the IPU campaign *Achieving gender equality, action by action* and the call of the Kigali Declaration for the active engagement of men as allies for gender equality. Since any parliament must reflect the composition of its citizens, parliaments must include those with caring responsibilities, and all workplaces should make space for staff with caring responsibilities. Men had been able to strike a good work-life balance for years by outsourcing their care responsibilities – mostly to women, but as a result missed out on rich relationships, including in their organizations.

In the United Kingdom Parliament, male MP's making use of advantages such as paternity leave and access to childcare on the parliamentary premises was crucial to achieving care equality. Men with children and other caring responsibilities, such as caring for ageing parents or adult children with disabilities, could join the ParliCare support network, which had been set up in 2020, and the all-party parliamentary group for fatherhood that was sponsored by a civil society organization that aimed to empower boys and men.

As a former university professor specializing in gender and social policy, she emphasized the research on the importance of care in society and the need to foreground it in politics; data indicated that men around the world were engaging more in caregiving, despite a social media backlash against equality. She encouraged colleagues to fight the anti-equality backlash to become the parliamentary generation that dared to care.

Mr. D. Caggiani (Uruguay), panellist, said that, in his country, less than a third of legislators in the Senate were women. Advances were needed, not just in equal political representation but also in co-responsibility for care. In Uruguay, care had been codified as an autonomous human right, in keeping with the advisory opinion of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and other developments on the promotion of care systems and support in Latin America and the Caribbean, and at the United Nations (UN). The General Assembly of Uruguay had declared 29 October the International Day of Care and Support. A national care plan had been established for the period from 2026 to 2030 that would universalize the right of care. The four axes of the plan were to advance the universal right of care and ensure subsidies and a care programme that covered all population groups; to promote training to improve care workers' salaries and working conditions; to gather data and develop systems and indicators for decision-making to ensure accountability and improve care; and to develop campaigns to make care visible.

To defeminize care and promote men's active participation in gender equality, campaigns demonstrated the value of caring and shared parental responsibility, and questioned gender stereotypes. Subsidies had been introduced to allow men and women to work and to promote men's involvement in care work. Challenges for the future included furthering co-responsibility for care and promoting a culture of change. Parliaments worldwide should be active allies in that transformation. The experience of Uruguay showed that it was possible to move towards a society in which men and women shared caring responsibilities, and parliaments had a fundamental role in that process.

Ms. S. Claydon (Australia) recalled that an investigation by the Australian Human Rights Commission into allegations of bullying, sexual harassment and sexual assault in Commonwealth parliamentary workplaces had resulted in recommendations for the Government to ensure safe and respectful workplaces. Following the 2025 elections, Australia had a majority women-led Government for the first time. The Minister for Finance had been appointed as the Minister for Women, which meant that the strategies on gender parity were funded and therefore brought results. Codes of conduct had been introduced, following research into those of other parliaments, and a workplace support service had been established to provide advice and independent counselling and advocacy to resolve conflict before it escalated. An independent parliamentary standards commission had been set up to investigate allegations. Parliamentary sitting hours and the order of business had been amended to be more family friendly – votes no longer took place after 6 p.m. – and the Treasurer had recently been the first male MP to take parental leave. In a significant and symbolic move, a bar on the parliamentary premises had been transformed into a childcare centre.

Ms. N. Boulhan Houssein (Djibouti) noted that progress in women's representation in her country had been achieved thanks to the adoption of specific policies and laws. In 2003, a law had introduced a 10% quota for women's representation in Parliament. By 2018 women's representation in Parliament had reached 25%, which had since been surpassed. A parliamentary caucus of women parliamentarians had been established and the Parliament promoted gender equality through training and the adoption of legislation, such as the law against gender-based violence. In addition, maternity leave had been extended to six months for the well-being of mothers and children.

Mr. S. Köse (Sweden) said that gender equality was about democracy, dignity, shared responsibility and justice. Women and men should have the same opportunity to shape the world. As a father and a male parliamentarian, he believed that men must actively promote equality at home, at work and in politics; real change happened when equality was everyone's business. In Sweden, the Speaker of Parliament had invited one woman from each political party to discuss how to make parliamentary life more family friendly, which had resulted in practical reforms such as the introduction of fixed voting times, childcare and parental leave for MPs – with substitutes to cover during the period of leave. Those reforms had changed parliamentary culture and practice, which demonstrated that long-term efforts, backed by research, political will and real resources, could lead to genuine progress on equality for stronger and more democratic parliaments.

Ms. Y. Eriksson (Sweden) noted that, although the IPU Plan of action for gender-sensitive parliaments had recognized that equality was not only a women's issue but a matter of democracy and institutional integrity, the unspoken assumption remained that gender equality in care was a women's concern. That narrative must change. The provision of childcare at parliament had been crucial to her and her family, and the Swedish Parliament participated in the UN *HeForShe* campaign. Parity was not just about numbers but about culture and the work environment, so that every parent, regardless of gender, could fulfil professional and caring roles.

Hatred towards women parliamentarians was an increasing threat to democracy; in Sweden, a woman party leader had stepped down the previous week due to unbearable threats against her and her family. Parliaments must ensure that all parliamentarians were safe.

Ms. H. Murangwa Ndingiza (Rwanda) highlighted that the President of Rwanda was a *HeForShe* champion. Her country had created an environment that allowed all women and men to maximize their potential, and had been the first country in the world to have a majority of women in parliamentary seats. The bureau of every standing committee in both parliamentary chambers was comprised of men and women parliamentarians. A caucus of women parliamentarians had been established in 2008 to promote gender equality and women's rights, and support the implementation of gender-sensitive laws. Membership of that caucus had been extended to men parliamentarians in 2013. The prerequisites for gender equality were strong leadership that supported the gender equality agenda, laws and policies, the institutions to implement those laws and policies, and the inclusion of men in all gender equality efforts, since gender equality could only be achieved through collaboration between men and women.

Ms. S. Burey (Canada) said that the Canadian Gender Budgeting Act of 2018 had introduced a requirement to report on the gender impact of every budget. The Canadian Parliament provided staff members and parliamentarians with childcare services, and maternity and paternity leave and benefits. Mandatory training included modules on workplace harassment and reporting pathways. A law to provide affordable childcare for families had resulted in a notable impact on women re-entering the workforce and on GDP, but its implementation was challenged by budgetary tightening, staff shortages and increased demand. Women continued to shoulder greater responsibility for care and many chose to leave the workforce for that reason. Workplace culture could be changed by educating the workforce about self-care and resilience for a more gender-inclusive environment.

Mr. M.-I. Ravalia (Canada) observed that, despite recognition under the gender equality framework that men, as a group, could experience gender-based disadvantages, there were few programmes dedicated to men's well-being. There was an ongoing debate on how to balance attention to women's and men's equality issues within policies. A mental health support group for men was active to provide help as needed. As gender roles evolved, some men experienced uncertainty around their role balancing family and parliamentary responsibility and expectations of emotional openness while maintaining traditional roles. Discussions on healthy masculinity were ongoing, as were discussions on how to provide parliamentary staff with a safe, secure and equitable work environment.

Although the Senate comprised over 50% women, the lower house had only 30% women representation which meant that women's perspectives could be underrepresented in debates, decision-making and institutional culture. Efforts to become more gender-sensitive must address numbers and culture, for a work environment that supported all MPs equally. Data must be monitored and intersectionality should be taken into account, since gender representation should also cover gender-diverse persons, Indigenous women and ethnic minority women.

Ms. A. Martínez Zaragoza (Spain) highlighted that her country had created a model for gender equality through advances on care, salaries and the minimum wage. Other developments included the fight against gender-based violence, for parity on electoral lists and the law on abortion. Equality benefited everyone. The pushback against gender equality could not be ignored, however, and parliamentarians should unite to protect the rights won over generations and strengthen their commitment to equality.

Ms. M.d.S. Nuñez Monreal (Mexico) said her country had amongst the highest women's participation in politics in the region and a gender equality commission had been operational for 25 years. Lists of candidates for election under proportional representation must be equal and the candidates were alternated by gender. To address inequality in caring, in 2022, the Chamber of Deputies had granted parliamentarians and their assistants extended paternity leave, although the measure had not yet been approved by the Senate. The cultural stereotype of care falling to women must be dismantled, alongside the myth that men were not capable of looking after children. Equal parental leave was not just a matter for women and men, it was also in the interests of children.

A delegate from Mexico noted that his Parliament was approaching full gender parity, thanks to constitutional reforms, electoral laws and public policies that promoted the equal participation of men and women in decision-making at all levels. Gender parity was also about transforming parliamentary culture. To achieve equality, parliament and policy must support the care system and ensure that legislators and parliamentary staff could carry out their duties in combination with family and caring responsibilities. That had been achieved through the introduction of equal maternity and paternity leave and working times that were compatible with such responsibilities. Men must act as allies so that power was shared and democracy was strengthened through equal parliaments.

Ms. K. Slassi (Morocco) underlined that no country had achieved gender equality. Although progress had been made in women's representation in her country, it was important for men and women parliamentarians from all parties to work together for gender equality and find agreement regardless of political affiliation or ideology. A significant transformation was needed to allow women to enter the public space and political life, and to convince men of the need to divide household chores as part of the fight for equality. The transformation of leadership must complement the fight for gender equality and attract people to politics. Young persons in particular had lost faith in politics and politicians; the presence of women in decision-making positions could help to restore their faith.

Ms. L. Carvajal (Chile) said that she was one of the women Senators in her country, where women comprised 26% of the Senate. Although the rate of progress was so slow that it would take almost 40 years to reach gender parity in the Senate, Chile was proud to have had a woman president. It was to be hoped that the UN would soon have its first woman Secretary-General. Efforts for gender equality included a law against gender-based violence and the development of policies on equal care. Men and women must work for women's inclusion in decision-making and lead the process of change from parliament. The replication of macho culture in policies on work and care made it possible for the burden of care to fall on women.

Mr. A.K. Abdelgader (Chad) agreed that, although the situation was changing, in Chad, social norms presented a real obstacle to women's political participation, due to the weight of patriarchal tradition and the challenges faced by women involved in politics. Another issue was limited access to the resources needed to engage in politics and to education. Young parliamentarians should model change through engagement in the *HeForShe* campaign and IPU initiatives. In his country, laws had been adopted to combat violence against women and girls, grant men and women the same civil and political rights and move towards gender parity in elections. Women and men were needed in the battle for gender parity, and young persons could act as catalysts, since they were generally less traditional than older generations.

Ms. M. Aldhaen (Bahrain) said that her country had social policies that promoted the sharing of responsibilities between men and women, and believed in the need for gender equality to build society. Women and men had equal opportunities in areas including parenting, work and education. A women's and children's court had been established that ensured that men and women were equal before the law. Women comprised the majority of the workforce in healthcare and education where they represented 40% of graduates. In 2018, Bahrain had been the first country in the Arab world to have a woman lead parliament. The country was making efforts for gender equality through media initiatives, leadership programmes, summits and conferences.

Ms. V. Techateerawat (Thailand) expressed her pleasure in participating in the debate as the chairperson of the Thai Women Parliamentarians' Caucus. Gender equality was not a women's issue but a shared responsibility of men and women for stronger, fairer and more caring societies. The Thai Constitution guaranteed equal rights for all citizens, political parties were encouraged to include women candidates and the number of women MPs had reached approximately 20% of representatives. Parliament had passed a same-sex marriage bill, which had introduced equal rights for all couples, and had adopted gender-responsive budgeting. Equal care was promoted through paternity leave. The Women Parliamentarians' Caucus united men and women MPs to champion equality and organized regional training and exchanges, including a recent session on gender-sensitive planning. Since traditional norms continued to limit women's participation in politics, education and mentorship must be strengthened, and men must be engaged as allies for change.

Mr. N. Inna (Thailand), speaking as a male parliamentarian, said that it was time to turn the spotlight on male MPs as active partners in advancing gender equality and women's political leadership. Parliamentarians must use their influence to support women candidates and ensure that politics was a safe, respectful and inclusive place.

Ms. K.A. Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso) noted that, although gender parity had not yet been reached in her Parliament, efforts for gender equality included the representation of women on the bureau of the Transitional Legislative Assembly and the representation of women in parliamentary committees, including a woman vice-chair of the women's committee. All women parliamentarians were named as ambassadors of women, peace and security.

Mr. C. Da Silva (Cabo Verde), panellist, highlighted the importance of working with political parties to reach agreements on gender parity in parliament, as mentioned by the delegate of Morocco. Gender parity was a key matter for parliaments that would make all the difference when it came to drafting laws in order to avoid partial perspectives or the strengthening of stereotypes.

Ms. Sun Mean Kim (Republic of Korea), panellist, welcomed the inspiring comments from other speakers. Gender equality was important for all IPU Member Parliaments. Care should not be regarded as a women's issue but as a matter for fathers too.

Ms. P. Cox (United Kingdom), panellist, emphasized that laws and rights were vitally important and that men did not need to wait to take action. She encouraged colleagues to ask new fathers when they had last spent an overnight or a weekend caring for the child. Women should put equal care into practice and let the men take care of the children.

Mr. D. Caggiani (Uruguay), panellist, observed that it was important to understand the history of the gender parity issue – 20 or 30 years ago it had not been a key topic on parliamentary agendas but great advances had since been made. Parliamentarians should continue to share experiences in an effort to instil gender equality in all aspects of the State and society.

The Moderator thanked participants and panellists for their rich contributions to a lively and stimulating discussion.

The debate ended at 13:15.

Adoption of resolutions, final documents and reports

SITTING OF THURSDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2025

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 15:45, with Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka (Poland), Vice-President of the IPU and President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

(continued)

General Debate on the theme *Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis*

(A/151/3-Inf.1 and DR)

The President said that, over the preceding three days of the Assembly, substantive and robust deliberations had taken place during the General Debate comprising 132 interventions from 114 Member Parliaments and 16 partner organizations. Speakers and Deputy Speakers of Parliament, parliamentarians – many of them young – and experts and officials had shared their experiences, good practices and wisdom, culminating in a draft Geneva Declaration on upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis.

Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland) and **Ms. H.P. Manyeneng** (Botswana), presenting the draft Geneva Declaration, read out in turns the text thereof as contained in document A/151/3-DR.

The President said she took it that the Assembly wished to endorse the draft Geneva Declaration.

It was so decided.

Mr. J.F.N. Mudenda (Zimbabwe), noting that the Declaration welcomed the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law (IHL), said that the text should perhaps also have included tributes to countries that had at any time, past or present, engaged either in carrying out peace initiatives aimed at ending conflict or in championing access to humanitarian aid for victims of conflict. Media practitioners who continued to expose the violations of humanitarian norms – some of whom had been killed during the call of duty – also merited tribute. Those kinds of efforts should be recognized as part and parcel of such a declaration.

Item 5 of the agenda

(continued)

Recognizing and supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent this practice

(Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights)

(A/151/5-DR)

Mr. M. De Maegd (Belgium), co-Rapporteur, presenting a revised draft resolution entitled *Recognizing and supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent this practice*, as prepared and approved by the Committee on Democracy and Human Rights and contained in document A/151/5-DR, said that the text represented a landmark achievement and was crucial to supporting children's rights. It encouraged parliaments to legislate for past and current victims and prevent having future victims; enshrined the fundamental principle that no child was a commodity; committed States to a series of actions, including in relation to reparations, truth and justice for victims; called for strengthened international cooperation on the topic; and advocated specific preventive measures and action to eliminate all illegal international adoption and the ills associated with it.

Following the consideration of numerous amendments, a compromise text had been reached, with only one issue left outstanding in connection with preambular paragraph 14 and operative paragraph 5, which had been resolved by vote. The revised draft had then been approved, but the Russian Federation delegation had opposed its entire text and the Belarusian delegation had entered a reservation, also to the entire text. The draft resolution now before the Assembly exemplified the long tradition of battles waged within the IPU – battles that should ultimately unite, rather than divide, its Member Parliaments. It gave voice to those who had for too long been silenced and it sought to repair injustice while also preventing further injustice to build a better future. For those reasons, the Committee looked forward to broad support for the text.

The President said she took it that the Assembly wished to adopt the revised draft resolution as presented.

It was so decided.

Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia), President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, outlining the Committee's programme of work for 2026, said that members had supported the Bureau's recommendation to choose *Inclusive social development for all: Parliamentary strategies to promote the rights and empowerment of people living with disabilities* as the Committee's next subject item and had also in that context designated three co-Rapporteurs to prepare a related draft resolution for possible adoption in October 2026. The Committee had likewise supported the Bureau's recommendation to hold a debate at the 152nd Assembly on artificial intelligence (AI). Inasmuch as AI was a fast-moving issue of importance to all parliaments, the thinking was that such a debate would be a valuable opportunity to take stock of developments in the AI sphere, especially since the adoption of the IPU resolution on the subject at the 149th Assembly in October 2024. The suggested focus of the debate was the impact of AI on socioeconomic development.

The President said she took it that the Assembly wished to take note of the Committee's programme of work for 2026.

It was so decided.

Item 6 of the agenda

Reports of the Standing Committees

Ms. F. Belhirsch (Netherlands), Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, reporting on the Committee's work during the Assembly, said that, in the first of two panel discussions held at a first sitting on 20 October 2025, participants had addressed the topic *Arms control policy and non-proliferation: Preventing the next arms race*, emphasizing in that context the urgent need for renewed parliamentary engagement to strengthen humanitarian agreements, promote transparency and advance global disarmament. Also highlighted was the vital parliamentary role in ratifying and ensuring compliance with international instruments and in fostering dialogue to prevent renewed arms competition. Also featured in the sitting was the launch of an issue brief, *Democratic checks, military balances: Parliamentary oversight in an era of rising military expenditure*, which outlined the importance of such oversight and means of exercising it efficiently. Participants had agreed that defence policy must remain subject to democratic scrutiny to ensure resource efficiency and continuing public trust. For its part, the Bureau of the Committee had reviewed ongoing peace and security activities, assessed active conflicts worldwide and discussed potential themes and initiatives to be pursued before the 152nd Assembly.

At the final sitting on 21 October 2025, in a hearing on the theme of the Committee's next resolution, *The role of parliaments in establishing robust post-conflict management mechanisms and restoring a just and lasting peace*, experts in mediation, human security and parliamentary practice had shared experiences from fragile and recovering States. Lastly, the Committee had elected new members of the Bureau, the resulting composition of which could be found on the IPU website.

The President said she took it that the Assembly wished to take note of the report.

It was so decided.

Ms. M.S. Al Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates), President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, reporting on the Committee's work during the Assembly, said that, in the first of the three debates held, participants had addressed the theme of the Committee's next resolution *Building a fair and sustainable global economy: The role of parliaments in combating protectionism, reducing tariffs and preventing corporate tax evasion*, agreeing in the process to replace "evasion" with "avoidance" to allow for a focus on legal tax loopholes. The discussion had centred on, among others, equitable revenue generation from multinational enterprises, the importance of free trade for sustainable development, the adverse effects of protectionism, and emerging issues such as e-commerce and AI.

The second debate had examined the impact of climate change on vulnerable communities and countries, with an emphasis on the growing frequency of extreme weather events, threats to environmental defenders, rising sea levels, and biodiversity loss. Participants had shared national experiences and called for inclusive climate policies, stronger international cooperation and parliamentary engagement in tackling key environmental issues, including methane emissions. The third debate had focused on preparations for the upcoming Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Brazil, including the elaboration of a preliminary draft outcome document. Lastly, the Committee had elected new members to its Bureau – the results could be found on the IPU website – and had also approved its workplan for the 152nd Assembly, with all sittings dedicated to drafting its forthcoming resolution.

The President said she took it that the Assembly wished to endorse the Committee's decision to replace "evasion" with "avoidance" in the title of its next resolution and to take note of the report.

It was so decided.

Ms. C.L. Crexell (Argentina), President of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, reporting on the Committee's work during the Assembly, said that, at its first sitting on 21 October 2025, the Committee had discussed the process for the upcoming election of the new United Nations (UN) Secretary-General, adopting in that connection a motion recommending the election of a woman to the post for the first time ever. The motion called on parliaments to hold committee briefings on the election and seize the opportunity to help make history at the United Nations by working proactively with their governments to identify prospective women candidates for nomination.

At its second sitting, the Committee had been briefed by the UN Under-Secretary for Policy on the UN80 initiative launched in March 2025 by the UN Secretary-General with the aim of increasing UN relevance and the Organization's effectiveness in responding to current global challenges. Recommendations emanating from the ensuing debate included a call for parliaments to exercise close oversight over the initiative and improve scrutiny of budget allocations to the UN system as well as a call to reform UN decision-making processes, with particular reference to the Security Council. Lastly, the Committee had elected new members to the Bureau, the resulting composition of which could be found on the IPU website.

The President said she took it that the Assembly wished to take note of the report.

It was so decided.

Item 7 of the agenda

Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 153rd IPU Assembly and appointment of the co-Rapporteurs (A/151/7-R.1)

The President said that, as indicated in document A/151/7-R.1, the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights had proposed *Inclusive social development for all: Parliamentary strategies to promote the rights and empowerment of people living with disabilities* as its subject item for the next one-year cycle, with Ms. F. Öncü (Türkiye), Mr. C. Lohr (Switzerland), and Ms. C.M. Mumma (Kenya) 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 8 of the agenda**Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules**
(A/151/8-P.1-rev)

The President, recalling that the Executive Committee had two years previously established a working group to consider amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules, said that the group had been examining proposals for such amendments received from the IPU Member Parliaments, the geopolitical groups, and IPU bodies. As recommended by the group and the Executive Committee, two sets of amendments had been adopted by the IPU governing bodies in October 2024 and April 2025, respectively. Two remaining proposals had been submitted to the IPU membership on 1 August 2025, since when no feedback or sub-amendments had been received by the deadline of 19 September 2025. The first of those proposals related to the Rules of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and had been approved by the Governing Council earlier in the day.

The Assembly was accordingly invited to adopt the proposed amendment to Article 4.2 of the Statutes, as set out in document A/151/8-P.1-rev, which had the effect of formalizing the status of non-voting observers for parliaments no longer functioning on the territory of the country concerned.

She took it that the Assembly wished to adopt the proposed amendment.

It was so decided.

Item 9 of the agenda
(continued)**Adoption of a draft resolution on the Emergency item: *Parliamentary action against transnational organized crime, cybercrime and hybrid threats to democracy and human security***
(A/151/9-DR)

The President, recalling the decision taken on the emergency item following the related vote conducted on 21 October 2025, said that the IPU had subsequently been informed by the delegations of Algeria and Viet Nam that their votes on the item had been incorrectly recorded. Upon verification, it had been found that indeed, due to technical and interpretation issues, their votes had been inaccurately recorded. The error had been rectified and had in no way affected the overall outcome of the vote. The matter would be reflected in the results and summary records of the Assembly.

Following the previous morning's plenary debate on the chosen emergency item, the drafting committee, including representatives from all geopolitical groups, had met to finalize the text of the related draft resolution, as set out in document A/151/9-DR, which would be presented by the designated Rapporteur.

Mr. H. Aden Guedi (Djibouti), Rapporteur, presenting the draft resolution on the emergency item entitled *Parliamentary action against transnational organized crime, cybercrime and hybrid threats to democracy and human security*, said that the exchange of views among the drafting committee members had revealed the concern felt by parliaments worldwide over transnational organized crime. The text invited the IPU Member Parliaments to recognize that acts of that crime could constitute crimes against humanity. Among other things, it requested the IPU to utilize its existing bodies to facilitate legislative cooperation in tackling coerced criminality, financial crimes, and violations of human rights and IHL, and monitor implementation. Describing the draft resolution as clear and concise, he commended it to the Assembly for adoption.

The President said she took it that the Assembly wished to adopt the draft resolution.

It was so decided.

The Secretary General, recalling the motion adopted by the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs for the election of a woman to the post of UN Secretary-General, said that, in the context of its cooperation with the United Nations, the IPU had consistently expressed strong support for multilateralism and for the United Nations as the primary institution of international governance. It had also recognized the need for reform aimed at bolstering the United Nations agility and relevance so that it was properly equipped to deal with prevailing challenges. With 2025 marking the

80th anniversary of the United Nations, efforts were under way to revamp the institution. In a recent message forwarded to the IPU Member Parliaments by the UN Secretary-General, the President of the UN General Assembly had requested their Speakers to organize events commemorating the 80th UN anniversary that would also galvanize support for the institution. She had also sent a video message to the Assembly.

Ms. A. Baerbock (President of the UN General Assembly) said in her pre-recorded video message that 2025 was no ordinary year. With the international order facing fierce headwinds and the entire system of international norms and global cooperation under threat, the theme of the Assembly's General Debate could not be timelier. Parliamentarians, who represent billions around the world, were called upon to stand up for the Charter of the United Nations as the cornerstone of that order. For eight decades, the Charter had been the life insurance for all countries, none of which was strong enough to confront global challenges alone. The defence of international norms and standards was no easy task – especially for women and young parliamentarians – amid heated parliamentary debates or social media firestorms. As stated by many women presidents and heads of State during the recent commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration, strong headwinds were the time to hold the line together in defence of rights and freedoms. Better together, the theme of the 80th UN General Assembly, reflected that truth.

Meetings such as the IPU Assemblies were important for bringing together voices from all corners of the world to defend shared norms and principles, even and indeed especially, in times of crisis, and to collaborate, connect and communicate with citizens. Parliamentarians knew the value of communication, not only in parliamentary and other settings but also with the eight billion people whom they served. The 80th UN anniversary celebrated, in addition to the institution itself, the story of the many from all walks of life who championed peace, justice and the principles articulated in the Charter of the United Nations. The IPU Member Parliaments could join the celebration of the United Nations and its champions over decades by sharing, on and in the weeks following UN Day on 24 October 2025, the communications material disseminated to them. Without the vital work of parliaments at the IPU and in their home countries, global agreements such as the Charter of the United Nations would remain simply empty promises. She therefore counted on the IPU Member Parliaments to make them a reality together.

A video focused on 80 years of the United Nations and a “better together” future was screened.

Closure of the Assembly

Ms. A.T. Didiza (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said after calling for the appointment of a woman as the next IPU Secretary General that the Group appreciated the IPU's continuing facilitation of a platform upholding the values of multilateralism, dialogue and parliamentary diplomacy. Through an inclusive and constructive agenda, the Assembly had largely achieved its objective of addressing pressing global issues that resonated deeply with the challenges and aspirations of constituents around the world. Alongside its commitment to protecting and promoting IHL, the IPU's work, including its assistance to struggling parliaments and its ongoing efforts to advance gender equality and youth empowerment, was commendable. The interpretation and application of Rule 11 of the Rules of the Assembly governing emergency items should, however, be re-examined to guarantee in future a fair, transparent, consistent and inclusive process. Ever committed to the IPU's values and missions, the Group looked forward to continued engagement and collaboration in strengthening parliamentary diplomacy and addressing global challenges.

Mr. J. Fakhro (Bahrain), speaking on behalf of the Arab Group and acknowledging the important opportunity provided by the Assembly to weave a shared vision on vital issues, said that the two-year war on Gaza had caused wide-scale destruction and intolerable suffering. The new ceasefire was but a step in a long process towards a lasting peace, which only a just and final settlement of the Palestinian question would achieve. Meanwhile, with aid supplies still limited, the threat of famine and malnutrition in Gaza remained. An inter-parliamentary initiative was needed to expedite the delivery of humanitarian aid, preclude its use as a tool for perpetuating the crimes against civilians, pursue accountability for those crimes, and mobilize a reconstruction campaign. The international community must also capitalize on the current peace environment to build dialogue and prevent conflicts from escalating in the Middle East and beyond to foster stability and sustainable development. Parliamentary diplomacy was not a political luxury but a humanitarian and moral necessity.

Mr. Tian Xuejun (China), speaking on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, said that the strong support for and keen interest in participating in the IPU's work had been exemplified at the Group's meeting on 19 October 2025 by the number of candidates competing for vacancies within IPU bodies. The Group commended the outcomes from the Assembly, which reflected the unanimous agreement to uphold the spirit of international humanitarianism, increase support for crisis-affected countries and peoples, and work in concert to address global humanitarian challenges. In addition, the High-Level Declaration adopted at the recent Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament reflected universal aspirations and a response to shared global concerns, with a focus on peace, justice and prosperity for all through multilateralism. Consensus should be turned into action to advance its implementation. The Group was ready to build on the achievement and further enhance exchanges and collaboration with all parties, bridge differences through dialogue, promote peace through cooperation, and consolidate stability through development.

Mr. J.M.R. Edwards (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), said that the Group's internal elections had demonstrated the unified objective, respectful conduct, generosity of spirit and constructive approach prevailing among its members. In a significant first, a parliamentarian from Suriname had been welcomed into the GRULAC membership, which had also congratulated those newly elected to its Bureau and thanked their predecessors for their excellent work. Strengthening its voice and alliances with all regions was a priority for GRULAC, which sought to build bridges with new partners, develop practical, solution-oriented and measurable proposals, support multilateralism, defend the most vulnerable, and promote development and security. It would continue to back IPU responses to challenges, including economic uncertainty, organized crime and fast-paced technological change, and to be a trustworthy partner of all geopolitical groups in working for consensus and tangible results. GRULAC members looked forward to again meeting with IPU colleagues at the 152nd Assembly in Istanbul.

Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland), speaking on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group, said that the Group's constructive discussions at the Assembly had displayed its vitality, cohesion, cooperative spirit and determination. Among other things, it had formulated recommendations for the Executive Committee concerning the desired profile of the next IPU Secretary General and, through exemplary cooperation with counterparts, had also developed an emergency item proposal that reflected its commitment to defending democracy, the rule of law, and security against global threats. It had welcomed the

two-thirds majority achieved in favour of a global call for parliamentary solidarity and coordinated action on Madagascar, along with the related IPU leadership statement, and was pleased by the election of its members to various IPU bodies. The Group had actively participated in the work of the Standing Committees, including drafting of the resolution on illegal international adoption, as well as in that of other IPU committees. Lastly, it had co-organized a successful side event on IHL.

The Secretary General, in his closing remarks, expressed sincere and heartfelt thanks to Ms. Morawska-Stanecka for having presided over the Assembly with such dignity and flair while the IPU awaited Dr. Ackson's return to continue her mantle of leadership as IPU President. At a time of raging conflicts and crises, the beacon of hope encapsulated in the IPU Assemblies remained a great comfort. At the 151st Assembly, the renewed spirit of cooperation among the IPU membership was clearly evident in its final decisions and outcomes. The landmark Geneva Declaration reaffirmed key recommendations and commitments underscoring the vital need for IHL in protecting human dignity and tempering the worst excesses of war and for the preservation of humanitarian action to save millions of lives. In adopting the Declaration, the IPU membership had reiterated its humanity and compassion and was set to take actions that lived up to the fundamental principles set out therein.

The lively cooperation across multiple geopolitical groups had led to the adoption of the emergency item resolution on transnational organized crime and hybrid threats to democracy and security, a topic undoubtedly meriting the attention of the global parliamentary community. Through the emergency item mechanism, the IPU membership was able to discuss and respond to such issues. Similarly welcome were the comprehensive resolution on the complex issue of illegal international adoption and the motion recommending the election of a woman as the next UN Secretary-General, which would be a first after 80 years of men in the post.

Those achievements aside, the IPU's parliamentary diplomacy had continued on numerous fronts. The Committee on Middle East Questions had continued its discussions on reform with a view to bolstering its capacity to deal with the constantly evolving situation in the region. Likewise, the Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the War in Ukraine continued to look for new areas of common ground between the Russian and Ukrainian Parliaments, while through bilateral meetings and informal consultations, the IPU continued to lend support to the resolution of conflicts. In that context, he had at the Assembly hosted the Speakers of the Parliaments of Armenia and Azerbaijan as they pursued their laudable efforts to mobilize parliamentary support for ongoing peace processes between the two countries. A similar process had also been advanced with the leaderships of the Congolese and Rwandan Parliaments following his mission to the region in early October 2025.

Outside its Assemblies, the IPU was never idle. In November 2025, it would hold a Parliamentary Forum at the Second World Summit for Social Development in Qatar, a Parliamentary Meeting at COP30 in Brazil and, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a conference on AI in Malaysia. Preparations were furthermore under way for the Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations in 2026, the year in which the IPU would also elect a new Secretary General and a new President.

In concluding, he paid tribute to Switzerland for its generous and gracious hospitality as the host of the IPU Headquarters and IPU Assemblies in Geneva. Also to be thanked for their work and support were the staff of the Geneva International Conference Centre, his IPU colleagues, the heads of Permanent Missions in Geneva, and all those contributing behind the scenes to make the IPU Assemblies a success. He looked forward to again meeting participants at the 152nd Assembly in Istanbul.

The President said in her closing remarks that she had been honoured to preside over the 151st Assembly, during which the best of what the IPU stood for had been witnessed: respect, dialogue, and the centrality of humanity to its discussions and to politics. Parliaments from every region, political tradition and culture had brought new perspectives to a single concern – that of how to uphold humanitarian norms and support those who risked all to bring relief in times of crisis. Such exchanges had affirmed the strength of parliamentary diplomacy, which involved listening and working for common ground.

The highlight of the Assembly had undoubtedly been the General Debate and the adoption of the resulting Geneva Declaration, a collective statement of conscience and a reminder that IHL was the moral and legal foundation protecting human dignity at all times. In urging various forms of parliamentary action, the Declaration spoke to a world of gender equality and youth participation, with dialogue the surest path to understanding the huge challenges faced, whether war, disaster or silent suffering. Parliamentarians had the ability to turn compassion into policy and protect the most vulnerable. The real work now ahead of them lay in turning the Declaration into action that was rooted in humanitarian principles, benefited millions and saved lives.

Another highlight of the Assembly was the adoption of the emergency item resolution, an achievement to celebrate after the failure to come together at previous Assemblies. Supported by sponsors from across the geopolitical groups, that resolution spoke to the current times where violence and conflict extended into cyberspace to disrupt everyday life and where hybrid threats undermined democracy and eroded trust. The task of parliamentarians was to anticipate such danger, legislate wisely, and strengthen international cooperation so that technology served, rather than harmed, humanity. A further issue requiring full attention and solidarity, namely the pressing situation in Madagascar, had also been addressed through a formal leadership statement.

Thanks to their engagement, support and commitment to the people whom they represented, the IPU Member Parliaments had in the course of the Assembly's busy programme joined in achieving outcomes worthy of pride. The sense of purpose shared in Geneva should guide their work and strengthen the resolve to protect life, dignity and peace.

On that note, she declared the 151st IPU Assembly closed.

The official IPU anthem was played.

The sitting rose at 17:30.

Geneva Declaration

Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis

*Endorsed by the 151st IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 23 October 2025)*

We, Members of Parliament from around the world participating in the 151st IPU Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, reaffirm our commitment to uphold and promote respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) and support humanitarian action.

We are meeting at a time of unprecedented levels of armed violence involving State and non-State actors, which has brought about major humanitarian challenges. Civilians bear the brunt of hostilities, especially women and girls, who have been disproportionately affected, along with the most vulnerable — children, the elderly, people with disabilities, displaced persons, and the wounded and sick. Civilian infrastructure, hospitals, and medical and relief personnel have also come under attack.

We recall that IHL was designed to ensure a balance between the principles of humanity and military necessity. Its norms and principles aim to alleviate suffering and protect human dignity during armed conflict by protecting individuals who are not, or are no longer, participating in hostilities and by restricting the means and methods of warfare. They represent the minimum standards of common humanity in the battlefield and must be respected by all parties to armed conflict at all times.

The 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols are the core of IHL, adopted as a multilateral response to the horrors of the Second World War. The four Geneva Conventions have been universally ratified and largely incorporated into customary international law, binding on all our States and all parties to armed conflicts.

Over time, and in response to developments in warfare, other important IHL instruments, such as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), were also adopted. These treaties aim to ban specific weapons due to the devastating humanitarian consequences resulting from their use, including consequences that last long after armed conflicts have ended.

These humanitarian instruments were created to minimize civilian suffering during armed conflict, and their *raison d'être* is therefore to be applied and respected in times of armed conflict. IHL treaties are tools of protection, which must not be applied selectively, interpreted permissively or used as political tools. Upholding these norms means preserving the moral values that unite us.

Since their adoption, IHL-related legal frameworks, when enforced and respected, have saved millions of lives and considerably limited the impact of armed conflicts on our citizens, their lives and their future. While new methods and means of warfare have emerged over time as a result of technological developments, existing IHL rules remain valid and must continue to apply, including to cyber military operations, autonomous weapons systems, and artificial intelligence used in military planning and decision-making.

Humanitarian action is also facing increased challenges.

The current global environment has led to increased politicization of humanitarian assistance and has heavily jeopardized humanitarian action. Questions of access to conflict zones and the capacity to deliver aid have become major concerns. Funding cuts to humanitarian aid worldwide have left the humanitarian system at a breaking point, with many of those in need of assistance at risk of losing their lives.

We recall the importance of supporting principled humanitarian action — meaning humanitarian activities carried out in accordance with the fundamental principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. Furthermore, IHL imposes an obligation on all parties to a conflict to allow and facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of impartial humanitarian assistance. This means that hospitals, healthcare centres, ambulances and humanitarian convoys must never be targeted or misused for military purposes; medical ethics must be upheld; and medical personnel must never be coerced to act against their humanitarian duties.

We recall the importance of providing adequate financial support for the activities of humanitarian organizations and express our support for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations humanitarian agencies and other humanitarian organizations. We commend the vital work done by humanitarian professionals, often at great personal risk. Their protection and independence must be ensured at all times. We welcome the [Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel](#), launched at the 80th UN General Assembly, and call on IPU Member Parliaments to encourage their respective governments to endorse it.

In a time of proliferating armed conflicts, increased polarization and inequality, and widespread misinformation, a strong and sustained political commitment to respect and ensure respect for IHL and support humanitarian action is more necessary than ever. We parliamentarians recognize that we have a key role to play through our legislative, oversight and representation functions.

We therefore pledge to work to:

Strengthen the current IHL legal framework and its enforcement by:

- pursuing efforts towards accession to or ratification of IHL treaties;
- ensuring the full incorporation of IHL into domestic legislation by adopting new legislation and/or reviewing and amending legislation to enshrine IHL obligations in our national legal frameworks;
- integrating IHL into military training by ensuring that defence budgets include provisions for recurrent IHL training for armed and security forces;
- making sure that effective sanction mechanisms for domestic repression of IHL violations are put in place, including by adopting appropriate criminal legislation and ensuring that national judicial authorities have the legislative means to prosecute those who are responsible for serious IHL violations and war crimes;
- strengthening our oversight functions to ensure that all government decisions related to the use of armed force, arms transfer or peace operations are based on evidence and consistent with IHL obligations and that the humanitarian impact of decisions taken is clearly considered;
- supporting regional and global mechanisms established to end impunity for the perpetrators of IHL violations, including the International Criminal Court established by the Rome Statute.

Prevent violations of IHL by:

- supporting the establishment or strengthening of national IHL committees that assist the government in implementing, monitoring compliance with and spreading knowledge of IHL;
- allocating predictable and multi-year financial resources for IHL capacity-building and national implementation;
- integrating IHL expertise into our own parliamentary research and legislative services to ensure that new laws are compatible with our States' obligations under IHL, including by establishing a parliamentary body dealing with matters pertaining to IHL;
- shaping public understanding of humanitarian norms and action by using our influence as opinion leaders and representatives of the people to speak out to reaffirm the relevance of IHL, counter misinformation, and promote mutual respect and dialogue;
- combating the “dehumanization” that often accompanies conflict and polarization and leads to the erosion of empathy and the normalization of suffering, and recognizing that IHL protects all persons affected by armed conflict, irrespective of the party to the conflict to which they belong or with which are affiliated.

Support the provision of principled humanitarian action by:

- adopting laws and administrative frameworks ensuring rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access, while safeguarding the neutrality, impartiality and independence of humanitarian action, and ensuring that these provisions are known and implemented;
- reviewing national sanctions and counter-terrorism frameworks to ensure that their scope, if broadly regulated, does not adversely affect the activities carried out by impartial, neutral and independent humanitarian organizations;
- advocating for humanitarian assistance and providing political and financial support to national and international humanitarian aid agencies.

Strengthen the global humanitarian ecosystem by:

- building partnerships nationally, regionally and globally with relevant IHL stakeholders;
- strengthening cooperation with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, including the ICRC, UN humanitarian agencies and humanitarian organizations;
- adopting a multisectoral and inclusive approach in our work, which is essential to advancing the humanitarian agenda. This includes addressing broader political, social and development challenges that amplify civilian suffering in situations of armed conflict, and taking into account the needs of those most vulnerable in times of armed conflict;
- ensuring the meaningful participation of women and youth in decision-making processes, both within parliament and beyond. Women and girls, in particular, contend with structural gender inequality, including in conflict contexts. Taking into account these differences when implementing IHL will result in better protection for all;
- investing in parliamentary diplomacy and dialogue as indispensable tools for the preservation and renewal of multilateral values such as inclusion, solidarity, cooperation, shared responsibility and a rules-based international order.

We welcome the ongoing [Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law](#), launched by the ICRC together with Brazil, China, France, Jordan, Kazakhstan and South Africa, and the UN Secretary-General's [global campaign](#) to uphold the norms of humanitarian disarmament and strengthen mine action. We commit to raising awareness in our parliaments about these initiatives and to encourage our governments to formally endorse and actively participate in them.

We emphasize that the IPU plays a unique role by making IHL a political priority in the global parliamentary agenda. We encourage the IPU to continue mainstreaming IHL in its activities and to enhance technical support to parliaments in this area. We encourage the IPU to continue building partnerships with the ICRC, the United Nations and other stakeholders to ensure that parliaments remain effective champions of humanitarian norms and action at the global level.

Let us be advocates for humanity, compassion and the rule of law.

We pledge to take this Declaration back to our respective parliaments, disseminate the outcome of our collective work to our national authorities and seek to implement its principles through legislative, budgetary, oversight and representative actions. We commit to sustaining this agenda within our parliaments, and through ongoing inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation, including under the auspices of the IPU.

IPU leadership statement on the situation in Madagascar

*Issued at the 151st IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 23 October 2025)*

On behalf of the global parliamentary community, we wish to express our deep concern about the military takeover in Madagascar and the suspension of the Constitution.

We deplore the loss of life, injuries and destruction of property resulting from the unrest.

We call for immediate coordinated international action to address the ongoing crisis in Madagascar.

The situation unfolding represents not just a grave threat to the stability of the Southern African region, it also sets a dangerous precedent for democracy across the whole continent, in clear violation of international law.

When one democracy falters, it weakens democracy everywhere.

Madagascar's current instability threatens to escalate the humanitarian emergency in the country, with large-scale displacement and suffering of people, especially among the most vulnerable, including elderly people and children.

We call for calm, restraint and inclusive dialogue.

We stand ready to work with other international bodies, including the United Nations, the Southern African Development Community and the African Union, for a peaceful resolution of the crisis and the restoration of constitutional order.

The IPU and the global parliamentary community are here to actively support a functioning, representative and effective parliamentary democracy that serves and delivers for all the people of Madagascar.

*Tulia Ackson, IPU President, and
Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General*

Recognizing and supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent this practice

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 151st IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 23 October 2025)*

The 151st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling the fundamental principles of human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989, in particular its Article 21, as well as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2006, all of which emphasize the primacy of the best interests of the child, principles reaffirmed in the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children of 1990 and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Referring in particular to Article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which relates to birth registration and the right to identity, as well as to Article 8, which obliges States Parties to provide appropriate assistance in re-establishing the identity of a child who has been illegally deprived thereof,

Referring also to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, adopted in 2000, in particular its Article 3, and the 2009 Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children,

Taking into consideration international conventions, such as the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, that aim to ensure that intercountry adoptions are lawful, and in the best interests of the child, and respect his or her fundamental rights, while preventing the abduction, sale and trafficking of children, and *recognizing* that some States, consistent with their domestic laws and cultural or religious principles, provide for alternative child care and placement systems, such as guardianship or kafala, instead of adoption as defined in the 1993 Hague Convention,

Acknowledging the particular vulnerability of children who are internationally displaced due to conflict, as recognized by the Hague Recommendation on Refugee Children,

Acknowledging also the growing global movement of illegally adopted individuals who are courageously advocating for justice and remedies for the grave human rights violations they have endured, and *affirming* their fundamental rights to truth, identity and redress, and their right to meaningful participation in all relevant processes affecting their lives,

Recognizing that illegal intercountry adoption compromises the safety and dignity of children and families while undermining the integrity of lawful adoption systems and eroding trust among States, institutions and communities,

Noting the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and in particular its Article 25, which requires States Parties to take the necessary measures in this matter to ensure the best interests of the child,

Noting also the *Joint statement on illegal intercountry adoption*, issued on 29 September 2022 by the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances on behalf of several other UN bodies and special rapporteurs, which affirms that illegal adoptions may amount to crimes against humanity,

Referring to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,

Recognizing that the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court classifies the deportation, transfer, or illegal adoption of children, particularly in times of armed conflict, as war crimes or crimes against humanity when committed as part of widespread or systematic attacks; recalling that relevant international mechanisms have acknowledged the gravity of such acts, including through the issuing of arrest warrants against the perpetrators of such crimes by the International Criminal Court; and emphasizing the importance of States' cooperation with these mechanisms to ensure justice, accountability and the protection of children in conflict situations,

Considering that illegal intercountry adoptions may constitute a form of human trafficking, and hinder progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, which serve as critical enablers of peace and prosperity, in particular target 16.2, which aims to “end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children”,

Considering also that it is of utmost importance for parliaments, together with their governments, to raise public awareness of the negative impact of illegal intercountry adoption on children,

*Recalling the resolution *Orphanage trafficking: The role of parliaments in reducing harm*, adopted at the 147th IPU Assembly on 27 October 2023, and the resolution *Parliamentary impetus to local and regional development of countries with high levels of international migration and to stopping all forms, including state-sponsored, of human-trafficking and human rights abuses*, adopted at the 145th IPU Assembly on 15 October 2022, which reaffirmed “the right of every human being to be free from arbitrary deportation by a foreign power, such as the Russian Federation’s forced displacement of Ukrainian civilians, including thousands of children, from the temporarily occupied territories to the Russian Federation”,*

Deeply concerned by the persistence of illegal intercountry adoptions, often involving child trafficking, forced separations, and identity falsifications, which constitute serious violations of children’s rights and inflict lasting trauma on victims, their families and their communities,

Aware that these illegal adoptions create devastating situations for children, who, as victims, suffer from a vicious circle of multiple losses, including loss of identity and cultural heritage, biological family, psychological stability, protection from abuse and exploitation, and often civil rights, and are sometimes exposed to ideological indoctrination, making an immediate and adequate response essential to address these injustices,

Recognizing that there are three categories of victims in these situations: the children, who may face challenges related to their roots, cultural identity, and ties with their biological parents; the biological parents, who are deprived of their fundamental right to care for their child, often resulting in grief; and the adoptive parents, who may have been misled by intermediaries or authorities, and who may suffer distress or feelings of guilt upon discovering the circumstances of the adoption,

Recognizing also that illegally adopted children may be exposed to forms of exploitation such as begging, prostitution and pornography, drug trafficking, or recruitment by armed groups, particularly in the context of armed conflicts,

Deeply concerned by various reports published by United Nations specialized agencies, in particular UNICEF and its partners, on the situation of children in armed conflict zones and the alarming increase in cases of abduction, unlawful detention, illegal adoption, identity falsification and military recruitment of victims by armed groups, especially terrorist and separatist groups; and recalling that the military recruitment of children is considered “a war crime” and is prohibited by international conventions and treaties, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, the Vancouver Principles, and the Paris Principles,

Recalling that, in the context of armed conflicts, Article 50 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits an Occupying Power from changing the personal status of a child, including through adoption,

Specifying that the administrative consequences for victims of illegal adoptions can also lead to human rights violations as they relate to nationality and identity, creating obstacles in accessing education, marriage, name changes or legally recognizing a child,

Emphasizing that many children who are victims of illegal adoption remain unaware of their status until adulthood, and that this could be taken into consideration regarding limitation periods of crimes,

Emphasizing also that adoption procedures must be transparent, and that, in particular, financial aspects, the prevention of closed adoption practices and the oversight of adoption bodies, including private agencies, by the State or independent entities, must be strengthened to prevent abuses and to ensure respect for the full rights and best interests of the child,

Emphasizing further that international collaboration and cooperation, using relevant international instruments to curb illegal intercountry adoption, will minimize this criminal practice against children,

Recognizing that gender-based discrimination and violence, often rooted in patriarchal norms and moral and religious constructs regarding the social or marital status of the mother, the exclusion of persons belonging to minorities and Indigenous Peoples, and gaps in national legislation, have been key drivers of illegal adoption,

Aware that limited domestic care options, corruption, economic hardship, poverty, disability, helplessness, migration, forced displacement, parental incarceration, substance abuse and lack of social support from relevant authorities are additional driving factors behind the unnecessary separation of children from their families and must be duly taken into account,

Recognizing the essential role of parliaments in preventing, monitoring and punishing practices that violate children's rights, and in harmonizing national legislation with international human rights standards,

Recognizing also that new technologies, including artificial intelligence and digital record-keeping, can play a vital role in the prevention and detection of identity fraud related to illegal adoptions,

Aware that international conflicts and instability create conditions conducive to the operation of child trafficking networks, including those involved in illegal adoptions,

Concerned that illegal adoptions, as a modern form of trafficking in persons, are increasingly facilitated through digital platforms and online networks, which pose new challenges for prevention and enforcement,

1. *Urges* States that are not currently Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and/or to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption to strengthen their national child adoption frameworks in line with the Conventions' principles, including by considering the possibility of adopting the relevant and necessary procedures to acquire such status; and *reaffirms* that States Parties must ensure and promote the proper functioning of legal procedures for intercountry adoption in accordance with the best interests of the child;
2. *Urges* all States, regardless of whether they are parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child or the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, to formally acknowledge the existence of illegal intercountry adoptions and their impact on the children and their families, and to implement the necessary legal, administrative and investigative measures to bring to account those responsible and to prevent their occurrence and recurrence, in accordance with relevant international agreements, while maintaining confidence in legal adoptions carried out in accordance with international standards;

3. *Also urges* all States to formally recognize the persons affected by illegal intercountry adoptions (adopted children, biological parents and adoptive parents) as victims, to issue an apology and commit to providing them with appropriate support, protection, access to justice, remedies and, where possible, reunification; finding a balance between recognizing suffering and ensuring accountability for those involved, making it clear that legal adoptions remain a valid form of protection and should not be stigmatized;
4. *Condemns* in the strongest terms the unlawful deportation, transfer and adoption of children from occupied territories, and *stresses* that such acts constitute grave breaches of international humanitarian law;
5. *Also condemns* the transfer of thousands of Ukrainian children by the Russian Federation from occupied territories, which facilitates unlawful adoption and constitutes a violation of the Russian Federation's obligations under international humanitarian law, including the prohibition on interfering with the personal identity, nationality and family ties of children as set out in Article 50 of the Fourth Geneva Convention;
6. *Urges* States to assess the extent to which the national legal framework should classify illegal intercountry adoption as a form of human trafficking in accordance with their respective legal systems, and to explore effective measures for the prevention of such practices; and *further urges* parliaments to adopt legislation defining the military recruitment of persons who were victims of illegal intercountry adoptions as a war crime;
7. *Urges* parliaments to advocate for the establishment of national protocols for reporting and investigating allegations of child trafficking, abduction and sale in intercountry adoption, as proactive measures to detect and address such acts; these protocols must ensure accessible reporting mechanisms, independent and transparent investigation and the protection of all victims;
8. *Calls upon* parliaments to conduct independent investigations to identify legislative, administrative or judicial failures that allowed these illegal adoptions, and to take both concrete steps to remedy these failures and reparative measures to ensure justice is delivered to victims of such practices and support them;
9. *Also calls upon* parliaments to introduce or strengthen legal sanctions for individuals or institutions — including private agencies, healthcare workers and officials — found complicit in illegal adoption practices;
10. *Urges* the strengthening of international cooperation and the establishment of regional and multilateral task forces to coordinate efforts against illegal intercountry adoptions to prevent them, and to promote the exchange of good practices that strengthen legal systems for intercountry adoption, through existing bilateral or multilateral arrangements and relevant international instruments, enhanced monitoring systems, information exchange between States, joint investigations and the sanctioning of criminal networks involved in these activities, as well as through aligning legal practices and cooperation with international justice mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court, in investigating and prosecuting cases of unlawful deportation and adoption of children;
11. *Urges* the various United Nations agencies, in particular the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees and UN peacekeeping missions, to contribute to the prevention of illegal intercountry adoptions, in particular by establishing a register of persons who are victims of illegal intercountry adoptions in areas of armed conflict;
12. *Calls upon* parliaments to actively address the underlying drivers of illegal intercountry adoptions, with particular attention to gender stereotypes related to a mother's social or marital status, xenophobia, poverty and discrimination, such as the targeting of specific population groups, including ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, migrants, refugees and Indigenous Peoples; and *stresses* that the adoption of children from ethnic groups must respect their rights, particularly their right to preserve their cultural, linguistic and ethnic identity, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

13. *Also calls upon* parliaments to enact legislation to regulate the activities of private adoption agencies;
14. *Further calls upon* parliaments to prevent illegal intercountry adoptions by strengthening social protection systems, investing in parenting support, and ensuring access to essential services;
15. *Urges* States to develop and implement secure, centralized digital systems for tracking adoption procedures, including biometric data and digital birth registration, to prevent falsification of identity and ensure accountability;
16. *Calls upon* States, in cooperation with civil society and international actors, to support and, where necessary, establish mechanisms for the identification, tracing and return of unlawfully deported or adopted children, ensuring their best interests, including family reunification or appropriate care in their country of origin, and the restoration of their legal identity and nationality;
17. *Also calls upon* States to establish financial and structural support for victims of illegal intercountry adoptions, including:
 - (a) Facilitated access to archives to help victims trace their origins;
 - (b) Guarantees that the potential annulment of their adoption does not result in any loss of civil rights, nationality or identity;
 - (c) Psychological, legal, social and administrative assistance for victims and their families that is accessible, with associated fees waived for victims;
 - (d) Facilitation of name changes to reclaim lost identities;
 - (e) Elimination of the statute of limitations for such offences, allowing victims who discover the truth later to still pursue legal action;
 - (f) The establishment of DNA databases with due consideration for privacy, informed consent and related safeguards;
 - (g) The establishment of language re-learning and cultural reintegration programmes for illegally adopted persons wishing to reconnect with their country of origin;
 - (h) The inclusion of victims' organizations in processes related to truth-seeking, opening of archives, legal support, and public awareness-raising;
 - (i) The creation of national or international trust funds to finance legal aid, DNA testing, therapy and travel for victims of illegal adoptions seeking justice or family reunification;
18. *Urges* States to include case studies of illegal intercountry adoptions in the training programmes of judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers, social workers, and diplomats, especially consuls, in order to strengthen their capacity to identify and address such situations;
19. *Also urges* States to strengthen comprehensive cooperation with one another, including through bilateral, regional and multilateral mechanisms, in order to share best practices, lessons learned, and success stories in adoption processes, while ensuring that such practices are consistent with internationally binding legal instruments;
20. *Urges* parliaments to recommend that their respective governments establish reparative measures for victims through legal compensation mechanisms, as well as through support in tracing their origins;
21. *Also urges* parliaments to recommend that their respective governments promote increased vigilance in conflict zones and humanitarian crises, where the risk of illegal intercountry adoptions and child trafficking, as well as the military recruitment of children, is heightened, by reinforcing child protection measures in these contexts, ensuring that the rights and specific needs of women and girls are fully addressed, as they are among the groups most vulnerable to violations in situations of conflict and humanitarian emergencies; and, where appropriate, temporarily suspending intercountry adoptions in those areas and focusing on training officials in the detection of child abduction at borders, airports and maritime crossings;

22. *Urges* States and parliaments to strengthen the monitoring and regulation of digital platforms to prevent their misuse in facilitating illegal adoptions and related trafficking activities;
23. *Encourages* the establishment of senior official-level platforms for regular dialogue and technical assistance to enhance transparency, oversight and accountability in intercountry adoption systems;
24. *Urges* States to collaborate with international bodies such as the United Nations and the International Criminal Court to address cases of illegal intercountry adoptions and the military recruitment of victims within an international justice framework and recognize these acts as serious human rights violations that may constitute crimes against humanity, and to propose new avenues of redress for victims;
25. *Invites* States to consider adopting relevant legislation that would create a legal basis for prosecuting perpetrators of the crime of illegal adoption on a universal level;
26. *Urges* parliaments to prioritize national adoption to preserve children's social and cultural ties, and to ensure that adoptions in conflict zones are carried out only through internationally recognized agencies such as the United Nations or the International Committee of the Red Cross;
27. *Calls upon* parliaments to raise awareness among authorities and the general public, through information campaigns and, where appropriate, to include in school curricula and broader educational modules the importance of transparent adoption procedures that comply with international law and ethical principles;
28. *Urges* parliaments to ensure effective, well-resourced and independent oversight of adoption processes, guaranteeing that decisions are made with transparency and full respect for the best interests of the child and that whistleblowers and witnesses are protected from retaliation, thereby safeguarding the credibility of legal intercountry adoptions;
29. *Calls on* the competent authorities to ensure that the public acknowledgment of cases of illegal intercountry adoptions does not result in the stigmatization of adopted children, by establishing strict safeguards for confidentiality and the protection of identity;
30. *Invites* States and their parliaments to preserve their archives and ensure the collection of reliable data on cases of illegal intercountry adoptions and the military recruitment of victims, where appropriate in collaboration with international institutions, in order to assess the scale of the phenomenon and improve policy responses, and to collect and share data on good practices in legal adoption systems;
31. *Urges* States to integrate a gender-responsive perspective and apply the principle of non-discrimination in line with international human rights standards, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, into all measures aimed at preventing and combating illegal intercountry adoption, as well as when providing remedies and support to victims, and to ensure that the rights and specific needs of women and girls are fully addressed;
32. *Invites* States and parliaments to adopt policies that strengthen and promote legal systems for intercountry adoption to provide children deprived of parental care with the opportunity for a safe and loving family environment, in accordance with international law;
33. *Invites* the Inter-Parliamentary Union and national parliaments to strengthen their cooperation with the relevant United Nations bodies with a view to implementing action plans to prevent illegal intercountry adoptions; and *urges* the IPU Executive Committee to consider the proposal for the IPU and its partners to organize a parliamentary conference on the prevention of illegal intercountry adoptions.

* - The Russian Federation expressed its opposition to the entire text of the resolution.

- Belarus expressed a reservation on the entire text of the resolution.

Recommendation to elect the first woman to the post of United Nations Secretary-General

*Motion adopted by the IPU Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs
(Geneva, 21 October 2025)*

Since the inception of the United Nations in 1945, nine men have successively been elected or re-elected as its Secretary-General. This gender imbalance is principally attributed to the male-dominated international and cultural orders in which the United Nations has operated.

Much has changed around the world during the 80 years that the United Nations has been in existence, including a growing consensus around gender equality and women's right to hold leadership positions nationally and internationally. The principle of gender equality has been entrenched in numerous international agreements, and both the United Nations and the IPU have made it a key driver of their work on development, human rights and democracy.

Last year, in the landmark **Pact for the Future** (September 2024), the Member States of the United Nations decided to:

“Stress the need for the selection and appointment process of the Secretary-General to be guided by the principles of merit, transparency and inclusiveness and with due regard to gender balance and regional rotation and take into account during the next and in subsequent selection and appointment processes the regrettable fact that there has never been a woman Secretary-General, and we encourage Member States to consider nominating women as candidates.”

The latest resolution on *Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly* (September 2025), which makes the election process of the UN Secretary-General more open and transparent than ever before, reiterates the sentiment of “regret” that is in the Pact for the Future, but avoids making a direct appeal for a woman to be elected in 2026.

In adopting this motion, the IPU Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs affirms that, in the context of the current process for selecting the next United Nations Secretary-General in 2026, the historic moment has come to elect a woman as United Nations Secretary-General — both as a matter of principle and as a demonstration of the United Nations' commitment to ensure equality for all.

We recognize the many accomplished women leaders who have held, or continue to hold, leadership roles worldwide, including in the Latin American and Caribbean region, which is considered next in the geographical rotation for the position of United Nations Secretary-General. Noting further that candidates for the position need to be officially sponsored by their respective governments, the Committee calls upon IPU Member Parliaments, particularly members of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, to:

1. Hold briefings in their respective foreign affairs committees to take stock of the modalities for electing the UN Secretary-General and of the timing whereby the selection and appointment process will unfold during 2026; and
2. Engage with their government leadership to initiate a search for women candidates as soon as possible with a view to ensuring a large pool of highly-qualified women candidates for election by the Security Council.

Report of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

*Noted by the 151st IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 23 October 2025)*

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security held two sittings on 20 and 21 October 2025 with its President, Ms. A. Kuspan (Kazakhstan), in the chair.

On 20 October, the Standing Committee held a first panel discussion on *Arms control policy and non-proliferation: Preventing the next arms race*, introduced by Ms. A. Kuspan (Kazakhstan), President of the Committee. The session was moderated by Ms. Y. Issar, Peace and Disarmament Programme, Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) in Geneva, who emphasized the urgency of revitalizing multilateral disarmament amid record military spending and escalating global tensions. She highlighted that over 120 armed conflicts were ongoing worldwide, while arms control and humanitarian disarmament frameworks were under increasing strain, and that parliamentarians played a crucial role in preventing renewed militarization and safeguarding humanitarian principles.

Ms. C. Solmirano, Head of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Secretariat, emphasized the crucial role of parliaments in implementing the ATT, the first legally binding instrument governing the international trade in conventional arms. She explained that with 117 States Parties, the Treaty aimed to prevent the illicit trade and diversion of weapons that fuelled conflict and human rights violations. Drawing on insights from a regional workshop in Zambia, she highlighted that political will and parliamentary oversight were essential to effective implementation and to bridging global commitments with national practice. She concluded that regulating the arms trade was not only a security imperative, but also a matter of human responsibility. Mr. C. Foradori, President of the Eleventh Conference of States Parties to the ATT (CSP11), complemented Ms. Solmirano's presentation by highlighting the Treaty's contribution to peace and transparency in the global arms market. He noted that gaps in adherence, particularly in regions with limited participation, such as Latin America, created risks – “black holes”, exploited by criminal networks. He called on parliamentarians to promote ratification, strengthen national oversight and engage youth to sustain disarmament efforts.

Ms. M. Parke, Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and former parliamentarian, warned that the risk of nuclear use was higher today than at any time since the cold war. She noted that even a limited nuclear exchange would have devastating humanitarian and climatic consequences, compounded by the collapse of key arms control agreements and the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into nuclear systems. Presenting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) as a pathway to disarmament and victim assistance, she stressed the essential role of parliaments in aligning national policies with international law and humanitarian principles. She urged members to raise the issue in their legislatures, sign ICAN's parliamentary pledge, and participate in upcoming meetings of States Parties, reaffirming that nuclear disarmament was not utopian but an existential imperative.

Ms. S. Mohan, Associate Researcher at the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), addressed the governance of emerging technologies, particularly AI and cyber capabilities. She noted their growing use in military contexts, including autonomous weapons and cyber operations, and referred to ongoing UN processes such as the Open-Ended Working Group on ICT Security and the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems. She emphasized the importance of bridging digital divides, integrating gender perspectives, and linking disarmament, cybersecurity, and the women, peace and security agendas. Ms. Mohan urged parliamentarians to promote responsible innovation, strengthen oversight capacities and support inclusive governance of technologies shaping global security.

Mr. R. Lennane, Disarmament Adviser at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), emphasized a humanitarian approach to disarmament focused on the human impact of weapons rather than their possession or number. He explained that this perspective placed responsibility on all States, and he underscored the link between disarmament and the protection of people represented by parliaments. Highlighting the achievements of humanitarian disarmament treaties, such as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, he noted their success

in reducing suffering and shaping global norms, even among States not party to them. Mr. Lennane warned that recent withdrawals from these instruments risked undermining decades of progress, and urged parliamentarians to defend and promote their universalization, stressing that humanitarian norms were most essential in times of conflict as well as peace.

Over 20 delegates took the floor, converging on the need to strengthen existing arms control regimes and improve governance of emerging technologies. Interventions reflected national experiences with weapons contamination, stockpile destruction and AI oversight. Delegates stressed the importance of transparency, verification and reciprocal compliance, and called for stronger parliamentary engagement in developing ethical and legal frameworks for new technologies. Several statements underscored adherence to humanitarian disarmament treaties, particularly the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, and highlighted the human, environmental and socioeconomic impacts of weapons contamination. Other interventions called for political dialogue and confidence-building to prevent a new arms race, greater investment in disarmament and peace education, and for steps to reduce nuclear risks.

In their closing remarks, the panellists reaffirmed the shared responsibility of parliamentarians in advancing peace, disarmament and non-proliferation. They called for rebuilding confidence in multilateralism, upholding international law and humanitarian principles, and strengthening parliamentary oversight of emerging technologies. The session concluded with a collective call to renew dialogue, solidarity and trust to build a safer and more peaceful world for future generations.

The same day, the Standing Committee held a second panel discussion on *Strengthening parliamentary oversight of defence spending*. Ms. A. Kuspan (Kazakhstan), President of the Standing Committee, opened the session and launched the IPU issue brief *Democratic checks, military balances: Parliamentary oversight in an era of rising military expenditure*. The publication calls for greater transparency and accountability in defence budgeting, emphasizing parliaments' vital role in ensuring that military allocations align with democratic principles and citizens' security priorities. The President also announced a joint IPU-DCAF-SIPRI research project on exceptional defence budget practices and invited delegates to contribute to a global survey supporting the initiative.

The moderator, Ms. Y. Issar (QUNO) opened the session by underscoring that parliamentary oversight was not a procedural formality but a democratic responsibility fundamental to accountability, transparency and public trust. She noted that global military expenditure reached a record US\$ 2.7 trillion in 2024, cautioning that this continued growth risked exacerbating inequality, eroding trust between States and diverting resources from human security and sustainable development.

Mr. D. Lopes da Silva, Researcher with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) presented an analytical overview of recent trends in global military expenditure. He observed that over 100 countries increased their defence budgets in 2024, marking the tenth consecutive year of growth. He warned that the growing reliance on off-budget and extra-budgetary mechanisms undermined democratic control and weakened parliamentary scrutiny. He called on parliaments to ensure that defence allocations remain transparent, efficient and responsive to citizens' needs.

Ms. C. Fredriksen, Senior Manager at INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) highlighted the indispensable role of supreme audit institutions (SAIs) in promoting fiscal transparency and accountability in the defence sector. She noted that excessive secrecy and exemptions often led to inefficiency, mismanagement and declining public trust. Drawing parallels with emergency spending during the COVID-19 pandemic, she warned that unchecked military spending could have similar consequences, diverting resources from essential public services. She urged parliamentarians to use audit findings proactively to enhance oversight and strengthen good governance.

Ms. D. Lui, Programme Manager at the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF) stressed that effective oversight required robust legal mandates, institutional capacity and a steadfast commitment to democratic principles. She presented the joint IPU-DCAF-SIPRI initiative to survey global parliamentary practices on defence oversight, designed to identify common challenges and good practices. She also underlined the importance of governance frameworks that addressed emerging technologies such as AI and autonomous weapons, calling for human-centred and responsible innovation in the security sector.

Mr. M. Spies, Senior Political Affairs Officer with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), recalled the United Nations' long-standing efforts to link disarmament and development, including studies on the social and economic impacts of military expenditure. He called for renewed efforts to assess the environmental and societal costs of militarization, and to explore how disarmament savings could support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He further emphasized that transparent national reporting to the United Nations was essential for fostering dialogue on reducing military spending.

In the ensuing debate, eight delegates took the floor. Speakers acknowledged that while military investment remained necessary amid ongoing conflicts, cyber threats and global instability, true security could not rest on weapons alone. They remarked that oversight was what transformed expenditure into genuine protection, be it of borders, of democracy or of human dignity, and ensured that funding also supported prevention, mediation and inclusion. Participants also highlighted the need for informed and transparent parliamentary debate on the long-term implications of rising military budgets, particularly the risks of opacity and off-budget mechanisms that weakened accountability. Several delegates reiterated that with global military spending soaring, resources were diverted from social investment and contributing to increased emissions. They called for a balanced approach that safeguarded funding for peacebuilding, innovation and social resilience while addressing the environmental and economic costs of militarization.

Across interventions, there was also broad consensus that transparency was a source of strength and that parliamentary oversight was essential to ensuring defence budgets were not merely larger where needed, but also wiser, fairer and better aligned with the principles of human and common security. The panel concluded that rising defence budgets present not only fiscal but also democratic and ethical challenges. Strong parliamentary oversight, supported by transparency and accountability, remained indispensable to ensuring that public resources contributed to peace, stability and human security.

On 21 October, Ms. A. Kuspan (Kazakhstan) introduced and chaired the expert hearing on the theme of the Committee's next resolution *The role of parliaments in establishing robust post-conflict management mechanisms and restoring a just and lasting peace*. The session brought together experts and parliamentarians to explore how legislative institutions can foster sustainable peace, justice and inclusion in societies emerging from conflict.

Mr. P. Działkowiec, Director of Mediation and Peace Support at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), highlighted the crucial role of parliaments in sustaining peace and transitional justice. Drawing on over 20 years of diplomatic and mediation experience, he stressed that lasting peace depended on justice, inclusion and political will, not on "quick fixes" or superficial agreements. Citing examples from Colombia, Northern Ireland and the Western Balkans, he showed that involving victims, civil society and parliaments enhanced legitimacy and reduced the risk of renewed conflict. He concluded that parliamentarians, through their legislative, oversight, and representative roles, were uniquely placed to bridge divides, build trust and foster ongoing dialogue within and between societies.

Ms. S. Naraghi Anderlini, Founder and CEO of the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), underscored the urgent need for inclusive peacebuilding amid widespread global conflict. With over 120 million displaced and 2 billion living in fragile contexts, she stressed that recovery after war must go beyond security to include health, education, justice and gender-responsive policies. Drawing on examples from Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Iraq and Afghanistan, she warned that excluding women and ignoring gender dynamics sustained inequality and instability. She urged parliaments to enshrine inclusion, dignity and human potential in law and policy, emphasizing that only a "whole-of-society" approach, linking parliaments and civil society, could turn crisis into lasting peace and shared prosperity.

Ms. F. Belhirsch (Netherlands), co-Rapporteur of the draft resolution, outlined the co-Rapporteurs' vision for post-conflict recovery. She emphasized that the resolution aimed not only to have parliaments end wars formally but to empower parliaments to turn fragile ceasefires into just and inclusive peace. Stressing that injustice and impunity fuel renewed violence, she called for durable peace built on accountability, reparations and truth. The draft resolution rests on four pillars: justice and accountability, implementation of peace agreements, institutional and governance reform, and internationally supported but nationally owned recovery. Highlighting the importance of inclusion,

especially of women, youth, displaced persons and minorities, she referred to UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) as a guiding framework. Ms. Belhirsch concluded that parliaments were key peacebuilders, restoring legitimacy and trust, and affirmed that the draft resolution would centre on justice, inclusivity and ownership, reminding that “peace without justice is no peace at all”.

In the debate that followed, 19 delegates took the floor. Many underscored parliaments’ central role in turning ceasefires into lasting peace through lawmaking and oversight, and a focus on justice, inclusion and accountability. They emphasized the importance of nationally owned recovery and called for legislative action to validate peace agreements, to protect displaced persons and to establish truth, reparations and amnesty mechanisms. Participants also highlighted the need for civilian-led security sector reform and parliamentary leadership in funding reconstruction, education and psychosocial support.

Several delegates urged institutionalizing inclusion, especially of women, youth and minorities, through mechanisms like double-majority rules and intercommunity committees. Others called for stronger anti-corruption frameworks, measurable reconciliation indicators, and a shift from militarized to human security by supporting early warning systems and civil society. The importance of parliamentary diplomacy, regional cooperation and countering disinformation was also stressed. The debate concluded with a broad consensus that parliaments were decisive peacebuilders, able to codify commitments, oversee implementation, reintegrate ex-combatants and foster social cohesion to ensure peace was both achieved and sustained.

Report of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development

*Noted by the 151st IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 23 October 2025)*

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development held its sittings on 21 and 22 October. Both sittings were chaired by the Committee Vice President, Ms. M.S. Al Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates).

Debate on the theme of the Committee's next resolution, entitled *Building a fair and sustainable global economy: The role of parliaments in combating protectionism, reducing tariffs and preventing corporate tax evasion*

The theme of the next resolution was introduced by four experts: Mr. A.R. Khan, Advisor, International Cooperation and Tax Policy, Financing for Sustainable Development Office, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA); Ms. V. Gonzalez Behar, Head, Partnerships, Outreach and Resource Mobilization at the Enhanced Integrated Framework, World Trade Organization (WTO); Mr. M. Kobetsky, Honorary Professor at the Australian National University College of Law, and Fellow at the Tax and Transfer Policy Institute at the Crawford School of Public Policy; and Ms. M. St. Louis, Director, Global Trade Watch, Public Citizen. The co-Rapporteurs, Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia), Mr. J.M.R. Edwards (Chile) and Ms. J. Sabao (Zambia) were also present.

Mr. A.R. Khan (DESA) informed that global public debt had exceeded US\$ 100 trillion, with developing countries under significant fiscal pressure. According to World Bank data, US\$ 1.4 trillion was paid annually to service external debt, including US\$ 400 billion in interest – leaving nearly half the world's population in countries that are spending more on interest than on health and education combined. Mr. Khan observed that efforts to raise taxes to reduce debt had often eroded public trust, revealing a structural issue in revenue mobilization. He noted that a number of multinational corporations that benefit from the best tax expertise, paid the least amount of taxes. He highlighted that governments could have the same opportunity if they were able to tackle this problem in a more coordinated manner. Mr. Khan emphasized the need for coordinated government action and stronger parliamentary roles to improve fiscal governance, particularly through Public Accounts Committees, oversight mechanisms and finance committees.

Ms. V. Gonzalez Behar (WTO) emphasized that trade encompassed more than tariffs as it also involved standards and regulations that facilitate the movement of goods and services across borders. Recalling the 1930s, she warned that protectionist measures had led to a collapse in global trade and ultimately contributed to the Second World War. While today's trade system was more resilient thanks to international rules that had been established to prevent certain situations from happening again, she cautioned that trade remained fragile. She stressed that parliamentarians were central to trade policy and provided some suggestions to help shape the next resolution. She recommended focusing on non-tariff measures, ratifying the WTO Fisheries Agreement, supporting WTO reform, and participating in the upcoming Parliamentary Conference taking place at the WTO so that the resolution could be a resource for ministers.

Mr. M. Kobetsky (Australian National University College of Law) highlighted that tax revenue was essential for funding public goods and services. He underscored the crucial role of parliaments in imposing tax liabilities on multinational corporations and reforming legislation to reflect their global operations. Just as multinationals were well advised and resourced, parliamentarians also needed to be equally well advised and act at the global level through forums such as those provided by the IPU and the UN. He emphasized that there were a number of mechanisms that could help develop effective tax policies to ensure that multinationals would not find loopholes. It was in fact crucial to address that issue as when there was tax avoidance, either taxpayers had to cover those gaps, or governments had to increase borrowing.

Ms. M. St. Louis (Public Citizen) noted that global trade was necessary, however current free trade agreements and neoliberal policies, which were mainly shaped by the interests of major corporations in the global north, were unsustainable. She urged parliaments to advocate for fairer global trade

rules, corporate accountability, and investment in supply chains that respect workers, human rights and support a green economy. She also called for greater transparency and accountability in trade policymaking and for protecting domestic policy space and regulating it in the public interest. Finally, she emphasized the need for parliamentarians to actively engage in debates concerning trade and investment agreements as they had huge implications on many aspects of domestic policy making.

Following the experts' presentation, 22 delegates shared examples of how their countries were strengthening efforts to combat tax evasion and avoidance, promote economic growth and contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The actions that they implemented included enacting laws, advancing data analytics, introducing penalty regimes, and enhancing international cooperation. Some countries criminalized fraudulent tax declarations and recognized tax evasion as a form of money laundering.

Delegates voiced concern that global economic interdependence left developing and smaller economies particularly vulnerable. They highlighted that millions of people lived in extreme poverty, that many were still deprived of access to water and shelter, and that the global economy was fragmenting due to protectionism, coercive measures, sanctions, unilateral closure of borders, disruption of international logistics and supply chains. They stressed that protectionism appeared to temporarily protect national interests but, in the long run, it weakened competitiveness, disrupted supply chains and undermined trust among countries at a time when solidarity and multilateral cooperation were most needed.

Parliaments were recognized as key actors in reversing these negative trends by enacting fair and transparent tax laws, closing loopholes and ensuring alignment of national policies with the SDGs. Delegates stressed that parliaments played a vital role in promoting sustainable trade and investment, strengthening oversight of international commitments, and ensuring that economic policies prioritize people over profits. Delegates also stressed the importance of parliamentary dialogue, information sharing, and collaboration in international forums — like the IPU, UN, OECD, G20 etc. — to foster equitable global economic governance.

The co-Rapporteurs also addressed the Committee. They requested that the word “evasion” in the resolution title be changed to “avoidance” to allow them to focus on legal tax loopholes on which parliaments could act. The Committee approved the proposal.

Panel discussion on the theme *The impact of global warming: A parliamentary call to protect the most vulnerable*

The panel discussion focused on the role of parliaments in addressing the impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities. The Moderator, Ms. A. Ellis, Senior Director Strategic Partnerships and Networks, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory, emphasized that climate change was not just an environmental crisis but that it was also a human crisis with those contributing least to climate change often bearing the heaviest burden. The panel consisted of Ms. A. Tolentino, a youth advocate and Leader at Care About Climate, Philippines, who joined virtually; Mr. I. Seruiratu, a Member of the Parliament of Fiji; and Mr. R. Feingold, Chair of the Global Steering Committee of the Campaign for Nature and former US Senator.

Ms. A. Tolentino (Care About Climate) discussed the severe impacts that climate change was having in the Philippines, including in the health sector due to increasing climate-related illnesses. She also highlighted the increasing risks faced by environmental defenders who were targeted and the underreporting of such circumstances in the media. Ms. Tolentino emphasized the importance of inclusive climate leadership and the role of youth in advocating for climate justice. She called for increased partnerships with youth-led organizations, the embedding of climate education in schools and awareness-raising campaigns to inform and empower local communities.

Mr. I. Seruiratu (Fiji) described the direct impacts of climate change in Fiji, including rising sea levels and ocean acidification. He mentioned the repercussions that was having on society, including internal displacement and the erosion of identity and heritage for fishing communities who could no longer live in coastal areas. He emphasized the need for international support, including funding and technology, and for countries to honor their commitments made under the Paris Agreement. Mr. Seruiratu highlighted that Fiji was fulfilling its commitments on climate change mitigation but that international support to advance adaptation must be strengthened.

Mr. R. Feingold (Campaign for Nature) discussed the interconnectedness of climate change and biodiversity loss, highlighting the importance of treating both with equal urgency. He underscored the importance of forests and coral reefs for mitigating climate change, the need for increased funding to support biodiversity conservation, and the role of indigenous peoples in preserving biodiversity. Mr. Feingold highlighted the challenges of ensuring climate policy coherence across government administrations, and pointed out that biodiversity was a topic that could unite actors across party lines. He encouraged parliaments to work with their governments to protect at least 30% of the world's lands and oceans by 2030.

Participants from 23 countries made interventions from the floor. They highlighted key biodiversity and climate issues including the need for science-based and inclusive climate action, increased oversight on climate commitments, and more robust legal and budgetary frameworks for effective climate action. The importance of stronger international cooperation, including in terms of knowledge-sharing and technology transfer, was repeatedly highlighted.

Preparations for the Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Brazil

The Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Meeting at COP30, Mr. H. Costa, a Member of the Parliament of Brazil, stated that the Parliamentary Meeting at COP30, organized by the IPU and the Parliament of Brazil, would take place on 14 November 2025 in Belém, Brazil. A brief video was shown on the Parliamentary Meeting and main COP venues in Belém.

Mr. Costa then presented the key themes of the preliminary draft outcome document of the Parliamentary Meeting at COP30. He highlighted that the document called on parliaments to take a number of actions to strengthen climate action including the need to: ensure international climate commitments are translated into national legislation and policies; consider methane emissions, decarbonization, reforestation, and health in climate responses; prioritize the need of vulnerable groups; and foster the responsible use of artificial intelligence to address climate change.

Parliamentarians from seven national parliaments and representatives from four organizations and one regional parliament made interventions from the floor. The points raised in the discussion included: the importance of oversight and climate change accountability, the need to recognize climate change linkages with human health and displacement, the urgency of addressing methane emissions, and the vital role of indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups in climate action.

Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

*Noted by the 151st IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 23 October 2025)*

The Committee held two sittings on 21 and 22 October 2025, with Ms. L. Crexell (Argentina), Chair of the Bureau of the Committee, presiding. After opening the session, Ms. Crexell invited all present to adopt the agenda of the session and approve the summary record of the previous session, held at the 150th IPU Assembly in Tashkent in April 2025.

The election process for the UN Secretary-General: Modalities and political underpinnings

Presenters: Mr. A. Motter, Senior Advisor for Economic and Social Affairs, Office of the Permanent Observer of the IPU to the United Nations; Ms. C. Gallach, member of GWL Voices; Ms. M. Noel Leoni, Campaign Director, Gqual; Ms. S. Ataullahjan (Canada), Senator, member of the Bureau of the Committee.

The sitting featured a discussion on the election process for the UN Secretary-General (UNSG) and the need for a woman to be chosen to replace the current post-holder, Mr. A. Guterres, when his term in office expired on 31 December 2026. A motion entitled *Electing the first woman to the post of United Nations Secretary-General*, referred by the Bureau of the Committee, was up for discussion. After Mr. Motter's short presentation on the key steps to elect the UNSG, the Chair invited the two main panellists, Ms. Gallach and Ms. Noel Leoni, to expound the argument for a woman UNSG.

Ms. C. Gallach (GWL Voices) presented her Group's view of the main reasons why it was time for a woman to become the world's "top diplomat", for which some 80 governments had already expressed their support. Electing the first woman UNSG after a string of nine men since the birth of the organization in 1945 was simply the right thing to do in light of the UN's commitment to gender equality. The existential crisis that the UN was going through and the deteriorating world situation, called for a fresh new approach and leadership style, which a woman was more likely to provide. Ms. Gallach very much welcomed parliaments' engagement on the issue as the best way to make the voices of the people heard.

For her part, Ms. M. Noel Leoni (Gqual) elaborated on the recent General Assembly resolution that established the UNSG's election process, noting that while it represented an improvement from the past in terms of transparency and openness, it fell short of expectations by not calling explicitly for a woman to be elected next time around. Ms. Leoni suggested that the qualifications required for the post needed better defining so that prospective candidates could be more easily screened on the basis of merit. Parliaments could help flesh out the appropriate qualifications with public hearings. Furthermore, she encouraged the active participation of civil society and of parliaments throughout the election process, including by advocating for women candidates in their respective countries and by inviting all candidates to respond to a set of questions.

Having heard from the panel, the Chair invited Ms. S. Ataullahjan (Canada) to present the motion that she had proposed to the Bureau of the Committee the day before and that the Bureau had supported. Ms. Ataullahjan said that upon further consideration the motion's title should be changed to *Recommendation to elect the first woman to the post of United Nations Secretary-General*. She highlighted the text which called unequivocally for a woman to be elected in 2026, namely, that parliaments should hold briefings to take stock of the upcoming election while proactively working with governments to identify as many prospective women candidates to put forward as possible.

The ensuing debate, in which 34 delegations participated, with 16 interventions, highlighted the following points:

- The best way for parliaments to help ensure the election of a woman UNSG in 2026 was to support as many women candidates as possible. To the extent possible, the five permanent members of the Security Council, whose support was needed (by virtue of their veto power), should be persuaded to field or support only women candidates.

- Candidates' records should highlight their skills and respect of all UN values, as well as impartiality and moral authority.
- Regardless of who was elected in the end, the new SG would need greater autonomy to take decisions for the good of the organization and the world.
- The election of a first woman UNSG the following year was also important to open doors to women leaders in other parts of the UN system where they continued to be under-represented.

At the end of the debate, the Chair put the retitled motion to a vote. The motion was adopted unanimously.

UN80: A most ambitious and far-reaching makeover for the UN system as a whole

Presenters: Mr. G. Ryder, UN Under-Secretary-General for Policy, Chief coordinator of the UN80 Initiative; Mr. P. Linnér, Programme Director, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation; Ms. B. Adama, Global Policy Forum.

As the chief coordinator of the UN80 Initiative, Mr. G. Ryder set out the context and the purpose of the initiative which was intended to make the UN more relevant and more effective in responding to current global challenges. The UN was strapped for cash as a few major donors were not paying their dues on time and in full. Worse still, the UN was confronted with a "value crisis" whereby multilateralism was being undermined by a "go it alone approach".

Mr. Ryder explained the three main workstreams of the UN80 Initiative which essentially aimed at cutting the UN budget in the order of 15% to 20% across the system, eliminating or streamlining a multitude of mandates accumulated over the decades, and merging or refocusing existing agencies and programmes to reduce overlap. The UN80 Initiative however should not be seen merely as a cost-cutting exercise: its real purpose was to refocus the UN on what mattered most within its core mission. A nimbler UN system would be more effective at tackling challenges like artificial intelligence (AI) and other critical issues appearing on the horizon.

That said, Mr. Ryder noted that there was no escaping the need for the UN financial house to be placed on a much sounder footing. Just two donors accounted for nearly half of the UN Secretariat's regular budget, making the whole organization financially vulnerable to non-payment or late payments. Funds received in the last quarter of the year often could not be spent on agreed project work and therefore, under the current rules, must be returned to the donor, effectively making a late payment the same as a non-payment. The more the UN was unable to fulfill its mandate, the less trust it enjoyed from the world's community.

Speaking as a close UN associate on financial management, Mr. P. Linnér of the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation focused his remarks on the need for the current UN restructuring to consider not just the quantity but also the *quality* of funding. Most notably, too much of the UN's actual work in countries depended on earmarked funds in which donors tied their funding to specific projects instead of giving to more cost-efficient funding pools. Mr. Linnér also expressed concern that today's liquidity crisis at the UN, as serious as it was, should not preclude taking a more long-term perspective on the role of the UN in the world. Important changes to the UN funding base should aim at repositioning the UN for the future. Mr. Linnér exhorted parliamentarians to engage with their foreign ministers as well as their constituents on all those issues, to exercise stronger oversight and demand more accountability for results.

Elaborating further on the question of quality of funding, Ms. B. Adama of the Global Policy Forum, noted that earmarked contributions to the UN system had doubled since 2010 from US\$ 20 billion to over US\$ 40 billion despite a UN Funding Compact from a few years back which called on countries to reverse that trend. Ms. Adama noted that too much of the UN's budget was allocated to humanitarian aid at the expense of the long-term development work that was key to both preventing humanitarian crises and to improving overall human well-being and sustainability. Echoing the other panellists, Ms. Adama highlighted the funding imbalance whereby a shortlist of about 10 countries were in control of the UN's programmatic work by virtue of their paying nearly half of the UN budget. It was critical that the UN80 Initiative went well beyond a mere cost-cutting exercise to address all of those imbalances.

The ensuing debate, in which 11 delegations contributed, coalesced around the following key points:

- Parliaments ought to exercise close oversight of the UN80 Initiative to ensure that it led to better results both in terms of concrete work to support countries and in terms of managing complex global issues.
- Parliaments ought to do a better job in dissecting all budget allocations to the UN system to ensure that they were of good quality, with less earmarking and more money going to more efficient funding pools.
- While much of the future of the UN system depended on its funding base, ultimately what needed to change were its decision-making processes and structures, such as the Security Council, where a few countries ran the show.
- Any restructuring of the UN system needed to respect all three pillars of the UN — i.e., peace and security, human rights and development — making sure that none was sacrificed at the expense of the others. In particular, current under-funding of the human rights pillar needed to be redressed.
- As a way of securing its financial independence, the UN should not shy away from looking at innovative financial schemes (e.g., a small tax on air travel).
- Improving the effectiveness and accountability of the UN as the leading multilateral organization would depend critically on strengthening its engagement with parliaments, civil society, the private sector and other actors along the lines established in the 2025 Pact for the Future.

As a final announcement, the Secretariat informed that the President of the General Assembly had sent a letter to all Speakers inviting them to mark UN Day on 24 October in their parliaments. All delegations present were encouraged to support relevant activities.

Global call for parliamentary solidarity and coordinated action on Madagascar

Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of South Africa, on behalf of the African Group for the inclusion of an emergency item

Results

Affirmative votes.....	743	Total of affirmative and negative votes..	881
Negative votes.....	138	Two-thirds majority	587
Abstentions.....	468		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Albania	<i>Absent</i>			Finland			12	Norway			12
Algeria	16			France	18			Oman	12		
Andorra		10		Gambia (The)	<i>Absent</i>			Pakistan			22
Angola	15			Georgia			10	Palestine	<i>Absent</i>		
Argentina		16		Germany	9		10	Paraguay			12
Armenia			11	Ghana	15			Peru		15	
Australia			14	Greece	5		8	Philippines	<i>Absent</i>		
Austria	6		6	Hungary		10		Poland		15	
Azerbaijan	<i>Absent</i>			Iceland			10	Portugal		13	
Bahamas	<i>Absent</i>			India	23			Qatar	<i>Absent</i>		
Bahrain	11			Iran (Islamic Republic of)	19			Republic of Korea	17		
Belarus	10			Ireland	<i>Absent</i>			Romania			13
Belgium		13		Italy			17	Russian Federation	20		
Benin	<i>Absent</i>			Jamaica	<i>Absent</i>			Rwanda	13		
Bhutan			10	Japan	10			San Marino	<i>Absent</i>		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<i>Absent</i>			Jordan	13			Saudi Arabia	15		
Botswana	11			Kazakhstan	<i>Absent</i>			Senegal	<i>Absent</i>		
Brazil			22	Kenya	17			Serbia			12
Brunei Darussalam	<i>Absent</i>			Lao People's Dem. Republic			12	Singapore			12
Bulgaria	<i>Absent</i>			Latvia		11		Slovenia			11
Burkina Faso	<i>Absent</i>			Lesotho	11			Somalia	13		
Burundi	<i>Absent</i>			Libya	12			South Africa	18		
Cabo Verde	10			Liechtenstein			10	South Sudan	13		
Cambodia	<i>Absent</i>			Lithuania		11		Spain			16
Canada	16			Luxembourg	<i>Absent</i>			Sri Lanka		14	
Chad	13			Malaysia	15			Suriname	2		8
Chile			13	Maldives	10			Sweden			13
China			23	Malta	10			Switzerland			12
Costa Rica	5		5	Mauritania	12			Thailand			18
Croatia			10	Mauritius	11			Tunisia	13		
Cyprus	6		5	Mexico			20	Türkiye	19		
Czechia		10		Monaco	<i>Absent</i>			Turkmenistan	<i>Absent</i>		
DR of the Congo	20			Montenegro			10	Uganda	<i>Absent</i>		
Denmark	6		6	Morocco	10			Ukraine	<i>Absent</i>		
Djibouti	11			Mozambique	15			United Arab Emirates	13		
Dominican Rep.			13	Namibia	11			United Kingdom	18		
Ecuador			10	Nepal	14			Uruguay	10		1
Egypt	<i>Absent</i>			Netherlands	6		7	Uzbekistan	<i>Absent</i>		
Equatorial Guinea	11			New Zealand			12	Viet Nam			20
Estonia	<i>Absent</i>			Niger	<i>Absent</i>			Yemen	13		
Eswatini	11			Nigeria	22			Zambia	14		
Ethiopia	20			North Macedonia	11			Zimbabwe	13		
Fiji	10										

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 action against transnational organized crime, cybercrime and hybrid threats to democracy and human security

*Resolution adopted unanimously by the 151st IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 23 October 2025)*

The 151st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including respect for national sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-intervention in internal affairs, and the peaceful resolution of disputes, as well as of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC, 2000), the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC, 2003), and other relevant international instruments,

Reaffirming the commitment of the IPU, alongside other institutions and civil society, to democracy, peace, human rights and the rule of law as the foundations of legitimate governance, and *taking note* of the forthcoming United Nations Convention against Cybercrime,

Alarmed by the growing convergence between transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, cybercrime and hybrid threats, which endangers democratic institutions, national security and global stability, and undermines democracy, corrupts institutions and destroys the social and economic fabric of our societies,

Deeply concerned about attacks, threats, online gender-based violence and assassinations targeting parliamentarians, journalists, and political, civic and business leaders for their role in defending transparency and the rule of law,

Recognizing the need to strengthen cooperation among national parliaments, the United Nations, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and regional organizations to harmonize legislative frameworks and counter these evolving threats, particularly cyber-enabled fraud, human trafficking, illicit drugs, money laundering, and related abuses that are increasingly transnational in scope,

Taking note of the Letter of Intent signed between the IPU and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in June 2025 and their shared commitment to strengthen parliamentary capacities in the fight against organized crime,

Alarmed by a recent UNODC report¹ that reveals the industrial-scale proliferation of scam compounds across Southeast Asia, where hundreds of thousands of victims from more than 70 countries around the world have been trafficked and coerced into cyber scams,

Deeply alarmed that scam compounds are rapidly transforming from regional criminal hubs into a globalized shadow economy, that they exploit governance gaps in developing regions under the facade of investment, city-building or entertainment complexes, often enabled by complicit local power brokers, and that they are now generating revenues rivalling national GDPs and are expanding globally,

Acknowledging the reports of UNODC (2025) and others, which reveal alarming levels of digital scam exploitation, human trafficking, disinformation and corruption by State and non-State actors, including operations directly linked to organized criminal syndicates, illicit online marketplaces and underground banking systems, generating annual revenues exceeding USD 50-75 billion,

Deeply concerned by recent instances of both State and non-State actors using coordinated cyber intrusions, sabotage of critical infrastructure, espionage and targeted disinformation campaigns affecting multiple countries across continents,

¹ UNODC, [Inflection Point: Global Implications of Scam Centres, Underground Banking and Illicit Online Marketplaces in Southeast Asia](#), April 2025.

Recalling that transnational criminal networks exploit governance gaps, special economic zones, conflict-affected areas and casinos to launder the proceeds of crime, fuelling corruption, destabilizing communities, violating human rights, undermining sovereignty, threatening regional stability, hindering development, and challenging international efforts to combat organized crime and uphold the rule of law,

Recalling also striking examples of the destructive use of hybrid tactics by State actors, including indiscriminate use of military force, cyber operations and psychological warfare,

Concerned that victims, including women, children and other vulnerable groups, are subjected to forced cyber scams under threat of torture and detention, and often risk re-trafficking or additional violations of their rights,

Recognizing the role of parliaments in strengthening legislation, oversight and cooperation to address the intersection between cybercrime, human trafficking, money laundering and corruption, while ensuring that countermeasures fully uphold humanitarian and human rights principles,

Considering that the transnational and technologically advanced nature of criminal organizations creates an asymmetry that strengthens their expansion and influence, requiring justice and security institutions to respond through supranational institutions and technologically advanced strategies and means, and *recognizing* that such threats become even more serious when the actors involved are States or operate with State support,

Recognizing the IPU's role and policy focus in providing a global platform for multilateral dialogue among national parliaments on peace and security issues, and in facilitating tangible solutions through its 2022–2026 Strategy under Strategic Objective 4: Catalysing collective parliamentary action,

1. *Declares* that the fight against transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, cybercrime and hybrid threats — whether perpetrated by State or non-State actors — is a global priority requiring unified parliamentary action and strong democratic governance, and *urges* parliaments to consider measures to ensure accountability for perpetrators of such crimes;
2. *Condemns* all forms of organized crime, including cyber-enabled human trafficking, forced criminality and modern slavery, perpetrated by both State and non-State actors, with particular attention to the disproportionate impact on women and children, and *urges* parliaments to adopt legislation and policies that promote victim-centred approaches and ensure the protection and rehabilitation of all victims and survivors;
3. *Stresses* the importance of addressing the root causes of vulnerability, including poverty, lack of education, inequality, human trafficking, conflict and corruption, which fuel recruitment into scam compounds, and *urges* the relevant authorities to implement practical solutions to tackle these issues;
4. *Urges* IPU Member Parliaments to update national legislation in a manner consistent with applicable international laws to combat State and non-State participation in cybercrime and improve parliamentary oversight mechanisms of security and intelligence agencies, ensuring respect for the rule of law and human rights, while also ensuring that cybercrime measures do not result in violations of humanitarian principles or secondary victimization of trafficked persons;
5. *Urges* parliaments to strengthen national legal frameworks to:
 - (a) criminalize coercion for the purpose of cyber scams;
 - (b) increase sanctions on security companies implicated in abuses;
 - (c) close legal loopholes exploited by illicit online gambling, cryptocurrency laundering and underground banking systems;

- (d) review electoral, financial and transparency laws to prevent the infiltration of organized crime and foreign interference in democratic institutions;
 - (e) enhance independent oversight of State security and law enforcement bodies to prevent complicity in trafficking and cybercrime;
 - (f) increase sanctions on any civil servants and governments involved in abuses;
6. *Calls for* the protection of parliamentarians and *requests* the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians to monitor and document attacks against them;
 7. *Invites* governments and parliaments to address the structural causes of vulnerability — poverty, inequality, institutional weakness and corruption — through inclusive and sustainable policies;
 8. *Supports* the work of existing regional, international and global legal and security bodies combating transnational organized crime under the UNTOC — such as the UNODC, INTERPOL, and regional agencies against organized crime — and the creation of new institutions to address organized crime in the transnational sphere in which it operates, such as an international court against corruption, the Latin American and Caribbean Criminal Court against Transnational Organized Crime (COPLA), or a MERCOSUR agency against transnational organized crime;
 9. *Invites* IPU Member Parliaments, in accordance with international law and emerging international criminal jurisprudence to recognize that actions of transnational organized crime — whether committed by non-State actors or by a State or its agents acting in an organized or systematic manner — may constitute crimes against humanity;
 10. *Recommends* developing joint cybersecurity frameworks and standards among Member Parliaments to protect critical infrastructure and public information systems, in line with the IPU resolution *Cybercrimes: The new risks to global security*, adopted at the 146th Assembly (Manama, Bahrain, March 2023);
 11. *Calls for* stronger regulation of cryptocurrencies, online platforms and cross-border financial flows to curb illicit money laundering linked to scam compounds, and *urges* global financial institutions to adopt enhanced due diligence;
 12. *Encourages* parliaments to work jointly with the private sector and civil society to foster technological innovation that counters disinformation and digital exploitation, while upholding civil liberties, safeguarding privacy, and ensuring full respect for human rights in all measures addressing digital threats;
 13. *Recognizes* that hybrid threat tactics — including cyber-enabled sabotage, disinformation and attacks on critical infrastructure — when conducted or sponsored by State or non-State actors, may constitute violations of international law and, in certain cases, acts of terrorism, and therefore *urges* full respect for international humanitarian law and human rights norms;
 14. *Denounces* the use of airspace violations, coordinated influence operations and targeted cyber intrusions as tools of intimidation, aggression and interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States;
 15. *Requests* the IPU to utilize its existing bodies to facilitate legislative cooperation in tackling coerced criminality, financial crimes, and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and to monitor implementation;
 16. *Suggests* including this matter under a standing agenda item, “Democracy, Governance and Global Security”, and to review progress at future IPU Assemblies.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

Dr./Dr Tulia Ackson
President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
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 Gabriela Morawska-Stanecka
Vice-President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Vice-Présidente de l'Union interparlementaire

Mr./M. Martin Chungong
Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Secrétaire général de l'Union interparlementaire

I. MEMBERS / MEMBRES**ALBANIA**

Ms. Bora MUZHAQI Leader of the Delegation	Member of Parliament (SP)
Mr. Asforal HAXHIU	Member of Parliament (SP)
Mr. Edi PALOKA	Member of Parliament (C)
Mr. Gazment BARDHI	Member of Parliament (C)
Mr. Genci GOLI Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Parliament

SP SOCIALIST PARTY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
C DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

ALGERIA / ALGÉRIE

M. Azouz NASRI Chef de la délégation	Président du Conseil de la nation
M. Mohamed Anouar BOUCHOUIT	Vice-Président de l'Assemblée Populaire nationale
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)
M. Abderrahmane GUENCHOUBA Membre du Comité Exécutif	Membre du conseil de la nation (RND) Membre, Commission des affaires financières et économiques
Mme Farida ILIMI HADDOUCHE Membre du Bureau de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme, Membre du Bureau des femmes parlementaires, Membre du Comité sur la santé	Membre de l'Assemblée Populaire nationale (FLN) Membre, Commission des affaires étrangères de la coopération et de l'émigration
M. Kamel KHELIFATI Membre du Groupe de travail sur la science et la technologie	Membre du conseil de la nation (FLN) Membre, Commission des affaires étrangères et de la coopération internationale
Mme Hayette SIAD Secrétaire de la délégation	Conseillère, Assemblée Populaire nationale
Mme Mounia BENZIADA Secrétaire de la délégation	Conseillère, Conseil de la nation
M. Salim REBAHI	Conseillère, Conseil de la nation
M. Youcef CHELALI,	Protocole, Conseil de la nation
M. Salim DJALAL	Secrétaire général, Assemblée Populaire nationale
M. Makhlouf SAHEL	Chef de cabinet, Conseil de la nation

RND rassemblement national démocratique
FLN Front de libération nationale

ANDORRA

Mme Sandra CODINA
Cheffe de la délégation

Vice-Présidente du Conseil général (DA)

M. Marc MONTEAGUDO TORRES

Membre du Conseil général (AE)
Commission de la Justice, des Affaires intérieures et des
Institutions
Commission de l'aménagement du territoire et de
l'environnement

Mme Maria Àngels ACHE

Membre du Conseil général (C)
Commission de la santé
Commission de l'éducation, de la recherche, de la culture,
de la jeunesse et des sports

Mme Arantxa RODRIGUEZ
Secrétaire du groupe

Conseillère, Conseil général
Secrétaire de la délégation

AE Andorra Endavant
DA Demòcrates per Andorra
C Concòrdia

ANGOLA

Ms. Maria VALENTE
Leader of the Delegation
President of the IPU Group

Member of the National Assembly (MPLA)
Member of the Committee on Economic and Financial
Affairs

Ms. Arlete CHIMBINDA

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (UNITA)
Committee on Human Rights, Petitions, Complaints and
Public Suggestions

Ms. Clementina SILVA

Member of the National Assembly (UNITA)
Committee on Health, Education, Higher Education,
Science and Technology

Mr. Kilamba Kiuyima SEBASTIÃO VAN-DÚNEM

Member of the National Assembly (MPLA)
Member of the Committee on Economic and Financial
Affairs

Mr. Nvunda SALUCOMBO

Member of the National Assembly (MPLA)
Committee on State Administration and Local
Government

Mr. Pedro NERI

Secretary General, National Assembly

Mr. Lázaro VICENTE
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, National Assembly

Ms. Nildeice BARRICA

Advisor, National Assembly

Ms. Sílvia SITA

Advisor, National Assembly

Ms. Ana OLIVEIRA

Ambassador

Mr. Adão DOS SANTOS

Diplomat

Ms. Ana OLIVEIRA

Diplomat

MPLA Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola
UNITA União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola

ARGENTINA

Ms. Carmen Lucila CREXELL
Leader of the Delegation
Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on
United Nations Affairs

Member of the Senate
Foreign Affairs and Worship Committee
Mining, Energy and Fuels Committee (MPN)

Mr. Enrique Martin GOERLING LARA

Member of the Senate (PRO)
President, Permanent Bicameral Oversight of Internal
Security Bodies and Activities Secretary - Environment
and Sustainable Development

Mr. Oscar PARRILLI

Member of the Senate (FTD)
Secretary, Permanent Bicameral Committee for the
Oversight of Intelligence Agencies and Activities Member,
Committee of Justice and Criminal Affairs

Mr. Fernando IGLESIAS

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PRO)
Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs
Member of the Justice committee
Member of the MERCOSUR Committee)

Mr. Juan de Dios CINCUNEGUI

Advisor, Senate

MPN Movimiento Popular Neuquino
PRO Juntos por el Cambio - BLOQUE PRO
FTD Frente de Todos

ARMENIA

Mr. Alen SIMONYAN
Leader of the Delegation
President of the IPU Group

President of the National Assembly (CC)

Ms. Hasmik HAKOBYAN
Member of the Committee to Promote Respect for
International Humanitarian Law
Member of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians

Member of the National Assembly (CC)
Member, Standing Committee on Foreign Relations

Ms. Tsovinar VARDANYAN
First Vice-President of the Bureau of Women
Parliamentarians
Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on
Sustainable Development

Member of the National Assembly (CC)
Chair, Standing Committee on Financial-Credit and
Budgetary Affairs

Mr. Aleksandr MKHITARYAN

Director, National Assembly
Advisor, National Assembly

Ms. Anna HOVAKIMYAN

Secretary of the delegation

Ms. Ashkhen HAYRAPETYAN

Mr. Davit ARAKELYAN

Mr. Mamikon MARGARYAN

Mr. Movses HARUTYUNYAN

Mr. Tigran SEIRANIAN

Advisor to the President of the National Assembly
Secretary General, National Assembly
Advisor, National Assembly
Press Secretary of the President of the National Assembly
Director, National Assembly

CC Civil Contract

AUSTRALIA

Mr. Milton DICK
Leader of the Delegation
President of the IPU Group
Member of the Executive Committee

Speaker of the House of Representatives
Selection Committee
Standing Committee on Appropriations and
Administration Committee (ALP)

Ms. Sharon CLAYDON

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
Standing Committee on Appropriations and
Administration
Standing Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests
(ALP)

Mr. Andrew MCLACHLAN	Member of the Senate Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories (LP)
Ms. Carol BROWN	Member of the Senate Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme Joint Standing Committee on the Parliamentary Library (ALP)
Ms. Deborah O'NEILL President, Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Member of the Senate Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Senate Standing Committees on Economics (ALP)
Ms. Claressa SURTEES	Clerk, House of Representatives
Ms. Jane THOMSON Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Senate
Ms. Shannon THRELFALL-CLARKE	Advisor, House of Representatives
ALP Australian Labor Party LP Liberal Party of Australia	

AUSTRIA

Ms. Barbara KOLM Leader of the Delegation	Member of the National Council (FPÖ)
Ms. Carmen JEITLER-CINCELLI	Member of the National Council (ÖVP)
Ms. Petra BAYR	Member of the National Council (SPÖ)
Ms. Meri DISOSKI	Member of the National Council (Die Grünen)
Mr. Alexis WINTONIAK	Deputy Secretary General, National Council
Mr. Matthias MATUSCHEK Secretary of the Group	Advisor, National Council
FPÖ Freedom Party of Austria ÖVP Austrian People's Party Die Grünen The Greens NEOS NEOS – The New Austria and Liberal Forum SPÖ Social Democratic Party of Austria	

AZERBAIJAN

Ms. Sahiba GAFAROVA Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the Milli Majlis (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 of the Human Rights Committee Member of the Committee on Foreign and Interparliamentary Relations
Ms. Amina AGHAZADA Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Member of the Milli Majlis Member of the Committee for Law Policy and State-Building
Mr. Kamran BAYRAMOV Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the Milli Majlis Member of the Committee for Law Policy and State-Building Member of the Committee for Regional 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	Secretary General
Mr. Teymur TAGHIYEV	Head of Secretariat
Mr. Ilkin MAMMADOV	Head of International Relations Department
H.E. Mr. Galib ISRAFILOV	Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva
Mr. Yusif MADATOV	Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva
YAP	New Azerbaijan Party

BAHAMAS

Ms. Pia GLOVER ROLLE Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Member of the House of Assembly (PLP)
Mr. Adrian WHITE	Member of the House of Assembly Committee on Privilege (FNM)
Mr. Emille HUNT Secretary of the delegation PLP Progressive Liberal Party FNM Free National Movement	Advisor, House of Assembly

BAHRAIN

Mr. Ahmed ALMUSALLAM Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Speaker of the Council of Representatives
Mr. Abdulnabi SALMAN Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Deputy Speaker of the Council of Representatives
Mr. Jamal FAKHRO	Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council
Mr. Ahmed ALSALLOOM	Member of the Council of Representatives Committee on Financial and Economic Affairs (Chairman)
Mr. Bassam ALBINMOHAMMED	Member of the Shura Council Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and National Security (Member)
Ms. Dalal ALZAYED Member of the Committee to Promote Respect of International Humanitarian Law	Member of the Shura Council Committee on Legislative and Legal Affairs (Chairperson)
Mr. Hasan EBRAHIM Member of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians	Member of the Council of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and National Security (Deputy Chairman)
Mr. Mahdi ALSHOWAIKH	Member of the Council of Representatives Committee on Services (Member)
Ms. Hala FAYEZ	Member of the Shura Council Member, Committee on Services

Ms. Maryam ALDHAEN	Member of the Council of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and National Security (Member)
Ms. Kareema ALABBASI Secretary of the Group	Secretary General, Shura Council
Mr. Mohamed ALBOAINAIN Secretary of the Group	Secretary General, Council of Representatives
Ms. Eman ABDULMAJEED Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Council of Representatives
Ms. Hanadi ALENEZI Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Council of Representatives
Mr. Mahmood ALSEDDIQI Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Shura Council
Mr. Mohamed ALREFAEI Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Council of Representatives
Mr. Saleh HAMD I Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Council of Representatives
Mr. Sali MOHAMMED Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Shura Council
Mr. Salman EBRAHIM Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Council of Representatives
Mr. Mohamed ALJABERI	Advisor, Council of Representatives
Ms. Aysha ABDULLA G	Advisor, Council of Representatives
Ms. Fouzia ALJEEB	Advisor, Shura Council

BELARUS

Mr. Sergei RACHKOV Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development Member of the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism	Member of the House of Representatives Chairperson of the Standing Commission on International Affairs
Mr. Sergei ALEINIK	Member of the Council of the Republic Chairperson of the Standing Commission on International Affairs and National Security

BELGIUM / BELGIQUE

M. Andries GRYFFROY Chef de la délégation Président du Groupe	Premier Vice-Président du Sénat Commission des Matières transversales (N-VA)
M. Michel DE MAEGD Membre du Bureau de la commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme	Membre de la Chambre des représentants Commission des Relations extérieures (Vice-président) Comité d'avis pour les Questions européennes (Vice-président) (MR)
M. Christophe LACROIX	Membre de la Chambre des représentants Commission de la Défense nationale (Vice-président) Commission des Relations extérieures (PS)

M. Kris VERDUYCKT	Membre du Sénat Commission des Affaires institutionnelles (Vooruit)
Mme Stéphanie D'HOSE	Membre du Sénat Commission des Affaires institutionnelles (Open VLD)
M. Gert VAN DER BIESEN	Secrétaire général du Sénat
Mme Sonja LANGENHAECK	Première conseillère au Sénat
M. Ruben VANHAVERBEKE Secrétaire adjoint du Groupe belge de l'UIP	Conseiller, Chambre des représentants
N-VA Nouvelle Alliance Flamande	
PS Parti Socialiste	
Vooruit VOORUIT (Parti Socialiste)	
MR Mouvement réformateur (Parti libéral francophone)	
Open VLD Parti libéral flamand	

BENIN

Mme Ogoussi Edwige TOSSAH	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Membre, Commission des lois, de l'administration et des droits de l'homme (LD)
Mme Innocentia ALLADAGBE	Conseiller, Assemblée nationale
Mme Zouberatou SAKA	Conseiller, Assemblée nationale
M. Mariano OGOUTOLOU Secrétaire du Groupe	Secrétaire general, Assemblée nationale
M. Antonin KPEGOUTON Secrétaire de la délégation	Conseiller, Assemblée nationale
M. Bio Toro OROU GUIWA	Conseiller, Assemblée nationale
UP le Renouveau Union progressiste le Renouveau	
LD Parti Les Démocrates	
BR Bloc Républicain	

BHUTAN

Mr. Sangay DORJI Leader of the Delegation	Chairperson of the National Council
Ms. Kesang DORJEE	Member of the National Council Member, Social and Cultural Affairs Committee Chairperson of Foreign Relation Committee
Mr. Lhendup WANGDI	Member of the National Assembly Member, Economic and Finance Committee Deputy Chairperson, Good Governance Committee (PDP)
Mr. Loday TSHETEN	Member of the National Assembly Member, Economic and Finance Committee Member, Public Accounts Committee (BTP)
Mr. Naiten WANGCHUK	Member of the National Assembly Member, Economic and Finance Committee Member, House Committee (BTP)
Mr. Tenzin THINLEY Secretary of the Group	Secretary General, National Council
Ms. Gaki PELZOM Secretary of the delegation	Advisor or Secretary National Council

Ms. Karma RIGZANG
Secretary of the delegation

PDP People's Democratic Party
BTP Bhutan Tendrel Party

Advisor or Secretary
National Council

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Mr. Denis ZVIZDIĆ
Leader of the Delegation
President of the IPU Group

Speaker of the House of Representatives
Joint Committee of Administrative Affairs (NIP)

Ms. Amila KLIČIĆ

Interpreter, House of Representatives

Ms. Dženana LEPPER
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, House of Representatives

Mr. Kenan HODŽIĆ

Head of Cabinet of Speaker, House of Representatives

NIP PEOPLE AND JUSTICE

BOTSWANA

Ms. Helen Pushy MANYENENG
Leader of the Delegation

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
Chairperson, Parliamentary Caucus on Women
Member, Health and HIV/AIDS Committee (UDC)

Ms. Maipelo Boitumelo MOPHUTING
Member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

Member of the National Assembly
Member, Parliamentary Caucus on Women Committee
(UDC)

Mr. Dumelang SALESHANDO

Member of the National Assembly
Member, Wildlife, Tourism, Natural Resources and
Climate Change Committee
Member, Finance and Estimates Committee (BCP)

Mr. Gabriel Gosiame G MALEBANG
Secretary of the delegation

Clerk, National Assembly

Ms. Olebile KGOSINTWA

Advisor, National Assembly

UDC UMBRELLA FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE
BCP BOTSWANA CONGRESS PARTY
UDC UMBRELLA FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE

BRAZIL

Mr. Ciro NOGUEIRA LIMA FILHO
Leader of the Delegation
President of the IPU Group

Member of the Federal Senate (PP)

Mr. Humberto COSTA

Vice-President of the Federal Senate (PT)

Mr. Atila LINS DE ALBUQUERQUE

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PSD)

Mr. Claudio CAJADO SAMPAIO
Member of the Executive Committee

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PP)

Mr. Jorge SOLLA

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PT)

Mr. Marx BELTRÃO LIMA SIQUEIRA

Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Ms. Silvia ARAUJO
Secretary of the Group

Advisor, Federal Senate

PP Progressives
PSD Social Democratic Party
PT Workers' Party
PL Liberal Party

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Mr. Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman TAIB Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Legislative Council
Mr. Pehin Dato Suyoi OSMAN	Member of the Legislative Council
Mr. Zainol MOHAMED	Member of the Legislative Council
Ms. Ajeerah NAJIB Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Legislative Council
Mr. Faiq YASSIN Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Legislative Council

BULGARIA

Ms. Rositsa KIROVA Leader of the delegation President of the IPU Group	Member of the National Assembly Member, Committee on Direct Participation of Citizens, Citizens' Complaints and Interaction with Civil Society, Chairperson, Committee on Regional Policy, Public Works and Local Self-Government, member (EPP)
Ms. Denitsa SIMEONOVA	Member of the National Assembly Member, Committee on Policies for Bulgarians Abroad, Deputy Chairperson, Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds, member (LP)
Mr. Ivan IBRISHIMOV	Member of the National Assembly Deputy Chair, Committee on Health, Member, Committee for Control of the Security Services, the application and use of the Special Intelligence Means and the Data Access under the Electronic Communications Act, member (SP)
Ms. Stefana KARASLAVOVA-VODENICHARSKA	Secretary General, National Assembly
Ms. Stefka ALEXANDROVA Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, National Assembly
Mr. Yasen MUTAFOV	Advisor, National Assembly
Ms. Hrizantema NIKOLOVA	Advisor, National Assembly
Mr. Ivan IVANOV	Advisor, National Assembly
H. E. Mr. Yuri STERK	Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations Office and the other International Organisations in Geneva
Mr. Nikola YAKOV	Counsellor, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, CERN, IPU, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the UN and other International Organizations in Geneva

BSP – UNITED LEFT	Bulgarian Socialist Party – UNITED LEFT
EPP	GERB – UDF
LP	We Continue the Change
MRF – New Beginning	Movement for Rights and Freedoms – New Beginning
SP	Bulgarian Specialist Party – UNITED LEFT
ECR	There is Such a People

BURKINA FASO

M. Daouda DIALLO Chef de la délégation	Vice-Président de l'Assemblée législative de la transition Membre, Commission des Finances et du budget
M. Boubacar BALBONE Président du Groupe	Membre de l'Assemblée législative de la transition Vice-Président, Commission des lois
M. Sibiri COULIBALY	Membre de l'Assemblée législative de la transition Membre, Commission des Affaires étrangères de la défense et de la sécurité
Mme Felicie Marie Pélagie KONSEIBO TIENDREBEOGO Membre du Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies	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 développement durable
Mme Kiswindsida Agueratou OUEDRAOGO	Membre de l'Assemblée législative de la transition Membre, Commission du développement durable
M. Souleymane OUEDRAOGO	Membre de l'Assemblée législative de la transition Membre, Commission des lois
M. Wendyelle Ambroise NIKIEMA	Membre de l'Assemblée législative de la transition Membre, Commission du développement durable
M. Theophile TENKODOGO	Membre de l'Assemblée législative de la transition
Mme Valerie SEMPORE SOUBEIGA	Secrétaire Générale, Assemblée législative de la transition
M. Abdoul Aimé Roland KONATE Secrétaire du Groupe	Conseiller, Assemblée législative de la transition
M. Wendmissida Antoine Elisée ZONG-NABA	Conseiller, Assemblée législative de la transition

BURUNDI

Mme Générose NGENDANGANYA Cheffe de la délégation	Vice-présidente du Sénat (CNDD-FDD)
M. Ferdinand NDAYISAVYE	Membre du Sénat (CNDD-FDD)
Mme Angeline KAYOBERA	Conseillère, Sénat
M. Bonaventure NTIRANDEKURA Secrétaire de la délégation	Conseillère, Sénat

CNDD-FDD Conseil National pour la Défense de la Démocratie-Force de Défense de la Démocratie

CABO VERDE

Mr. Austelino CORREIA Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly
Mr. Alcides DE PINA	Member of the National Assembly (MPD)
Mr. Clóvis DA SILVA	Member of the National Assembly (PAICV)
Ms. Vanuza BARBOSA	Member of the National Assembly (MPD)

MPD Movement for Democracy
PAICV African Party for Independence of Cabo Verde

CAMBODIA

Mr. Borith OUCH Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Vice-President of the Senate (CPP)
Mr. Chanphal NGY	Member of the Senate (CPP)
Mr. Sokhun TY	Member of the National Assembly (CPP)
Ms. Samvada KHENG	Member of the National Assembly (CPP)
Mr. Samkol LAY Adviser	Secretary General, Senate
Mr. Essarayoss MEAN Secretary of the Group	Advisor, National Assembly
Ms. Kimleang TAING Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, National Assembly
Mr. Malayvireak KOY Secretary of the Group	Advisor, Senate
Mr. Senrith UN Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Senate
Mr. Sokveng NGOUN	Advisor, Senate
Mr. Veasna VA	Advisor, Senate
CPP Cambodian People's Party	

CANADA

Ms. Salma ATAULLAHJAN Leader of the Delegation Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs	Member of the Senate (CPC) Foreign Affairs and International Trade – Member
Ms. Danièle HENKEL	Member of the Senate (PSG) Member, Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration, Member Banking, Commerce and the Economy Committee
Mr. Chris D'ENTREMONT	Member of the House of Commons (CPC) Member, Fisheries and Oceans Committee
Ms. Iqra KHALID	Member of the House of Commons (LPC)
Mr. Fraser TOLMIE	Member of the House of Commons Member, Veterans Affairs Committee (CPC)
Mr. Mohamed-Iqbal RAVALIA	Member of the Senate Member, Fisheries and Oceans Committee Member, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Committee (ISG)
Ms. Sharon BUREY	Member of the Senate Member, Agriculture and Forestry Committee Member, Social Affairs, Science and Technology Committee (CSG)
Ms. Erica PEREIRA Secretary of the Group	Advisor, House of Commons
Mr. Jean Philippe BROCHU	Advisor, House of Commons

Ms. Marlisa TIEDEMANN Advisor, House of Commons

Ms. Alison BROWN Advisor, House of Commons

PSG Progressive Senate Group
CPC Conservative Party of Canada
LPC Liberal Party of Canada
ISG Independent Senators Group
CSG Canadian Senators Group

CHAD / TCHAD

M. Dingaomaïbé LAOUHINGAMAYE Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPS)
Chef de la délégation
Membre du Bureau de la Commission permanente des affaires des Nations unies

M. Abdelgader Abderamane KOKO Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
Membre du Bureau des jeunes parlementaires Rapporteur du groupe parlementaire (MPS)

M. Ahmat Khayar Mahamat SALEH Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
Member, Member of the Executive Committee Membre, Commission ODD (MPS)

Mme Betolngar DIAMRA Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPS)

Mme Fatimé Mahamat Seïd ALI ABBAS Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
Membre du Bureau de la Commission permanente du développement durable Membre du bureau secrétaire de séance (RDP)

M. Togui Tekilio MAHAMAT Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPS)

M. Neldjta Djimtibaye LAPIA Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

M. Yaya Kebir MAHAMAT OKI Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

M. Alghassim KHAMIS Secrétaire general, Assemblée nationale
Secrétaire de la délégation

MPS Mouvement patriotique du salut
RDP Rassemblement pour la Démocratie et le Progrès

CHILE

Mr. Francisco CHAHUAN Member of the Senate
Leader of the Delegation Member, Committee on Health (RN)
President of the IPU Group
Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

Ms. Claudia MIX Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Member, Internal Government, Nationality, Citizenship and Regionalization Committee
Member, Social Development, Overcoming Poverty and Planning Committee (FA)

Mr. Jorge DURAN Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Member, Committee on Culture, Arts and Communications (RN)

Mr. Leonardo SOTO Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Member, Constitution, Legislation, Justice and Regulations Committee (PS)

Mr. Patricio ROSAS Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Member, Mining and Energy Committee
President, Health Committee (FA)

Ms. Loreto CARVAJAL
Member of the Committee to Promote Respect of
International Humanitarian Law

Member of the Senate
Member, Committee on Women Affairs (PPD)

Mr. Sebastian KEITEL

Member of the Senate
Member, Committee on Culture, Arts and Sports

Mr. José Manuel Rojo EDWARDS

Member of the Senate
Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs

Mr. Raúl GUZMAN

Secretary General, Senate

Mr. Luis ROJAS

Deputy Secretary, Chamber of Deputies

Mr. Gustavo SANHUEZA

Advisor, Senate

Mr. Damaso MONTEBRUNO

Advisor, Chamber of Deputies

Mr. Juan OSES
Secretary of the Group

Advisor, Senate

FA Frente Amplio
RN National Renewal
PS Socialist party

CHINA

Mr. Xuejun TIAN
Leader of the Delegation

Member of the National People's Congress
Vice-Chairperson, Education, Science, Culture and
Public Health Committee (CPC)

Mr. Xiangyang XIN

Member of the National People's Congress
Member, Social Development Affairs Committee (CPC)

Ms. Zhongmei LYU

Member of the National People's Congress
Vice-Chairperson, Environmental Protection and
Resources Conservation Committee (CPWDP)

Mr. Yichen SUN
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, National People's Congress

Ms. Yixing WANG
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, National People's Congress

Ms. Ziyuan SUN
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, National People's Congress

CPC Communist Party of China
CPWDP Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party

COSTA RICA

Mr. Luis Fernando MENDOZA JIMÉNEZ
Leader of the Delegation

Member of the Legislative Assembly
Presidente, Permanent Special Committee of
International Relations and External Trade
Member, Committee on Tax Issues (PLN)

PLN Liberación Nacional

CROATIA

Mr. Saša ĐUJIĆ
Leader of the Delegation
President of the IPU Group

Member of the Croatian Parliament
Deputy Chairperson, Committee on Constitution,
Standing Orders and Political System
Member, Interparliamentary Co-operation Committee
(SDP)

Mr. Ivan MALENICA

Member of the Croatian Parliament
Chairperson - Committee on Constitution, Standing
Orders and Political System
Member, Judiciary Committee (HDZ)

Mr. Stjepan VUKAS

Advisor, The Croatian Parliament

SDP Social Democrat Party
HDZ Croatian Democratic Union**CYPRUS**Mr. Averof NEOFYTOU
Leader of the DelegationMember 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)

Mr. Stefanos STEFANO

Member of the House of Representatives (AKEL)

Ms. Christiana EROKROITOU

Member of the House of Representatives
Chairperson, House Standing Committee on Financial
and Budgetary Affairs
Member, House Standing Committee on Foreign and
European Affairs (DIKO)Ms. Avgousta CHRISTOU
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, House of Representatives

Ms. Marianna KAISIS
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, House of Representatives

DISY Democratic Rally
DIKO Democratic Party
DEPA Democratic Alignment
AKEL The Progressive Party of the Working People**CZECHIA**

Ms. Adéla ŠÍPOVÁ

Member of the Senate
Member, Committee on EU AffairsMs. Radka ZEMANOVA
Secretary of the Group

Advisor, Senate

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO / RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONGOM. Jean Michel SAMA LUKONDE KYENGE
Chef de la délégation

Président du Sénat (ACO)

Mme Marianne BAKIELE MESO

Membre du Sénat
Membre, Commission de Défense (A27)M. Boris MBUKU LAKA
Membre du Comité des droits de l'homme des
parlementairesMembre de l'Assemblée nationale
Membre, Commission de Droits de l'homme (EC)

M. Aristide BULAKALI MULULUNGANYA

Membre du Sénat
Membre, Commission de Défense (UDPS)

M. Joseph NGALAMULUME BAKAKENGA

Membre du Sénat (AFDC)
Membre Commission des Relations ExtérieuresMme Ida KITWA GODALENA
Membre du Comité exécutif
Membre ex-officio du Bureau des Femmes
ParlementairesMembre de l'Assemblée nationale
Membre, Commission Ecofin (AUN)

Mme Jeannette KAVIRA MAPERA Membre du Bureau des femmes parlementaires	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Membre, Commission, Économie financière et contrôle budgétaire (MEDR)
M. Joseph NGALAMULUME BAKAKENGA	Membre du Sénat Membre, Commission des Relations extérieures (AFDC)
M. Laurent NGILA MOKE	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Membre, Commission de Défense et sécurité (APOCM)
Mr. Jean NGUVULU KHOJI Secrétaire du groupe	Secrétaire general, Assemblée nationale
Mr. Jean MUKUALA BATEKE	Secrétaire general, Sénat
Mme Marie Suzanne PASI VALU NDOMOLO Secrétaire du groupe	Conseillère, Sénat
M. Laurent IMOTE ETSHINDO Secrétaire de la délégation	Conseiller, Assemblée nationale
M. Albert NGOYI MBALA	Conseiller, Sénat
M. Clovis YAMANZO MONAY	Conseiller, Sénat
M. Didier MOLISHO SAIDI	Conseiller, Sénat
Mme Pascaline MASEKO ETANDA	Conseillère, Sénat
M. Roger KABEYA TSHIMBUNDU NKULU NTITA	Conseiller, Sénat
Mme Diane MOLE MAKAMBO	Conseiller, Assemblée nationale
ACO Avenir du Congo	
UDPS UDPS	
EC Ensemble pour le changement	
AUN Alliance des fédéralistes pour un Congo nouveau	
MEDR Mouvement des écologistes pour le développement responsable	
AFDC ALLIANCE DES FORCES DEMOCRATIQUES DU CONGO	
APOCM Alliance des paysans des ouvriers et de la classe moyenne pour un développement durable	
A27 A27	

DENMARK

Mr. Soeren SOENDERGAARD Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Member of The Danish Parliament Vice-Chair, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Member, Cultural Affairs Committee (EL)
Mr. Henrik Rejnholt ANDERSEN	Member of The Danish Parliament Member, Cultural Affairs Committee Member, Digitalisation and IT Committee (M)
Ms. Katrine DAUGAARD	Member of The Danish Parliament Vice-Chair, Social Affairs Committee Member of the Cultural Affairs Committee (LA)
Mr. Thomas MONBERG	Member of The Danish Parliament Member, Environment and Food Committee Member, Cultural Affairs Committee (S)
Mr. Kris Jensen SKRIVER	Member of The Danish Parliament Vice-Chair, Rural Districts and Islands Committee Member, Environment and Food Committee (S)

Mr. Jeppe SOEE	Member of The Danish Parliament Member, Cultural Affairs Committee Member, Digitalisation and IT Committee
Mr. Kim VALENTIN	Member of The Danish Parliament Vice-Chair, Employment Committee Member, Cultural Affairs Committee (V)
Mr. Claudius LARSON Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, The Danish Parliament
Mr. Peter RIIS Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, The Danish Parliament
EL	The Red-Green Alliance
M	The Moderates
LA	Liberal Alliance
V	The Liberal Party
S	The Social Democratic Party

DJIBOUTI

Mme Nima BOULHAN HOUSSEIN Cheffe de la délégation Présidente du Group	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Commission de Loi (RPP)
M. Abdallah MOHAMED ROUFFA	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Membre, Commission Production et Echanges (FRUD)
M. Elmi MAHABEH WAISS	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RPP) Membre, Commission des Affaires Etrangères
M. Hassan ADEN GUEDI	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Membre, Commission des Finances (UDJ)
M. Ismael Goulal BOUDINE	Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale
M. Mohamed Daoud YOUSSEF Secrétaire du groupe	Conseiller, Assemblée nationale
RPP	RPP
UDJ	FRUD

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Ms. María Mercedes ORTIZ DILONÉ Leader of the Delegation Member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the Senate (PRM)
Mr. Juan Bolivar CUEVAS DAVIS	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Member, Permanent Committee on Health Member, Permanent Committee on Social Security (PRM)
Mr. Julio Cesar BELTRE MENDEZ	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Member, Committee on Contracts Member, Permanent Committee on Public Administration (PRM)
PRM	Partido Revolucionario Moderno

ECUADOR

Mr. Niels OLSEN PEET Leader of the Delegation	President of the National Assembly (ADN)
Mr. Mario Amado ZAMBRANO VERA	Member of the National Assembly Member of the Permanent Committee on Sovereignty, Integration and Comprehensive Security (ADN)

Ms. Valentina CENTENO ARTEAGA	Member of the National Assembly President of the Permanent Committee on Economic and Productive Development and Microenterprises (ADN)
Mr. Giovanni BRAVO Secretary of the delegation	Secretary General, National Assembly
Ms. Mónica ORELLANA	Deputy Secretary General, National Assembly
Mr. Anthony CASTRO	Advisor, National Assembly
Ms. Gabriela VASQUEZ	Advisor, National Assembly
ADN Acción Democrática Nacional	

EGYPT

Mr. Hanafy GEBALY Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the House of Representatives
Mr. Ahmed SAAD ELDIN	First Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
Ms. Sahar ATTIA	Member of the House of Representatives Member, Tourism and Civil Aviation Committee
Mr. Karim DARWISH Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions	Member of the House of Representatives Member, Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee
Mr. Ahmed MANAA	Secretary General, House of Representatives
Mr. Abdellatif FAROUK	Advisor, House of Representatives
Mr. Ayman NASR	Protocol, House of Representatives
Mr. Haytham NOURELDIN	Director of the Speaker's Office, House of Representatives
Mr. Moataz HASSAN	Head of Protocol, House of Representatives
Mr. Mohamed WAGIH	Advisor, House of Representatives
Mr. Alaa HEGAZY	Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Egypt in Geneva
Mr. Khaled ATALLAH	Consul General, Permanent Mission of Egypt in Geneva

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Mr. Salomon NGUEMA OWONO Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies (PDGE)
Ms. Amparo MELE COLIFA	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PDGE)
Mr. Atanasio Ela NTUGU NSA	Member of the Senate (PDGE)
Ms. Delfina BUERIBERI EPARA	Member of the Senate (UDENA)
Mr. Jesus Evuy MONSUY NSUE	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PDGE)
Mr. Bienvenido Ekuá ESONO ABE Secretary of the delegation	Secretary General, Chamber of Deputies
Mr. Enrique Ramón ESENG MANSOGO	Senior Clerk, Senate

PDGE Partido democrático de Guinea Equatorial
UDENA UDENA

ESTONIA

Mr. Toomas KIVIMÄGI Leader of the Delegation	Vice-President of the Riigikogu (REF)
Ms. Enel OTSTAVEL	Advisor, the Riigikogu
Mr. Antero HABICHT	Secretary General, the Riigikogu
REF Estonian Reform Party	

ESWATINI

Mr. Jabulani Clement MABUZA Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the House of Assembly
Ms. Lindiwe Patricia NGWENYA	Member of the Senate Member, IPU Committee Member, Finance Portfolio Committee
Mr. Ndumiso MNDLULI	Vice-President of the Senate Member, IPU Committee Member, Finance Portfolio Committee
Mr. Sicelo Prince DLAMINI	Member of the House of Assembly Member of the IPU Committee
Mr. Sifiso Pitso MAGAGULA	Member of the House of Assembly Member, IPU Committee Member, Labour and Social Security Portfolio Committee
Mr. Treasure Sabelo SHABANGU Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Senate
Mr. Lunga Vulindlela DLAMINI	Advisor, House of Assembly

ETHIOPIA

Mr. Agegenehu TESHAGER GESSESSE Leader of the Delegation	President of the House of the Federation (PP)
Ms. Banchyirga GOSHU	Member of the House of the Federation (PP)
Mr. Mihretu SHANKO	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives (PP)
Mr. Tesfaye BELIJGE	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives (PP)
PP PROSPERITY PARTY	

FIJI

Mr. Filimone JITOKO Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Speaker of Parliament Chair, Business Committee Chair, House Committee
Mr. Inia SERUIRATU	Member of Parliament Member, Business Committee
Mr. Isikeli TUIWAILEVU	Member of Parliament Member, Foreign Affairs and Defence Standing Committee Member, Justice Law and Human Rights Standing Committee (PAP)
Ms. Sashi KIRAN	Member of Parliament (NFP)
Ms. Jeanette EMBERSON	Secretary General, Parliament

Ms. Neomai Bale DOLOKOTO

Advisor, Parliament

Mr. Senitieli WAINIU

Advisor, Parliament

PAP People Alliance Party
NFP National Federation Party**FINLAND**Mr. Ari KOPONEN
Leader of the Delegation
President of the IPU GroupMember of Parliament
Vice president, Education and Culture Committee
Member, Legal Affairs Committee (PS)

Ms. Anne KALMARI

Member of Parliament
Vice-Chair, Agriculture and Forestry Committee
Member, Foreign Affairs Committee (kesk.)

Mr. Mikko OLLIKAINEN

Member of Parliament
Member, Economic Affairs Committee
Member, Committee for the Future (RKP)

Ms. Nasima RAZMYAR

Member of Parliament
Alternate Member, Finance Committee
Member, Education and Culture Committee ((SD)

Ms. Sofia VIKMAN

Member of Parliament
Vice-Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee
Alternate Member, Defence Committee (kok)

Mr. Mikael KOILLINEN

Acting Secretary General, Parliament

Ms. Outi LEHTIMAKI
Secretary of the delegation

Secretary, Parliament

Mr. Teemu VUOSIO
Secretary of the Group

Advisor, Parliament

PS The Finns Party
kesk. Centre Party
RKP Swedish People's Party
SD Social Democratic Party
kok National Coalition Party**FRANCE**M. Xavier IACOVELLI
Chef de la délégation
Président du Groupe
Membre du Comité exécutifVice-Président du Sénat
Membre, Commission des affaires sociales (RDPI)Mme Véronique RIOTTON
Membre du Comité sur la santéMembre de l'Assemblée nationale
Membre, Commission des affaires culturelles et de
l'éducation (EPR)Mme Laetitia SAINT-PAUL
Membre du Groupe consultatif de haut niveau de l'UIP
sur la lutte contre le terrorisme et l'extrémisme violentMembre de l'Assemblée nationale
Membre, Commission des affaires étrangères
(Secrétaire) (HOR)

M. Ludovic MENDES

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
Membre, Commission des lois constitutionnelles, de la
législation et de l'administration générale de la
République (EPR)

Mme Sophie METTE

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
Membre, Commission des finances, de l'économie
générale et du contrôle budgétaire (DEM)

M. Etienne BLANC Président du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires	Membre du Sénat Membre, Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et des forces armées (LR)
M. Louis-Jean DE NICOLAY Membre du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient	Membre du Sénat Membre, Commission de l'aménagement du territoire et du développement durable Membre, Commission des affaires européennes (LR)
M. Loïc HERVÉ	Vice-Président du Sénat Membre, Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et des forces armées (UC)
Mme Corinne FÉRET	Membre du Sénat Secrétaire de la commission des affaires sociales (SER)
M. Eric TAVERNIER	Secrétaire general, Sénat
M. Stanislas GODEFROY	Conseiller, Sénat
Mme Cécile LAMBRECQ Secrétaire du Groupe	Conseillère, Sénat
Mme Claire GLOAGUEN Secrétaire du Groupe	Conseillère, Assemblée nationale
RDPI Rassemblement des démocrates, progressistes et indépendants SER Socialiste, Écologiste et Républicain LR Les Républicains HOR Horizons & Indépendants UC Union Centriste EPR Ensemble pour la République SOC Socialistes et apparentés DEM Les Démocrates	

GAMBIA (THE)

Mr. Seedy SK NJIE Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Chairperson, Select Committee on Defense and Security Member, Standing Committee on Finance and Public Accounts (NPP)
Mr. Assan TOURAY	Member of the National Assembly Chairperson, Select Committee of Tourism and Culture Member, Select Committee on Agriculture (UDP)
Ms. Fatou CHAM	Member of the National Assembly Vice-Chairperson, Select Committee on Gender, Children and Humanitarian Relief Vice-Chairperson, Select Committee on trade and Regional Integration (UDP)
Mr. Kebba JALLOW	Member of the National Assembly Chairperson, Select Committee on Trade and Regional Integration Member, Subsidiary Legislation Committee (NPP)
Mr. Musa CHAM	Member of the National Assembly Member, Finance and Public Accounts Committee Member, National Assembly Subsidiary Legislation Committee (PDOIS)
Mr. Kalipha M.M. MBYE	Secretary General, National Assembly

Ms. Musukuta FAAL
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, National Assembly

Mr. Alhagie M. DUMBUYA

Advisor, National Assembly

NPP NATIONAL PEOPLES PARTY

UDP United Democratic Party

PDOIS People's Democratic Organisation for Independence and Socialism

GEORGIA

Mr. George VOLSKI
Leader of the Delegation

First Vice-Speaker of Parliament (GD)

Mr. Nikoloz SAMKHARADZE

Member of Parliament
Chair, Foreign Relations Committee (GD)

Mr. Kakha OKROJANASHVILI

Secretary General, Parliament

Ms. Meri GOGOLADZE

Advisor, Parliament

GD GEORGIAN DREAM

GERMANY

Ms. Claudia ROTH
Leader of the Delegation

Member of the German Bundestag
Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs
Member, Committee on Economic Cooperation and
Development (Green Party/Les Verts)

Ms. Ellen DEMUTH

Member of the German Bundestag
Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs
Committee on Cultural and Media Affairs (CDU/CSU)

Mr. Malte KAUFMANN

Member of the German Bundestag
Member, Committee on Economic Affairs and Energy
(AfD)

Mr. Stefan KEUTER

Member of the German Bundestag
Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs (AfD)

Ms. Lena GUMNIOR

Member of the German Bundestag
Member, Committee on Legal Affairs and Consumer
Protection
Member, Corona Inquiry Commission (Green Party /
Les Verts)

Ms. Katrin FEY

Member of the German Bundestag
Member, Committee on Human Rights and
Humanitarian Aid (The Left)

Mr. Paul GÖTTKE

Secretary General, German Bundestag

Mr. Georg KLEEMANN

Deputy Secretary General, Federal Council

Ms. Katalin ZÁDOR
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, German Bundestag

Ms. Claudia BRAMMER

German Bundestag
Assistant of the delegation

Ms. Elisabeth JENSCHKE

Diplomatic corps

CDU/CSU Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union

AfD Alternative for Germany

Green Party Bündnis 90/Die Grünen

The Left Die Linke im Bundestag

GHANA

Mr. Alban Sumana Kingsford BAGBIN Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of Parliament Chairperson, Parliamentary Committee on Selection (NDC)
Mr. Mahama AYARIGA President of the IPU Group	Member of Parliament (NDC) Chairperson, Parliamentary Committee on Independent Constitutional Bodies Chairperson, Parliamentary Committee on Business
Mr. Alexander AFENYO-MARKIN	Member of Parliament (NPP) Member, Appointments Committee, (Ranking Member) Member, Business Committee (Ranking Member)
Ms. Comfort Doyoe CUDJOE-GHANSAH	Member of Parliament (NDC) Member, Parliamentary Committee on Ethics and Standards Member, Parliamentary Committee on Education
Mr. David Theophilus Dominic VONDEE	Member of Parliament Member, Parliamentary Committee on Lands and Natural Resources Member, Parliamentary Committee on Information and Communications (NDC)
Ms. Ewurabena AUBYNN	Member of Parliament (NDC)
Mr. Habib IDDRISU	Member of Parliament (NPP) Member, Parliamentary Committee on Security and Intelligence Member, Parliamentary Committee on Selection
Ms. Helen Adjoa NTOSO	Member of Parliament Member, Parliamentary Committee on Parliamentary Affairs Member, Parliamentary Committee on Defense and Interior (NDC)
Mr. Ebenezer Ahumah DJIETROR	Clerk, Parliament
Mr. Camillo PWAMANG	Deputy Clerk, Parliament
Mr. Armiyau KHALILU-RAHMAN	Diplomatic corps
Mr. Charles Dery TENZAGH	Diplomatic corps
NDC National Democratic Congress NPP New Patriotic Party	

GREECE

Ms. Aikaterini NOTOPOULOU	Member of the Hellenic Parliament Member, Standing Committee on Cultural and Educational Affairs; Member, Special Standing Committee on Social Affairs Member (Radical Left)
Mr. Athanasios PAPATHANASIS	Member of the Hellenic Parliament Member, Standing Committee on Social Affairs Member Special Permanent Committee on Greeks Abroad (liberal conservative)
Ms. Christina ALEXOPOULOU	Member of the Hellenic Parliament Secretary of the Standing Committee on Cultural Affairs; Member, Special Standing Committee on Region -Secretary (liberal-conservative)

Ms. Dionysia-Theodora AVGERINOPOULOU
Vice-President of the Executive Committee
Ex-Officio Member of the Bureau of Women
Parliamentarians

Member of the Hellenic Parliament
Member, Special Standing Committee on
Environmental Protection; Chairperson,
Standing Committee on National Defense and Foreign
Affairs (liberal-conservative)

Mr. Panagiotis DOUDONIS

Member of the Hellenic Parliament
Member, Standing Committee on Public Administration,
Public Order and Justice
Member, Special Permanent Committee on Institutions
and Transparency 1st Vice-Chairman (social-
democratic)

Ms. Aikaterini KARTSAKLI
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, Hellenic Parliament

Ms. Foteini TSOUNI

Advisor, Hellenic Parliament

Mr. Nikolaos PRODRAMOS

Advisor, Hellenic Parliament

Ms. Thaleia PAPADOPOULOU

Advisor, Hellenic Parliament

liberal-conservative New Democracy
Radical Left SYRIZA
Social-democratic PASOK Panhellenic Socialist Movement

HUNGARY

Ms. Mónika BARTOS
Leader of the Delegation

Member of the National Assembly
Member, Committee for Foreign Relations
Member, Committee for Social Welfare (Fidesz)

Mr. István DR HILLER

Member of the National Assembly
Member, Committee on Legislation (Vice Chair)
Member, Committee on Culture (Member) (MSZP)

Ms. Judit VASVÁRI
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, National Assembly

Ms. Katalin SOMFAINÉ ÁDÁM
Secretary of the Group

Advisor, National Assembly

Fidesz Fidesz
MSZP Hungarian Socialist Party
Mi Hazánk Our Homeland

ICELAND

Ms. Hildur SVERRISDÓTTIR

Deputy Speaker of the Althingi
Member, Economic Affairs and Trade Committee
(Conservative Party)

Ms. Lilja Rafney MAGNUSDOTTIR
Leader of the Delegation

Member of the Althingi (Socialist Party SP)
Member, Industrial Affairs Committee

Mr. Vidir REYNISSON

Member of the Althingi
Member of the Judicial Affairs and Education
Committee, Chair Foreign Affairs Committee,
(Socialist Party SP)

Mr. Sverrir JÓNSSON

Secretary General, Althingi

Ms. Arna Gerdur BANG
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, Parliament

Socialist Party SP People's Party
Conservative Party Independence Party

INDIA

Mr. Anurag SINGH THAKUR Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Member of the House of the People (BJP)
Ms. Aparajita SARANGI Member of the Executive Committee	Member of the House of the People Member, External Affairs and Public Accounts Committee (BJP)
Mr. Sanjay JAISWAL Member of the Advisory Group on Health	Member of the House of the People Member, Business Advisory Committee (BJP)
Ms. Kamaljeet SEHRAWAT Member of the Committee to Promote Respect of International Humanitarian Law	Member of the House of the People Member, Petroleum & Natural Gas and Petitions Committee (BJP)
Mr. Sasmit PATRA	Member of the Council of States Member, Committee on Ethics Member, Committee on Communications and Information Technology (BJD)
Mr. Sumer SINGH SOLANKI	Member of the Council of States Member, Committee on Official Language Member, Committee of Privileges (BJP)
Mr. Ks SOMASHEKHAR Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Council of States
Mr. Yogendra SINGH	Advisor, House of the People
Mr. Varaha Venkata RAMA RAO KORUBILLI	Advisor, House of the People
Mr. Shital KUMAR	Advisor, House of the People
Mr. Devendra Prasad BARTHWAL	Advisor, Council of States
Mr. Snehith BORGAM	Diplomatic corps
BJP BHARTIYA JANATA PARTY BJD BIJU JANATA DAL	

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

Mr. Hamid Reza Haji BABAEI Leader of the delegation	Deputy Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Member, Education and Research Commission
Mr. Manouchehr MOTTAKI President of the IPU Group	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Member, Economic Commission
Mr. Morteza Agha TEHRANI	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Member, Head of the Cultural Commission
Mr. Seyed Shamseddin HOSSEINI Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Chairman of the Economic Commission
Mr. Rahim ZARE	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Member, Planning, Budget and Accounting Commission
Mr. Rahmatollah NOROUZI	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Vice Chairman, Social Commission
Ms. Elham AZAD	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Member, Planning, Budget and Accounting Commission
Mr. Jalal Aboulhassani CHIMEH Secretary of the delegation	Deputy Director General for Protocol, Islamic Parliament of Iran

Mr. Ali Haji MOHAMMADI	Advisor, Head of the Inter-Parliamentary Department,
Mr. Seyed Mostafa SHARIFI Secretary of the Group	Advisor, International Senior Expert
Ms. Narges AGHAVERDIPOUR	Protocol expert, Islamic Parliament of Iran

IRELAND

Ms. Maria BYRNE Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Chairperson of the Senate (FG)
Mr. Kenneth O'FLYNN	Member of the House of Representatives (II)
Ms. Lorraine CLIFFORD LEE President of the Advisory Group on Health	Member of the Senate Member, Committee on Climate, Environment and Energy; Member, Committee on Members' Interests of Seanad Éireann (FF)
Ms. Maria MCCORMACK	Member of the Senate Member, Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage; Member, Committee on Parliamentary Privileges and Oversight (Member) (SF)
Mr. Noel O'DONOVAN	Member of the Senate Member, Committee on Artificial Intelligence – Member, Committee on Climate, Environment and Energy (FG)
Ms. Éilis FALLON Secretary of the delegation	Advisor or Secretary Senate
FG Fine Gael II Independent Ireland FF Fianna Fáil SF Sinn Féin	

ITALY

Mr. Pier Ferdinando CASINI Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Member of the Senate Member, Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee (PD)
Ms. Deborah BERGAMINI Vice-President, 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, Foreign Affairs Committee (FI)
Mr. Giangiacomo CALOVINI	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Member, Foreign Affairs Committee (FDI)
Mr. Roberto SORBELLO Secretary General of the Group	Advisor, Chamber of Deputies
Ms. Maria Teresa CALABRÒ Member of ASGP	Advisor, Chamber of Deputies
Ms. Luana IANNETTI Member of ASGP	Advisor, Senate
Ms. Susanna RADONI Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Chamber of Deputies
FDI Fratelli D'Italia PD Democratic Party FI Forza Italia	

JAMAICA

Mr. Thomas TAVARES-FINSON
Leader of the Delegation

President of the Senate
Chairman of Standing Orders Committee (JLP)

JLP Jamaica Labour Party

JAPAN

Mr. Kazuhiro FUJII
Leader of the Delegation

Member of the House of Councillors
Committee on General Affairs
Committee on Rules and Administration (LDP)

Mr. Hiroyuki TOGAWA
Secretary of the Group

Advisor, House of Councillors

Ms. Saya HONDA
Secretary of the Group

Advisor, House of Councillors

Ms. Mariko HIGUCHI

Advisor, House of Councillors

Ms. Naoko SAWADA

Advisor, House of Councillors

Ms. Kyoko KIKUCHI

Advisor, House of Councillors

Ms. Ryoko OKAMOTO

Advisor, House of Councillors

(LDP) Liberal Democratic Party

JORDAN

Mr. Faisal EL- FAYEZ
Leader of the Delegation

President of the Senate

Mr. Mohamad AL-ISS ISS

Member of the Senate

Mr. Hayel OBEIDAT

Member of the Senate

Ms. Mahasen ALJAGHOUB
Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions

Member of the Senate
Chair of the Youth National Dialogue Initiative
Committee

Ms. Asia YAGHI

Member of the Senate
Chair of Persons with Disability Committee
Member, Labour and social development Committee/

Mr. Ammar ALQUDAH

Member of the Senate

Mr. Abdel Rahim AL WAKED

Secretary General, Senate

Mr. Awwad AL GHUWAIRI

Secretary General, House of Representatives

Mr. Salem ALHUWEMEL

General Director of the President 's Office, Senate

Mr. Hazem HAWAMDEH
Secretary of the Group

Advisor, House of Representatives

Mr. Hikmat ALMOMANI

Advisor, Senate

Mr. Moad ALABBADI
Secretary of the Group

Advisor, Senate

Mr. Shadi OBIEDAT
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, Senate

KAZAKHSTAN

Ms. Aigul KUSPAN
Leader of the Delegation
President of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on
Peace and International Security

Member of the House of Representatives
Member, Committee of International affairs, Defense
and Security (Amanat political party)

Amanat political party "Amanat" political party

KENYA

Mr. Amason Jeffah KINGI
Leader of the Delegation
President of the IPU Group

Speaker of the Senate
Chairperson, Senate Business Committee
Chairperson, Procedure and Rules Committee (PAA)

Ms. Catherine Muyeka MUMMA
Member of the Advisory Group on Health, 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 Agriculture, Livestock
and Fisheries (ODM)

Mr. Geoffrey Ekesa MULANYA

Member of the National Assembly
Member, Departmental Committee on Energy
Member, Constitutional Implementation Oversight
Committee

Mr. John Muhia METHU

Member of the Senate
Member, Standing Committee on Education
Member, Standing Committee on Trade,
Industrialization and Tourism (UDA)

Mr. John Okwisia MAKALI
Member of the High-level Advisory Group on
Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism

Member of the National Assembly
Member, Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal
Affairs; Member, Departmental Committee on
Agriculture and Livestock (FORD-K)

Ms. Millie Grace Akoth ODHIAMBO
Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of
Parliamentarians

Member of the National Assembly
Member, Committee on Appointments
Member, Departmental Committee on Defence,
Intelligence and Foreign Relations (ODM)

Ms. Rebecca Noonaishi TONKEI

Member of the National Assembly
Member, Public Investments Committee on Governance
and Education
Member, Departmental Committee on Education (UDA)

Mr. Reuben Kipng'ok KIBOREK

Member of the National Assembly
Member, Departmental Committee on Health
Member, Decentralized Funds Accounts Committee
(UDA)

Mr. Jeremiah Makokha NYEGENYE
Secretary of the Group

Clerk, Senate

Mr. Amos Kiangwe OTIENO
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, Senate

Mr. Samwel KALAMA

Advisor, National Assembly

Ms. Mary Jebet CHESIRE

Advisor, Senate

PAA Pamoja African Alliance
ODM Orange Democratic Movement
UDA United Democratic Alliance
FORD-K Forum for the Restoration of Democracy

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Mr. Chanthavong SENEAMATMONTRY Leader of the Delegation	Member of the National Assembly Vice Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee (LPRP)
Ms. Saysomsuen PHOTHISAN	Member of the National Assembly (LPRP) Member, Cultural and Social Affairs Committee Vice-Chairman, Cultural-Social and Ethnic Commission of the Provincial People's Council
Ms. Chithpasong SENGSAVANH Secretary of the delegation	Adviser, National Assembly
Mr. Khemphone ANOTHAY	Adviser, National Assembly
LPRP The Lao People's Revolutionary Party	

LATVIA

Ms. Jana SIMANOVSKA Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Member of the Saeima Deputy Chairperson, Sustainable Development Committee Member, Budget and Finance (Taxation) Committee (PRO)
Mr. Edmunds TEIRUMNIEKS	Member of the Saeima Deputy Chairman, Legal Affairs Committee Member, Sustainable Development Committee (NA)
Ms. Linda LIEPINA	Member of the Saeima Member, Legal Affairs Committee Member, Parliamentary Inquiry Committee (LPV)
Ms. Lelde RAFELDE	Secretary General, Saeima
Ms. Sandra PAURA Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Saeima
PRO Progressives NA National Alliance LPV Latvia First	

LESOTHO

Ms. Matlhohonolofatso Tsepang MOSENA Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Member, Business Committee; Member, Standing Orders' Committee (MEC)
Mr. Tsukutlane Joel AU	Vice-President of the Senate Member, Business Committee; Member, Parliamentary Reforms Member (AD)
Mr. Lebohlang Simon PHOHLELI	Member of the National Assembly Member, Natural Resources Committee; Member, Law and Public Safety Committee Member (RFP)
Ms. Manthabiseng Angelina MAEEA	Member of the National Assembly (DC) Member, Economic and Development Cluster Committee; Member, Public Accounts Committee
Mr. Peete Ramoqai PEETE	Member of the Senate Member, Legislative Committee; Member, Petitions Committee
Mr. Tello Lawrence KIBANE	Member of the National Assembly Member, Natural Resources Committee (BAP)
Mr. Lebohlang Fine MAEMA Secretary of the delegation	Clerk, National Assembly

Mr. Khotso Brutus MANAMOLELA
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, Senate

Ms. Lineo Agnes MOLELEKI

Advisor, National Assembly

MEC Movement for Economic Change

RFP Revolution for Prosperity

DC Democratic Congress

BAP Basotho Action Party

AD Alliance of Democrats

LIBERIA

Mr. Richard Nagbe KOON

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Mr. Michael THOMAS

Member of the House of Representatives
Co-Chairman, Ways Means Finance and Budget
Committee; Chairman, Judiciary Committee

Mr. Prince TOLES

Member of the House of Representatives
Chair, Committee on Claims and Petitions (UP)
Co-Chair, Committee on Executive

UP Unity Party

LIBYA

Mr. Fouzi SALIM

Leader of the Delegation

President of the IPU Group

Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on
United Nations Affairs

Vice-President of the House of Representatives

Ms. Fatimah ALSUWEEE

Member 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

Ms. Sultna Abd ULRRAHIM

Member of the House of Representatives

Mr. Abdulla MUSSA

Secretary-General of the House of Representatives

Mr. Mohamed BUZEID

Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, House of Representatives

Mr. Abdullah AMER

Advisor, House of Representatives

Mr. Alaadein ELGOMATY

Advisor, House of Representatives

Mr. Ali ALBAKOUSH

Director of the Second Vice-President's Bureau

Mr. Rafia ALI

Advisor, House of Representatives

Mr. Asharaf ALDIRSI

Advisor, House of Representatives

LIECHTENSTEIN

Ms. Dagmar BÜHLER-NIGSCH

Leader of the Delegation

President of the IPU Group

Member of Parliament

Member, Presidium of Parliament (VU)

Mr. Daniel SALZGEBER

Member of Parliament

Member, Judicial Appointments Committee (FBP)

Ms. Jessica F. BUCHER

Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, Parliament

VU Patriotic Union

FBP Progressive Citizens' Party

LITHUANIA

Mr. Arminas LYDEKA
Leader of the Delegation

Member of Parliament
Deputy Chair, Committee on European Affairs; Member,
Committee on Foreign Affairs, (L)

Ms. Modesta PETRAUSKAITE

Member of Parliament
Member, Committee on Social Affairs and Labour,
Member, Committee for the Future (LSDP)

Mr. Algirdas STONČAITIS

Secretary General, Parliament

Ms. Asta SKIRMANTIENE
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, Parliament

L Liberals Movement
LSDP Lithuanian Social Democratic Party

LUXEMBOURG

Mr. Georges ENGEL
Leader of the Delegation

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Vice-Président, Commission de la Défense
Vice-Président, Commission de la Culture (LSAP)

Mr. Yann GERGES
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, Chamber of Deputies

LSAP Lëtzebuurger Sozialistes Aarbechterpartei

MALAYSIA

Mr. Nur Jazlan MOHAMED
Leader of the Delegation

Vice-President of the Senate (BN)

Mr. Hasni MOHAMMAD
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)

BN National Front
DEMOCRATIC Democratic Action Party – Malaysia

MALDIVES

Ms. Asma RASHEED
Member of the High-Level Advisory Group on
Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism

Member of the People's Majlis (PNC)
Chair, Committee on Social Affairs
Member, Committee on Human Rights and Gender

Mr. Ali MOOSA

Member of the People's Majlis
Member, Committee on Economic Affairs
Member, Committee on National Development and
Heritage (PNC)

Ms. Anara NAEEM
Member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

Member of the People's Majlis
Member, Committee on Human Rights and Gender
Vice-Chair, Committee on Secondary Legislation (PNC)

Mr. Meekail Ahmed NASYM

Member of the People's Majlis
Member, Committee on Independent Institutions
Member, Government Oversight Committee (MDP)

Mr. Mohamed ALI
Member of the Working Group on Science and
Technology

Member of the People's Majlis (PNC)
Chair, Petition Committee
Member, Committee on Human Rights and Gender

Mr. Ibrahim NASEEM

Member of the People's Majlis
Chair, Committee on Secondary Legislation
Member, Committee on Independent Institutions (PNC)

Ms. Fathimath SAUDA
Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on
Peace and International Security

Member of the People's Majlis;
Chair, Committee on Human Rights and Gender;
Member, Committee on Social Affairs (PNC)

Ms. Mariam Marin HUSSAIN
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, People's Majlis

Mr. Mohamed RASHEED

Advisor, People's Majlis
Deputy Secretary General

PNC People's National Congress
MDP Maldivian Democratic Party

MALTA

Mr. Angelo FARRUGIA
Leader of the Delegation
President of the Committee to Promote Respect for
International Humanitarian Law

Speaker of the House of Representatives
Chair, Standing Committee on House Business
Chair, Standing Committee on Privileges

Ms. Davina SAMMUT HILI
President of the IPU Group

Member of the House of Representatives
Member, Family Affairs Committee
Member, Social Affairs Committee (Social and
Democrats)

Mr. Charles AZZOPARDI

Member of the House of Representatives
Petitions Committee (PN)

Mr. Ian Paul BAJADA
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, House of Representatives

Social and Democrats Partit Laburista

MAURITANIA

Ms. Siham NAJEM
Leader of the Delegation

Member of the National Assembly
Member, Finance Committee (INSAF PARTY)

Mr. Sidahmed DOUERIY

Member of the National Assembly
Member, Finance Committee (LR)

INSAF PARTY Parti of INSAF
LR Parti INSAF

MAURITIUS

Ms. Shirin AUMEERUDDY CZIFFRA
Leader of the Delegation
President of the IPU Group

Speaker of the National Assembly
Chairperson, Committee of Selection
Chairperson, Standing Orders Committee

Ms. Marie Genevieve Stephanie ANQUETIL

Member of the National Assembly
Government Chief Whip

Ms. Bibi Safeena LOTUN C.S.K.
Secretary of the delegation

Clerk, National Assembly

MEXICO

Ms. Marcela GUERRA CASTILLO
President of the IPU Group
Member of the High-level Advisory Group on
Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
President, Migration Affairs Committee-(Center-Left)

Ms. Claudia Selene AVILA FLORES

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Member, Foreign Affairs Committee

Ms. Anabel ACOSTA ISLAS	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Secretary, Committee of Sports; Member, Committee of Energy (PVEM)
Mr. César Augusto RENDÓN GARCÍA	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development	Secretary, Committee on Foreign Affairs; Member, Committee on Finance and Public Credit (PAN)
Ms. Cynthia Iliana LÓPEZ CASTRO Member of the Executive Committee; President the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the Senate President, Committee on Consumer's Rights Secretary, Committee on Education (MORENA)
Ms. Samantha Margarita GARZA DE LA GARZA	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Secretary, Committee on Water Resources; Member, Committee on Mobility (PAN)
Ms. Magdalena del Socorro NUÑEZ MONREAL	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PT)
Mr. Francisco Javier FARIAS BAILON	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (MC)
Center-Left Institutional Revolutionary Party MORENA Movimiento de Regeneración Nacional/ National Regeneration Movement PVEM Partido Verde Ecologista de México/ Ecologist Green Party of Mexico PAN Partido Acción Nacional /National Action Party PT Partido de Trabajo MC Movimiento Ciudadano	

MONACO

M. Fabrice NOTARI Chef de la délégation Président du Groupe Vice-Président du Bureau de la Commission permanente du développement durable	Membre du Conseil national Président de la Commissions des affaires étrangères
Mme Corinne BERTANI	Membre du Conseil national Membre, Commission Finance et Economie (L'Union)
M. Benjamin CELLARIO Secrétaire de la délégation	Conseiller, Conseil national
L'Union Union Nationale Monégasque	

MONTENEGRO

Mr. Gordana STOJOVIĆ	Member of Parliament
Ms. Jevrosima PEJOVIĆ	Member of Parliament
Ms. Branka MARKOVIC	Member of Parliament Member, Gender Equality Committee Member, Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports
Ms. Marija MILOŠEVIĆ Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Parliament
Ms. Tijana ROSANDIĆ	Advisor, Parliament
Mr. Boban STANIŠIĆ	Secretary General, Parliament

MOROCCO / MAROC

M. Sidi Mohamed OULD ERRACHID Leader of the Delegation	Président de la Chambre des conseillers (PI)
M. Ahmed TOUIZI	Membre de la Chambre des représentants Membre, Commission de l'enseignement, de la culture et de la communication (PAM)
M. Mohamed Salem BEN MASSAOUD	Membre de la Chambre des conseillers (UGTM)
M. Ahmed EL-AALEME	Membre de la Chambre des représentants Membre, Commission des finances et du développement économique (PI)
Mme Khaddouj SLASSI	Membre de la Chambre des représentants Membre, Commission de l'enseignement, de la culture et de la communication (USFP)
M. Mustapha REDDAD	Membre de la Chambre des représentants Membre, Commission de justice, de législation, des droits de l'homme et des libertés (RNI)
M. Abderrahman OIFFA	Membre de la Chambre des conseillers (PAM)
M. Hassan CHOUMAIS	Membre de la Chambre des conseillers Membre, Commission des secteurs productifs (PAM)
M. Kamal AIT MIK Membre du Bureau de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme	Membre de la Chambre des conseillers Membre, Commission de l'intérieur, des collectivités locales et des structures de bases (RNI)
M. Najib EL KHADI	Secrétaire général, Chambre des représentants
M. El Assad ZEROUALI	Secrétaire général, Chambre des conseillers
M. Said SATRAOUY Secrétaire de la délégation	Conseiller, Chambre des représentants
M. Abdelwahad DRIOUCHE Secrétaire de la délégation	Conseiller, Chambre des conseillers
M. Oussama SOUHAIL	Conseiller, Chambre des représentants
M. Hassan AZARKAN	Conseiller, Chambre des conseillers
M. Mansour LAMBARKI	Conseiller, Chambre des conseillers
M. Mohamed Taib COHEN	Conseiller, Chambre des conseillers
M. Mounir BEKKARI	Conseiller, Chambre des conseillers
M. Saad GHAZI	Conseiller, Chambre des conseillers
M Omar ZNIBER,	Ambassadeur Représentant Permanent
M. Abdelfatteh BERHIL	Ministre Plenipotentiaire

PAM	Parti Authenticité et Modernité
PI	Parti Istiqlal
UGTM	Union Générale des Travailleurs du Maroc
USFP	Union socialiste des forces populaires
RNI	Rassemblement national des indépendants

MOZAMBIQUE

Mr. Pedro COMISSARIO AFONSO
Leader of the Delegation
President of the IPU Group
Member of the High-level Advisory Group on
Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism

Member of the Assembly of the Republic
Member, Committee on Defense, Security and Public
Order (FRELIMO)

Mr. Carlos TEMBE

Member of the Assembly of the Republic
Member, Standing Committee (PODEMOS)

Ms. Laura SOUTO

Member of the Assembly of the Republic

Mr. Narcisio MANJATE
Secretary of the Group

Advisor, Assembly of the Republic

Ms. Filomena GRACHANE

Advisor, Assembly of the Republic

Mr. Jaime MATIAS

Advisor, Assembly of the Republic

FRELIMO Front of Liberation of Mozambique
PODEMOS Optimistic Party for the Development of Mozambique

NAMIBIA

Ms. Saara KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA
Leader of the Delegation

Speaker of the National Assembly (SWAPO)

Mr. Abner Shikongo SHIKONGO

Member of the National Council
Member, Standing Committee on Public Account and
Economy (SWAPO)

Mr. Alpheus NARUSEB

Member of the National Assembly
Member, Standing Committee on Constitutional Legal
Affairs and Petitions; Member, Standing Rules and
Orders (SWAPO)

Ms. Victoria Mbawo KAUMA

Deputy Chairperson of the National Council
Chairperson, Implementation and Coordination
Committee; Vice-Chairperson, Rules, Orders and
Business Committee (SWAPO)

Ms. Emma Tangi MUTEKA
Member of the Advisory Group on Health

Member of the National Council
Vice Chairperson, Standing Committee on Health, Social
Welfare and Labour Affairs (SWAPO)

Mr. James Unomasa UERIKUA

Member of the National Assembly
Chairperson, Standing Committee on International
Relations Defence and Security -
Member, Standing Rules and Orders (SWAPO)

Mr. Sakeus NANGULA

Member of the National Council
Member, National Council Standing Committee on
Education, Science, ICT and Youth Development
(SWAPO)

Mr. Wendelinus Ipumbu SHIIIMI

Member of the National Assembly
Member, Standing Committee on Constitutional Legal
Affairs and Petitions; Member, Standing Rules and
Orders (SWAPO)

Ms. Winnie Rauha MOONGO

Member of the National Assembly
Member, Standing Committee on Gender Equality and
Social Welfare; Member, Standing Committee on
Information and Communication Technology
(Conservative)

Mr. Johannes Tousy NAMISEB Secretary of the delegation	Secretary, National Council
Ms. Priskila KULULA Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, National Council
Ms. Amalia KATANGOLO	Advisor, National Council
Mr. Sakeus Mekondjo IIKELA	Advisor, National Council
SWAPO South West Africa People's Organization Conservative Popular Democratic Movement	

NEPAL

Mr. Narayan Prasad DAHAL Leader of the Delegation	Chairperson of the National Assembly (Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre))
Mr. Gopi Bahadur SARKI ACHHAM	Member of the National Assembly Member, Federalism Enablement and National Concerns Committee (Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre))
Ms. Madan KUMARI SHAH	Member of the National Assembly Member, Public Policy and Delegated Legislation Committee (Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Socialist))
Mr. Padma Prasad PANDEY	Secretary General, Federal Parliament
Mr. Roj Nath PANDE	Secretary, Federal Parliament Secretariat
Ms. Babita MISHRA	Joint Secretary, Federal Parliament Secretariat
Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Socialist) Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist–Leninist) NC National Independent Party	Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Socialist) Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist–Leninist) Nepali Congress National Independent Party

NETHERLANDS

Mr. Hendrik-Jan TALSMA Leader of the Delegation Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions	Member of the Senate (CU)
Ms. Andrea VAN LANGEN-VISBEEK	Member of the Senate (BBB)
Mr. Cees VAN DER SANDEN	Member of the Senate (Groep van de Sanden)
Ms. Fatimazhra BELHIRCH Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the Senate (D66)
Mr. Remco NEHMELMAN Member of ASGP	Secretary General, Senate
Mr. Sander DUIJMAER VAN TWIST	Deputy Secretary General, House of Representatives
Ms. Femmy BAKKER-DE JONG Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, House of Representatives
Ms. Monique CHRISTIAANSE Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, House of Representatives
CU Christian Democrats BBB Farmer citizen movement D66 Social Liberals Groep van de Sanden Independant	

NEW ZEALAND

Mr. Stuart SMITH Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Member of the House of Representatives Member, Business Committee Member, Standing Orders Committee (N)
Ms. Kahurangi CARTER	Member of the House of Representatives Member, Petitions Committee (G)
Ms. Rachel BROOKING	Member of House of Representatives Member, Environment Committee (L)
Mr. Tangi UTIKERE	Member of the House of Representatives Member, Transport and Infrastructure Committee (L)
Mr. Winton HOLMES Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, House of Representatives
N National G Green L Labour	

NIGER

M. Mamoudou Harouna DJINGAREY	Président du Conseil Consultatif de la Refondation
M. Abdoulaye HASSANE	Membre du Bureau du Conseil Consultatif de la Refondation
Mme Hadizatou SAMNA	Membre du Bureau du Conseil Consultatif de la Refondation
Mme Safiatou MOUSSA	Membre du Conseil Consultatif de la Refondation
M. Boubacar Boureima	Directeur de la Coopération et du protocole

NIGERIA

Mr. Osita Ugwu NGWU Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Senate Senate Deputy Minority Leader (PDP)
Mr. Benjamin Okezie KALU	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Chairman, House Committee on the review of the 1999 Nigerian Constitution (APC)
Mr. Mark Udo ESSET Leader of the Delegation	Member of the House of Representatives Chairman, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Committee (APC)
Mr. Asuquo EKPENYONG	Member of the Senate Chairman, Niger Delta Development Commission (APC)
Mr. Folorunsho Ibrahim JIMOH	Member of the Senate Chairman, Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Affairs
Mr. Ibrahim Hassan DANKWAMBO	Member of the Senate Chairman, Committee on Drugs and Narcotics (PDP)
Mr. Ifeoluwa Babajide EHINDERO	Member of the House of Representatives Chair, Committee on students loans, scholarship and higher education financing (APC)
Ms. Ireti Heebah KINGIBE	Member of the Senate Chairperson, Committee on Women Affairs (LP)

Ms. Obiageli Lilian OROGBU	Member of the House of Representatives Chair, Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility (LP)
Mr. Victor Bisong ABANG	Member of the House of Representatives Chairman, Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Union (APC)
Mr. Titus Tartenger ZAM	Advisor, Senate Chairman, North Central Development Commission
Mr. Kamoru OGUNLANA	Clerk to the National Assembly
Mr. Godwin Okon EKPENYONG	Advisor, Senate
Mr. David AKHIGBE	Advisor, Senate
Ms. Florence Olanike FOFAH	Advisor, Senate
Ms. Hassana Danimoh ABDULWAHAB	Advisor, Senate
Mr. Adewale Emmanuel ADEKANYE	Advisor, Senate
Mr. Anietie John UKPE	Advisor, Senate
Mr. Surajo ISA	Advisor, House of Representatives
Mr. Udo Ogbu UMEKWE Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Senate
APC All Progressives Congress PDP People's Democratic Party LP Labour Party	

NORTH MACEDONIA

Mr. Boban KARAPEJOVSKI Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Vice-Chairperson, Committee on defence and security, Member, Committee on education, science and sport (ZNAM)
Ms. Eli PANOVA	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Member, Committee on election and appointment issues; Member, Committee on political system and inter-ethnic relations (VMRO-DPMNE)
Ms. Slavjanka PETROVSKA	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Committee on oversight of the work of the national security agency and the intelligence agency, Member Committee on constitutional issues, Member (SDSM)
Ms. Marina DIMOVSKA Secretary of the Group	Secretary General, Assembly of the Republic
Mr. Redjep PREKOPUCA Secretary of the delegation	Head of Division, Assembly of the Republic
Ms. Biljana OGNENOVSKA Secretary of the delegation	Deputy Head of Department, Assembly of the Republic
Ms. Natasha HRONESKA	Charge d'Affaires
Mr. Burim BILALI	Counsellor
ZNAM I Know Movement - for Our Macedonia VMRO-DPMNE VMRO - Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity SDSM Social Democratic Union of Macedonia	

NORWAY

Mr. Tellef Inge MOERLAND
Leader of the Delegation
President of the IPU Group
Member of the High-level Advisory Group on
Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism

Member of Parliament
Member, Committee of Finance and Economic Affairs
(AP)

Mr. Grunde ALMELAND

Member of Parliament
Chair, Standing Committee on Family and Cultural
Affairs; Member, Standing Committee on Scrutiny and
Constitutional Affairs (V)

Ms. Linda Monsen MERKESDAL

Member of Parliament
Member, Standing Committee on Energy and the
Environment (A)

Ms. Silje HJEMDAL

Member of Parliament
Member, Standing Committee on Family and Cultural
Affairs (FrP)

Mr. Thomas FRASER
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, Parliament

AP Arbeiderpartiet
V Venstre
A Arbeiderpartiet
FrP Fremskrittspartiet

OMAN

Mr. Khalid AL MAAWALI
Leader of the Delegation

Chairman of the Shura Council

Mr. Mohsin AL JUNAIBI

Member of the Shura Council

Ms. Shamsa ALSHIEBANI
Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on
Democracy and Human Rights

Member of the State Council

Mr. Mansoor AL SIYABI

Member of the Shura Council

Ms. Nahla AL HAMADI

Member of the State Council

Mr. Nasser AL HABSI

Member of the Shura Council

Ms. Maha AL LAMKI

Member of the State Council

Mr. Ahmed AL NADABI

Secretary General, Shura Council

Mr. Khalid AL SAAFI

Secretary General, State Council

Mr. Abdullah AL HABSI

Advisor, Shura Council

Mr. Ahmed AL HOSNI

Advisor, Shura Council

Ms. Amna AL MAWALI

Advisor, State Council

Mr. Khalid AL HARTHI

Advisor, State Council

Mr. Malik AL JAHWARY

Advisor, Shura Council

Ms. Reem BAHWAN ALMUKHAINI

Advisor, Shura Council

Mr. Sulaiman AL RAWAHI

Advisor, Shura Council

Ms. Sumaiya AL AMRI

Advisor, Shura Council

PAKISTAN

Mr. Sadiq Sardar AYAZ Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Speaker of the National Assembly Chairman, Finance Committee; Chairman, House Business Advisory Committee (PML (N))
Mr. Aqeel MALIK	Member of the National Assembly (N) Member, Standing Committee on Aviation Member, Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Member, Standing Committee on Defence
Ms. Muneeba IQBAL	Member of the National Assembly Member, Standing Committee on Government Assurances; Member, Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony (PML (N))
Mr. Aijaz Hussain JAKHRANI	Member of the National Assembly Chairman, Standing Committee on Communications Member, Standing Committee on Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (PPPP)
Mr. Amir Wali Uddin CHISHTI	Member of the Senate Chairperson, Standing committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (MQM (P))
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 Member, Standing committee on Finance (PPP)
Mr. Shahzaib DURRANI Member of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians	Member of the Senate Chairperson, Standing committee on less developed areas (PML(N))
Ms. Sharmila Sahiba Faruqi HASHAAM	Member of the National Assembly Member, Standing Committee on Defence Member, Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue (PPPP)
Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Babar CHOUDHRY	Member of the National Assembly (PML (N)) Member, Standing Committee on Interior and Narcotics Control; Member, Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Special Initiatives
Ms. Samina Mumtaz ZEHRİ	Member of the Senate(BAP) Chairperson, Standing Committee on Human Rights
Mr. Tahir HUSSAIN Secretary of the Group	Secretary, National Assembly
Mr. Hafeez ullah SHEIKH Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Senate
Mr. Waseem Iqbal CHAUDHRY Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, National Assembly
PML (N) Pakistan Muslim League (N) PPPP Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) MQM (P) Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan PPP Pakistan Peoples Party BAP Balochistan Awami Party PML(N) Pakistan Muslim League (N)	

PALESTINE

Mr. Musa HADID Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions	Deputy Speaker of the Palestine National Council Member, Political Affairs Committee Member, Committee of Middle East (FATEH)
Mr. Ibrahim KHRAISHI	Member of the Palestine National Council
Ms. Dania DASOUQI Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Palestine National Council

PARAGUAY

Mr. Raúl LATORRE Leader of the Delegation	President of the Chamber of Deputies (ANR)
Ms. Rocio ABED	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (ANR)
Mr. Rodrigo Daniel BLANCO Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PLRA)
Mr. Hugo MEZA	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (ANR)
Mr. Nestor CASTELLANO Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (ANR)
Ms. Cristina VILLALBA	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (ANR)
PLRA Partido Liberal Radical Autentico ANR Asociacion Nacional Republicana	

PERU

Ms. Maria Del Carmen ALVA PRIETO Leader of the Delegation Member of the Executive Committee Ex-Officio Member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the Congress of the Republic (AP)
Mr. Ernesto BUSTAMANTE	Member of the Congress of the Republic
Member, Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs	Vice-President, Foreign Affairs Committee Member, Health Committee (FP)
Mr. Alex Antonio PAREDES GONZALES Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians	Member of the Congress of the Republic President of the Ordinary Working Committee (SP)
Mr. Wilson SOTO PALACIOS Member of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians	Member of the Congress of the Republic Member of the Constitution and Regulations Committee Member of the Consumer Protection Committee and Public Services Regulatory Bodies (AP)
AP Acción Popular SP SOMOS PERÚ FP Fuerza Popular	

PHILIPPINES

Mr. Erwin TULFO Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Senate Chairperson, Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development Committee Chairperson, Games and Amusement Committee (LAKAS-CMD)
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Mr. Raffy TULFO	Member of the Senate Chairperson, Migrant Workers Committee Chairperson, Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development Committee
Ms. Maria Imelda MARCOS	Member of the Senate (NP) Chairperson, Committee on Foreign Relations
Mr. Ferdinand HERNANDEZ	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
Ms. Grace Kristine MEEHAN	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives (NPC)
Ms. Maria Georgina DE VENECIA	Member of the House of Representatives Chairperson, Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Diplomacy (LAKAS-CMD)
Ms. Maria Rachel ARENAS	Member of the House of Representatives Chairperson, Committee on Foreign Affairs (LAKAS-CMD)
Mr. Faustino Michael III DY	Member of the House of Representatives Chairperson, Committee on Youth and Sports Development (NPC)
Mr. Brian Daniel LLAMANZARES	Member of the House of Representatives Vice Chairperson, Committee on Economic Affairs (NPC)
Mr. Jonathan Clement II ABALOS	Member of the House of Representatives Chairperson, Committee on Ethics and Privileges (SP)
Ms. Florabel YATCO	Member of the House of Representatives Vice Chairperson, Committee on Women and Gender Equality
Mr. Dante Antonio TINIO	Advisor, House of Representatives Deputy Minority Leader; Member, Committee on Rules
Ms. Sarah Jane ELAGO	Advisor, House of Representatives Member, Women & Gender Equality Committee Member, Inter-parliamentary Relations & Diplomacy Committee
Ms. Cheloy GARAFIL Member of ASGP	Secretary General, House of Representatives
Mr. Jennifer BAQUIRAN Member of ASGP	Deputy Secretary General for committee Affairs, House of Representatives
Mr. Antonio JR DE GUZMAN Secretary of the Group	Adviser, Senate Director-General
Mr. Benjamin Paolo III DALEON Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Senate
Mr. Ronyll MENDOZA	Technical Officer, Senate
Ms. Ann Marie SANTOS Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, House of Representatives
Mr. Joe-Anthony RAMOS Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, House of Representatives

Mr. Arnelson ABELEDA
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, House of Representatives

Ms. Marie Loraine AYSON-INTON
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, House of Representatives

Mr. Jerico Francis JAVIER

Chief of Staff
Office of Senator Erwin T. Tulfo

Mr. Garreth Daniel TUNGOL

Chief of Staff
Office of Senator Raffy T. Tulfo

LAKAS-CMD	LAKAS-Christian Muslim Democrats
NPC	National People's Coalition
ACT Teachers Party-List	Alliance of Concerned Teachers
SP	Socialist Party
NP	Nacionalista Party
Gabriela	Gabriela Women's Party

POLAND

Ms. Gabriela MORAWSKA-STANECKA
Leader of the Delegation
President of the IPU Group
Vice-President of the IPU, Vice-President of the Executive Committee, Member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Member of the Committee to Promote Respect of International Humanitarian Law

Member of the Senat
Vice-President, European Union Affairs Committee)
Member, Climate and Environment Committee (PO)

Ms. Kinga GAJEWSKA

Member of the Sejm
Vice Chair, Education and Science Committee
Member, Liaison with Poles Abroad Committee (KO)

Ms. Magdalena KOCHAN

Member of the Senat
Vice-President, Climate and Environment Committee
Member, Legislative Committee (PO)

Mr. Radosław FOGIEL

Member of the Sejm
Vice Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee (PiS)

Mr. Stanisław GAWŁOWSKI

Member of the Senat
President, Climate and Environment Committee
Member, Legislative Committee (PO)

Mr. Wiktor DURLAK

Member of the Senat
President, Sports Committee; Member, Committee on Local Government and State Administration (PiS)

Ms. Aleksandra Karolina UZNAŃSKA-WIŚNIEWSKA

Member of the Sejm
Member, Foreign Affairs Committee
Member, Liaison with Poles Abroad Committee (KO)

Ms. Ewa POLKOWSKA

Secretary General of the Chancellery of the Senate

Ms. Magda ZDYRA

Deputy Secretary General, Senat

Mr. Michał DESKUR

Deputy Secretary General, Sejm

Ms. Natalia KOWALSKA
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, Senat

Mr. Wojciech GRUBA
Secretary of the Group

Advisor, Sejm

Ms. Agata WOJCIK-PAWLICZAK
Secretary of the Group

Advisor, Senat

Ms. Agata KARWOWSKA-SOKOŁOWSKA

Advisor, Senat

PO Civic Platform
PSL Polish People's Party
KO Civic Coalition
PiS Law and Justice

PORTUGAL

Ms. Manuela TENDER
Leader of the Delegation
President of the IPU Group

Member of the Assembly of the Republic
President, Committee on Education and Science,
Member, Committee on Budget, Finance and Public
Administration (CH)

Mr. Hugo CARNEIRO
Vice-President of the IPU Group
Member of the Group of Facilitators for Cyprus

Member of the Assembly of the Republic
Vice-President, Committee on Transparency and the
Statute of Members of the Assembleia da República,
Member, Committee on Budget, Finance and Public
Administration (SPD)

Mr. André PINOTES BATISTA

Member of the Assembly of the Republic
Vice-President, Committee on Infrastructure, Mobility
and Housing; Member, Committee on the
Environment and Energy (SP)

Mr. António Mendonça MENDES

Member of the Assembly of the Republic
Member, European Affairs Committee, Member,
Committee on Budget, Finance and Public
Administration (SP)

Mr. Carlos PEREIRA

Member of the Assembly of the Republic
Member, Committee on Budget, Finance and Public
Administration; Member, Committee on Economic
Affairs and Territorial Cohesion (SP)

Mr. Rui SOUSA

Member of the Assembly of the Republic
Member, Committee on Transparency and the Statute
of Members of the Assembleia da República,
President, National Defence Committee (CH)

Ms. Susana MARTINS

Deputy Secretary General, Assembly of the Republic

Ms. Rita PINTO FERREIRA

Director of External Relations, Public Relations and
Protocol, Assembly of the Republic

Ms. Suzana SANTOS
Secretary of the Group

Advisor, Assembly of the Republic

CH CHEGA
SP Socialist Party
SPD Social Democratic Party

QATAR

Ms. Hamda AL-SULAITI
Leader of the Delegation
President of the IPU Group
Vice-President of the Executive Committee

Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council

Mr. Sultan ALDOSARI

Member of the Shura Council

Mr. Alya AL-BADER
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, Shura Council

Ms. Ashwaq AL-KUBAISI
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, Shura Council

Mr. Hamad AL-HAMADI Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Shura Council
Mr. Khalaf AL-KAABI Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Shura Council
Ms. Iolwa AL-MALKI Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Shura Council
Mr. Mohd SHAHBECK	Advisor, Shura Council
Mr. Yousef ALEMADI	Protocol, Shura Council

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Mr. JAE OK YUN Leader of the Delegation	Member of the National Assembly Member, Land, Infrastructure and Transport Committee (PPP)
Mr. HEE HWANG	Member of the National Assembly Member, National Defense Committee (DPK)
Mr. HYUNIL CHAI	Member of the National Assembly Member, Public Administration and Security Committee (DPK)
Ms. SUN MEAN KIM	Member of the National Assembly Member, Health and Welfare Committee (RKP)
Mr. MINKI KIM	Secretary General, National Assembly
Mr. JAEHYEOK SHIN Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, National Assembly
Mr. SEONG OH HONG Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, National Assembly
Ms. SEOYEON CHO Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, National Assembly
Mr. SEUNGCHAN LEE Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, National Assembly
Ms. DAHYE YOON	Advisor, National Assembly
Mr. HYEONG MIN PARK	Advisor, National Assembly
Ms. HYOJUN NOH	Advisor, National Assembly
Mr. MIKANG CHAE	Advisor, National Assembly
Mr. JUNYOEN HWANG	Advisor, National Assembly
Ms. KYUNGMAN KANG	Advisor, National Assembly

PPP PEOPLE POWER PARTY
DPK Democratic Party of Korea
RKP Rebuilding Korea Party

ROMANIA

Mr. Cosmin-Ioan CORENDEA Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Policy Member, Committee on European Affairs (AUR)
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Mr. Andrei-Florin GHEORGHIU	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Member, Committee on Public Administration and Territorial Planning; Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (USR)
Ms. Aneta MATEI	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Member, Committee on Public Administration and Territorial Planning; Member, Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (NLP)
Mr. Ionel FLOROIU	Member of the Senate Member of the Romanian IPU Group Secretary, Committee on Public Administration Member, Committee on Defense, Public Order and National Security (SDP)
Mr. Miklós ZOLTAN	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Budget, Finance and Banks; Member, Committee on Romanian Communities Abroad (DAHR)
Ms. Vetuta STANESCU	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Secretary, Committee on Public Administration and Territorial Planning; Member, Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (NLP)
Ms. Viorica SANDU	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Member, Steering Committee of the Romanian IPU Group; Member of the Committee on Budget, Finance and Banks; Member, Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Food Industry and Specific Services Member, Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (SDP)
Ms. Ioana BRAN-VOINEA	Secretary General, Chamber of Deputies
Ms. Arany VIKÁRIUS	Deputy Secretary-General, Senate
Ms. Elena-Andreea CLERAS Secretary of the delegation ASGP	Director-General, Directorate-General for Foreign Affairs and Protocol, Chamber of Deputies
Ms. Paula-Roxana TRUINEA Secretary of the delegation ASGP	Director General, Legislative General Directorate, Senate
Ms. Cosmina MOLDOVAN Adviser, Secretary of the Group	Advisor, Senate
Ms. Cristina IONESCU Secretary of the delegation ASGP	Director, Cabinet of the Secretary General, Senate
Ms. Teodora Elena POTERASU Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Chamber of Deputies
AUR Alliance for the Union of Romanians NLP National Liberal Party SDP Social Democratic Party DAHR The Democractic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania	

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. Konstantin KOSACHEV Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the Council of the Federation Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs
Mr. Petr TOLSTOY	Deputy Chairman of the State Duma (UN)
Mr. Aleksei CHEPA Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Member of the State Duma First Deputy Chairman, Committee on International Affairs (JRFT)

Mr. Alexander RUSAKOV	Member of the Council of the Federation Member, Committee on Science, Education and Culture
Ms. Iuliia LAZUTKINA	Member of the Council of the Federation Deputy Chair, Committee on Social Policy
Ms. Roza CHERMERIS Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs Member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the State Duma Member, Committee on International Affairs (NP)
Mr. Sergei GAVRILOV Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development	Member of the State Duma Chairman, Committee on Property, Land and Property relations (CP)
Mr. Ivan NOVIKOV	Member of the Council of the Federation Member, Committee on Social Policy
Mr. Leonid SLUTSKIY	Member of the State Duma Chairman, Committee on International Affairs (LDPR)
Mr. Andrei BORZOV	Advisor, State Duma
Mr. Dmitrii STEPANOV Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, State Duma
Mr. Dmitrii ANDRIIANOV Adviser	Advisor, Council of the Federation
Ms. Mariia ZHOLOBOVA Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Council of the Federation
Ms. Olga SHMACHKOVA Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Council of the Federation
JRFT Just Russia - For Truth LDPR Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia UN United Russia NP New People CP Communist Party	

RWANDA

Ms. Soline NYIRAHAMIBANA Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Vice-President of the Senate (RPF)
Mr. Cyprien NIYOMUGABO	Member of the Senate Deputy Chairperson, Committee on Social Affairs and Human Rights (RPF)
Ms. Hadija MURANGWA NDANGIZA	Member of the Senate Chairperson, Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Security. (PDI)
Ms. Yvonne UMULISA Coordinator of the Group	Clerk, Senate
Mr. Aimable MUSAFIRI Adviser, Secretary of the Group	Advisor, Senate
RPF Rwandese Patriotic Front-INKOTANYI PDI Parti Démocratique Ideal	

SAN MARINO

Mr. Francesco MUSSONI Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Great and General Council (PDCS)
Mr. Andrea MENICUCCI	Member of the Great and General Council (RF)
Mr. Giovanni Francesco UGOLINI	Member of the Great and General Council (PDCS)
Mr. Luca DELLA BALDA	Member of the Great and General Council (LIBERA)
PDCS partito Democratico Cristiano Sammarinese RF Repubblica Futura LIBERA LIBERA/PS	

SAUDI ARABIA

Mr. Abdullah ALSHEIKH Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	President of the Shura Council
Mr. Abdullah ALMADHI	Member of the Shura Council Member, Committee of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Abdulrahman ALHARBI Member of the High-level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism	Member of the Shura Council Member, Committee of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Ali ALKAHTANI	Member of the Shura Council Member, Committee of Finance
Ms. Raedah ABUNAYAN Member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the Shura Council Member, Committee of Finance
Ms. Rimah ALYAHYA	Member of the Shura Council Member, Committee of Education
Mr. Waleed ABDULSHAKOOR	Member of the Shura Council Member, Committee of Hajj and Housing
Mr. Abdulziz ALMUHANA	Member of the Shura Council
Mr. Mohamad ALMETAIRI	Secretary General, Shura Council
Ms. Afnan ALORAIJ Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Shura Council
Mr. Khalid ALALSHAYKH Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Shura Council
Mr. Bassam ALBAHAR	Advisor, Shura Council
Mr. Fahad ALOMER	Advisor, Shura Council
Mr. Khalid ALMUBARAK	Advisor, Shura Council
Mr. Khalid ALMANSOUR	Advisor, Shura Council
Mr. Khalid ALTURKI	Advisor, Shura Council
Ms. Iena ALSALEH	Protocol, Shura Council
Mr. Mohammed ALMATRI	Protocol, Shura Council
Mr. Waleed ALRASHEID	Advisor, Shura Council

SENEGAL

Mr. Malick NDIAYE Chef de la délégation	Président de l'Assemblée nationale (PASTEF)
Mr. Banta WAGUE	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PASTEF)
Mr. Serigne Abdoul AHAD NDIAYE	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PASTEF)
Mr. Dadoua DIA	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (APR)
Mr. Insa DANFA	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PASTEF)
Ms. Ousmane SONKO	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PASTEF)
Mr. Amadou THIMBO	Secrétaire general, Assemblée nationale
PASTEF PASTEF les patriotes	
APR Alliance pour la République	

SERBIA

Mr. Edin ĐERLEK Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Member, Foreign Affairs Committee Member, Committee on the Rights of the Child (Conservative)
Mr. Mladen GRUJIĆ Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians	Member of the National Assembly Member, Committee on Human and Minority Rights and Gender Equality (Peoples Party (EPP))
Ms. Dijana RADOVIĆ	Member of the National Assembly Member, Committee on Constitutional and Legislative Issues; Member, Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management Committee (Socialist)
Ms. Ivana STAMATOVIĆ Member of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians	Member of the National Assembly Member, Committee on the Economy, Regional Development, Trade, Tourism and Energy Member, Committee on Administrative, Budgetary, Mandate and Immunity Issues (Conservative)
Mr. Vladimir FILIPOVIĆ Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, National Assembly
Peoples Party (EPP) Socialist Conservative	Serbian Progressive Party Socialist Party of Serbia Justice and Reconciliation Party

SINGAPORE

Mr. Edward CHIA Leader of the Delegation	Member of Parliament (PAP)
Ms. Valerie LEE	Member of Parliament (PAP)
Mr. Kenneth TIONG	Member of Parliament (WP)
Ms. Siti Aisyah SAFUAN Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Parliament
Ms. Jazreel LIM Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Parliament
PAP People's Action Party	
WP Workers' Party	

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 of 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

Advisor, National Assembly

Socialist Party Social Democrats
Liberal Party Svoboda
Conservative Party Democratic Party

SOMALIA

Mr. Abdullahi Omar ABSHIR
Leader of the Delegation

Member of the House of the People

Mr. Ismail MOHAMED

Member of the House of the People
Justice and Judicial Committee

Mr. Farah Moalim BISHAR

Member of the House of the People
Communication & Information

Mr. Mohamud Ahmed MOHAMED

Member of the House of the People

Ms. Zamzam Ibrahim ALI

Member of the Upper House

Mr. Abdinasir Ibrahim GULED
Secretary of the delegation

Secretary General, Upper House

Mr. Mohamed ABDI
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, House of the People

Mr. Abdulkadir Abshir OMAR
Secretary of the Group

Advisor, House of the People

Mr. Bashir Ahmed HUSSEIN

Advisor, House of the People

JSP! Justice and solidarity 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)

Mr. Mikateko Golden MAHLAULE

Member of the National Assembly (ANC)

Mr. Nhlanhla Mzungezwa HADEBE

Member of the National Assembly (IFP)

Ms. Nqobile Matilda MHLONGO

Member of the National Assembly (EFF)

Ms. Dorries Eunice MPAPANE

Member of the National Assembly (ANC)

Ms. Jane Sebeletswe MANANISO	Member of the National Council of Provinces (ANC)
Mr. Wesley Marshall DOUGLAS	Member of the National Assembly (MKP)
Mr. Xolile Christopher GEORGE Secretary of the delegation	Secretary to Parliament
Mr. Masibulele XASO	Secretary of the National Assembly
Mr. Dumisani Job SITHOLE	Advisor, National Assembly
Ms. Daisy Sindisiwe MTHEMBU	Advisor, National Assembly
Mr. Reginald Khethukuthula NGCOBO	Advisor, National Assembly
Ms. Roseline Mpho MONNAKGOTLA	Advisor, National Assembly
Secretary of the delegation	
Ms. Sebolelo Constance MVULANE	Advisor, National Assembly
Mr. Sthembiso Thelizolo TEMBE	Advisor, National Assembly
Ms. Noluthando SHABALALA	Advisor, 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 President of the IPU Group	Speaker of the Transitional Legislative Assembly (SPLM)
Mr. Gabriel Guot GUOT ACIEN	Member of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (NA)
Mr. John Gai NYUOT YOH	Member of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly
Mr. Peter Amos WILSON LADU	Advisor, Transitional National Legislative Assembly
SPLM Sudan People's Liberation Movement NA National Agenda SPLM-IO Sudan People's Liberation Movement In Opposition	

SPAIN

Mr. Agustín ALMODÓBAR BARCELÓ Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Senate Spokesperson, Committee on Industry and Tourism (PP)
Mr. Amaro HUELVA BETANZOS	Member of the Senate Vice-Chair, Defense Commission (SP)
Ms. Ana MARTÍNEZ ZARAGOZA	Member of the Senate Spokesperson, Foreign Affairs (SP)
Ms. Ruth SÁNCHEZ MOLINERO Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Congress of Deputies
Mr. Joaquín CABEZAS CAYUELAS	Advisor, Senate
PP Partido Pöopular SP Partido Socialista	

SRI LANKA

Mr. Sunil WATAGALA Leader of the Delegation	Member of Parliament Deputy, Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs Member, Committee on Ethics and Privileges (NPP)
Mr. Heshan Wijaya WITHANAGE	Member of Parliament Chairman Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital Member, Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development (SJB)
Mr. Mohammed Faizal MOHAMMED JALEEL	Member of Parliament Member, Committee on Public Petitions Member, Ministerial Consultative Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development (NPP)
Ms. Oshani Umanga HAPUARACHCHIGE DONA	Member of Parliament Member, Women Parliamentarians Caucus in Parliament, Member, Committee on Public Accounts (NPP)
Mr. Shantha Padmakumara SUBASING	Member of Parliament Member, Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation Member, Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government (NPP)
Ms. Kushani Anusha ROHANADEERA Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation	Secretary General, Parliament
Ms. Nishanthini VICTOR	Diplomatic corps
Ms. Himalee ARUNATILAKA	Diplomatic corps
NPP Jathika Jana balawegaya SJB Samagi Jana Balawegaya	

SURINAME

Mr. Rabindre PARMESSAR Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Member of the National Assembly Chair, Standing Committee on Finance and Budgetary Affairs; Member, Standing Committee for Natural Resources (NDP)
Mr. Asiskumar GAJADIEN Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Member of the National Assembly (VHP) Member, Standing Finance Committee Member, Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Genevièvre JORDAN	Member of the National Assembly Member, Committee on Social Affairs and Housing Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (ABOP)
Ms. Ruth DE WINDT	Secretary General, National Assembly
Ms. Agatha RAMDASS Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, National Assembly
NDP National Democratic Party VHP Progressive Reform Party ABOP General Liberation and Development Party	

SWEDEN

Ms. Margareta CEDERFELT Leader of the Delegation Member of the Working Group on Science and Technology	Member of the Riksdag Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs (Conservative)
Ms. Ann-Christine FROHM	Member of the Riksdag Member, Committee on the Labour Market (Conservative)
Ms. Janine ALM ERICSON	Member of the Riksdag Member, Committee on Finance (Environmental)
Mr. Malcolm Momodou JALLOW	Member of the Riksdag Chair, Committee on Civil Affairs (Socialist)
Mr. Serkan KÖSE	Member of the Riksdag Member, Committee of the Labour Market (Socialist)
Ms. Yasmine ERIKSSON	Member of the Riksdag Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs (Conservative)
Mr. Ingvar MATTSON	Secretary General, Riksdagen
Mr. Björn SONDÉN Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Riksdagen
Mr. Ralph HERMANSSON Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Riksdagen
Conservative Moderate Party Environmental The Green Party Socialist The Left Party	

SWITZERLAND / SUISSE

M. Thomas HURTER Chef de la délégation Président du groupe	Membre du Conseil national Vice-président, Commission des transports et des télécommunications Membre, Commission de la politique de sécurité (SVP/UDC)
M. Andrea CARONI Vice-Président du Groupe	Président du Conseil des États Vice-président, Commission des affaires juridiques Conseil des États Membre, Commission de l'économie et des redevances Conseil des États (FDP/PLR)
Mme Isabelle CHASSOT Membre du Groupe de travail sur la science et la technologie	Membre du Conseil des États Membre, Commission de politique extérieure Membre, Commission des affaires juridiques (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. Christian LOHR Membre du Comité sur la santé Membre du Bureau de la Commission permanente sur 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 sur 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 (FDP/PLR)

M. Philippe SCHWAB	Secrétaire general, Conseil national
M. Jérémie EQUEY Secrétaire du groupe, secrétaire de la délégation	Relations internationales
Mme Anna-Lea GNÄGI Secrétaire adjointe du groupe, secrétariat de la délégation	Relations internationales
Mme Sarah PALMA, secrétariat de la délégation	Relations internationales
SVP/UDC Union Démocratique du Centre FDP/PLR Les Libéraux / Les Libéraux-Radicaux M/C Die Mitte/Le Centre SP/PS Parti Socialiste	

THAILAND

Mr. Wanmuhamadnoor MATHA Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Speaker of the House of Representatives (PCC)
Mr. Rangsiman ROME	Member of the House of Representatives Chairperson, Standing Committee on National Security, Border Affairs, National Strategy, and National Reform
Ms. Titima CHAISANG	Member of the House of Representatives First Vice-Chairperson, the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Cooperatives, House of Representatives (PTP)
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 (PTP)
Mr. Kannavee SUEBSANG Member of the Committee to Promote Respect of International Humanitarian Law	Member of the House of Representatives Third Vice-Chairperson, the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs, Justice, and Human Rights, House of Representatives (FP)
Mr. Amornsak KITTHANANAN	Member of the Senate Fourth Vice-Chairperson, the Standing Committee on Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation,
Mr. Nophadol INNA Vice-President of the Working Group on Science and Technology	Member of the Senate Fourth Vice-Chairperson, Standing Committee on the Independent Organs under the Constitution, Anti-Corruption and Misconduct, and Strengthening Good Governance
Mr. Anucha BURAPACHAIS	Member of the House of Representatives Member and Advisor, the Standing Committee on Transport, Member of the Executive Committee of the Thai IPU National Group (UTN)
Mr. Akara TONGJAISOD	Member of the House of Representatives Spokesperson, Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Member of the Executive Committee of the Thai IPU National Group
Ms. Krisanee MASRICAN Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, House of Representatives
Mr. Kittti SAEREEPRAYOON Assistant secretary of the delegation	Advisor, House of Representatives

Ms. Pihanthana THONGSAMRIT Assistant secretary of the delegation	Advisor, House of Representatives
Mr. Chulatas SAIKRACHANG Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, House of Representatives
Ms. Piraporn NAPUKSORNCHAINANT Assistant secretary of the delegation	Advisor, House of Representatives
Mr. Wittawat HOMPIROM Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, House of Representatives
Ms. Pimpa CHAIHAN Assistant secretary of the delegation	Advisor, House of Representatives
Mr. Iskanda WATTANATHORN	Academic Officer, House of Representatives Working Group of the Speaker of the House of Representatives
Ms. Usana BERANANDA	Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand in Geneva
PCC Prachachat Party PPRP Palang Pracharath Party UTN ເັUnited Thai Nation Party FP Fair Party PPLE People's Party PTP Pheu Thai Party	

TUNISIA / TUNISIE

M. Nouri JRIDI Chef de la délégation	Membre de l'Assemblée des représentants du peuple
M. Mohamed Zied MAHER Membre du Bureau de la commission permanente du développement durable	Membre de l'Assemblée des représentants du peuple Membre, Commission des finances et du budget
Mme Rim MAACHAOUI Membre du Bureau des femmes parlementaires	Membre de l'Assemblée des représentants du peuple Membre, Commission de la législation générale Rapporteur, Commission de l'industrie, du commerce, des richesses naturelles et de l'énergie.
M. Nader MNIF Secrétaire de la délégation	Conseiller, Assemblée des représentants du peuple

TÜRKIYE

Ms. Asuman ERDOĞAN Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye Deputy Chairperson, Commission on Investigating Violence Against Women and Discrimination Member, Foreign Affairs Committee (AK PARTİ)
Mr. Ali ÖZKAYA	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye Member of Turkish IPU Group (AK PARTİ)
Mr. Burak AKBURAK	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye Member of Turkish IPU Group (İYİ PARTİ)
Ms. Ceylan AKÇA CUPOLO	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye Member, Commission on Investigating Infant Mortality and Private Health Institutions; Member of Foreign Affairs Committee (DEM)
Ms. Fatma ÖNCÜ Second Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye Member, Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men; Spokesperson, Committee on Investigating the Problems of Persons with Disabilities (AK PARTİ)

Mr. Mevlüt KARAKAYA	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye Member of Turkish IPU Group Member of NATOPA (MHP)
Mr. Mühip KANKO	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye Member of Turkish IPU Group (CHP)
Ms. Nurhayat ALTACA KAYIŞOĞLU	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye Member of Turkish IPU Group (CHP)
Mr. Abdulkadir Emin ÖNEN	Advisor, Grand National Assembly of Türkiye
Mr. Abdurrahim DUSAK	Advisor, Grand National Assembly of Türkiye
Mr. İsmail HAKKI ÜNLÜ	Advisor, Grand National Assembly of Türkiye
Ms. Yeşim USLU	Deputy Director, Grand National Assembly of Türkiye
Ms. Elif Çağla ALBAYRAK Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Grand National Assembly of Türkiye
Ms. Hande DENERİ Secretary of the Group	Advisor, Grand National Assembly of Türkiye
Mr. Hacı Mustafa DURMAZ	Advisor, Grand National Assembly of Türkiye
Mr. Bilal KESER	Advisor, Grand National Assembly of Türkiye
Mr. Ahmet Semih PUR	Advisor, Grand National Assembly of Türkiye
AK PARTİ Justice and Development Party İYİ PARTİ GOOD PARTY DEM Democracy and Equality Party MHP Nationalist Movement Party CHP People's Republican Party	

TURKMENISTAN

Mr. Yenish MOLLABERDİVEV Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Assembly Member, Committee for the protection of human rights and freedoms of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan
Ms. Jenet OVEKOVA	Member of the Assembly Member, Committee for Legislation and Norms of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan

UKRAINE

Mr. Oleksandr KORNIENKO Leader of the Delegation	First Deputy Chairman of Parliament (SERVANT OF THE PEOPLE)
Mr. Artur GERASYMOV Member, Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development	Member of Parliament Member, Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on Agrarian and Land Policy (European Solidarity)
Ms. Lesia VASYLENKO Member, Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Member of Parliament Head, Subcommittee of the Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on Climate Change and Air Protection Environmental Policy and Nature Management (Holos)
Mr. Oleksandr SANCHENKO	Member of Parliament Head, Subcommittee of the Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on Humanitarian and Information Policy (SERVANT OF THE PEOPLE)
Mr. Viacheslav SHTUCHNYI	Secretary General of Parliament

Ms. Antonina FEDOSOVA
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, Parliament

Ms. Olha RYBAK
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, Parliament

SERVANT OF THE PEOPLE SERVANT OF THE PEOPLE
European Solidarity European Solidarity
Holos Holos

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Dr. Ali AL NUAIMI
President of the IPU Group

Member of the Federal National Council
Member, Committee on Defense, Interior and Foreign
Affairs

Mr. Ahmed KHOORI
Member of the Working Group on Science and
Technology

Member of the Federal National Council
Member, Committee on Social, Labor, Demographic
and Human Resources Affairs

Mr. Dr Marwan ALMHEIRI

Member of the Federal National Council
Member, Committee on Financial, Economic and
Industrial Affairs

Ms. Dr Moza ALSHEHHI

Member of the Federal National Council
Member, Committee on Education, Culture, Youth,
Sports and Media Affairs

Ms. Meera ALSUWAIDI
Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on
Sustainable Development

Member of the Federal National Council
Member, Committee on Financial, Economic and
Industrial Affairs

Ms. Sara FALAKNAZ
Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions

Member of the Federal National Council
Member, Committee on Defense, Interior and Foreign
Affairs

Mr. Dr. Omar ALNUAIMI
Secretary of the delegation

Secretary General, Federal National Council

Ms. Afra ALBASTI
Secretary of the Group

Advisor, Federal National Council

Mr. Belal ALALI

Advisor, Federal National Council

Mr. Juma ALMHEIRI

Advisor, Federal National Council

Ms. Mira ALKHATIB

Advisor, Federal National Council

Mr. Panakkat USMAN

Advisor, Federal National Council

Ms. Roudha ALSHEHHI

Advisor, Federal National Council

Ms. Salama ALSHEHHI

Advisor, Federal National Council

Mr. Sami ALABBOUD

Advisor, Federal National Council

Ms. Wadha ALDHANHANI

Advisor, Federal National Council

Mr. Yousef ALMARZOOQI

Advisor, Federal National Council

UNITED KINGDOM

Mr. Fabian HAMILTON Leader of the Delegation	Member of the House of Commons (L)
Mr. Dan CARDEN Member of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians	Member of the House of Commons Member, Foreign Affairs Committee (L)
Ms. Pam COX	Member of the House of Commons Member, Justice Committee (L)
Dame Karen BRADLEY	Member of the House of Commons Member, Home Affairs-Committee, Chair, Liaison Committee- Member (C)
Ms. Helen MAGUIRE	Member of the House of Commons (LD)
Mr. Chris LAW	Member of the House of Commons (SNP)
Baroness Christine BLOWER	Member of the House of Lords Member, Social Mobility Policy Committee (L)
Baroness Fiona HODGSON of Abinger	Member of the House of Lords (C)
Lord Chris RENNARD	Member of the House of Lords (LD)
Mr. Rick NIMMO	Director of BGIPU
Ms. Dominique REES	Deputy Director of BGIPU
Ms. Rhiannon EDWARDS	Multilateral Programme Manager, BGIPU
Mr. Henry COLLISON	International Project Manager, BGIPU
Ms. Sarah DAVIES	Clerk, House of Commons
Ms. Chloe MAWSON	Clerk, House of Lords
Mr. Rory DICKSON	Advisor, Foreign Office
L	Labour
LD	Liberal Democrats
SNP	Scottish National Party
C	Conservatives

URUGUAY

Mr. Daniel CAGGIANI Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Senate President, International Affairs Committee Member, Budget Committee (FA)
Mr. Andrés OJEDA	Member of the Senate Vice president, International Affairs Committee Vice president, Science, Innovation and Technology Committee (PC)
Ms. Blanca RODRÍGUEZ	Member of the Senate President, Education and Culture President, Special Committee on Guarantees for Children and Adolescents Vice president, Committee on Environment Member, Futures Special Committee (FA)
Ms. Julieta SIERRA Member of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians	Member of the House of Representatives President, Budget Committee Member, Security and Coexistence (FA)

Mr. José Pedro MONTERO
President of the ASGP

Secretary General, Senate

Mr. Emiliano METEDIERA

Secretary General, House of Representatives

Ms. Carina GALVALISI
Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation
Secretary of GRULAC

Advisor, General Assembly

FA Frente Amplio
PC Partido Colorado
PN Partido Nacional

UZBEKISTAN

Ms. Tanzila NARBAEVA
Leader of the Delegation
Ex-Officio Member of the Bureau of Women
Parliamentarians

Chairperson of the Senate

Mr. Jamshid GAPPAROV

Member of the Senate

Mr. Olim KASIMOV

Member of the Senate

Ms. Oral ATANIYAZOVA
Member of the Advisory Group on Health

Member of the Senate
Member, Committee on Science, Education and
Healthcare

Ms. Shakhrizod GULYAMOVA

Member of the Senate

VIET NAM

Mr. Tan Toi LE
Leader of the Delegation

Member of the National Assembly
Chairman (CPV)

Mr. Phu Binh PHAM

Member of the National Assembly (CPV)

Ms. Thi Hong Yen PHAM

Member of the National Assembly (CPV)
Member, Committee for Economics and Finance

Ms. Thu Ha LE

Deputy Secretary General, National Assembly

Mr. Van Khoa Diem NGUYEN

Advisor, National Assembly

Mr. Duy Trung DAO

Advisor, National Assembly

Ms. Quynh NGUYEN THI
Secretary of the Group, Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, National Assembly

Mr. Dai Phuong VU

Advisor, National Assembly

CPV Communist Party of Viet Nam

YEMEN

Mr. Mohsen Ali Omar BA SARRA
Leader of the Delegation

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
(YIP)

Mr. Abdullah Saad Sharaf AL-NAOMANI

Member of the House of Representatives (GPC)

Mr. Hazaa Saad Mutahr AL-MASWARI

Member of the House of Representatives (YIP)

Mr. Mohammed Qasem MOHAMMED ALNAQEB

Member of the House of Representatives (GPC)

Mr. Mohammed Gamal Ahmed BA SURRA
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, House of Representatives

YIP Yemeni Islah Party
GPC General People's Congress

ZAMBIA

Ms. Nelly MUTTI Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group Vice-President of the Executive Committee Ex-Officio Member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Speaker of the National Assembly
Mr. Elias DAKA	Member of the National Assembly Member, Media, Information, and Communication Technologies Committee Member, Education, Science, and Technology Committee (PF)
Mr. Harry KAMBONI Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians	Member of the National Assembly Member, National Guidance and Gender Matters Committee; Member, Education, Science, and Technology Committee (UPND)
Mr. Imanga WAMUNYIMA	Member of the National Assembly (PNUP) Member, Public Accounts Committee Member, Privileges and Absences Committee
Ms. Jaqueline SABAO	Member of the National Assembly Member, Public Accounts Committee Member, Standing Orders Committee (UPND)
Mr. Kenny SIACHISUMO	Member of the National Assembly Member, Local Governance, Housing, and Chiefs' Affairs Committee; Member, Legislation and International Agreements (UPND)
Mr. Oliver AMUTIKE Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions	Member of the National Assembly Member, Budgeting and Planning Committee (UPND)
Ms. Maluba KAINDU	Advisor, National Assembly
Mr. McDonald MWIINGA	Advisor, National Assembly
Mr. Nshamba MUZUNGU	Advisor, National Assembly
Mr. Alexander KAFWATA	Advisor, National Assembly
PF	Patriotic Front
UPND	United Party for National Development
PNUP	Party for National Unity and Progress

ZIMBABWE

Mr. Jacob Francis Nzwidamilimo MUDENDA Leader of the Delegation President of the IPU Group	Speaker of the House of Assembly Chairperson, Committee on Standing Rules and Orders (ZANU PF)
Ms. Mabel Memory CHINOMONA Leader of the Delegation	President of the Senate Vice Chairperson, Committee on Standing Rules and Orders; Patron of the Zimbabwe Women Parliamentarians Caucus (ZANU PF)
Mr. Jona NYEVERA	Member of the House of Assembly Member, Portfolio Committee on Mines and Mining Development; Member, Portfolio Committee on Local Government, Public Works and National Housing (ZANU PF)
Ms. Maureen KADEMAUNGA Member of the Working Group on Science and Technology	Member of the House of Assembly Member, Public Accounts Committee Member, Portfolio Committee on Budget, Finance and Investment Promotion (CCC)

Mr. Mtshane Lucas KHUMALO	Member of the House of Assembly Member, Thematic Committee on Sustainable Development Goals
Mr. Tawanda KARIKOGA	Member of the House of Assembly Chairperson, Portfolio Committee on Transport and Infrastructural Development; Member, Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade (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. Tsitsi Veronica MUZENDA	Member of the Senate Member, Thematic Committee on Sustainable Development Goals; Member of the Thematic Committee on Human Rights (ZANU PF)
Mr. Kennedy Mugove CHOKUDA Secretary of the Group	Clerk of Parliament
Mr. Kumbirai MAKAMURE Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, Senate
Ms. Rumbidzai Pamela CHISANGO Secretary of the delegation	Advisor, House of Assembly
Mr. Asha JENJE	Advisor, House of Assembly
Mr. Califinos Kudakwashe GUVI	Advisor, Senate
Mr. Farai Nicholas MAKUBAZA	Advisor, House of Assembly
Mr. Frank Mike NYAMAHOWA	Advisor, House of Assembly
Ms. Martha MUSHADINGA	Advisor, House of Assembly
ZANU PF ZIMBABWE AFRICAN NATIONAL UNION CCC CITIZENS COALITION FOR CHANGE	

II. DELEGATIONS PARTICIPATING IN AN OBSERVER CAPACITY – *DÉLÉGATIONS PARTICIPANT EN QUALITÉ D'OBSERVATEURS*

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. Mir Rahman Rahmani QALANDER KHAN Leader of the Delegation	President of the House of the People
Ms. Bibi Gulali MOHAMMADI	Member of the House of the People
Mr. Mohammad Akbar STANIKZAI	Second Vice-Chairman of the House of Elders
Mr. Abdul Qader ARYUBI	Secretary General of the House of the People

MYANMAR

Mr. Win Myat AYE
Leader of the Delegation

Member of the Assembly of the Union (NLD)

Ms. Zin Mar AUNG

Member of the Assembly of the Union
Member, The Committee Representing Pyidaungsu
Hluttaw (NLD)

Mr. Phone KYAW

Member of the House of Representatives
Member, International Relations Committee (NLD)

Ms. THANDA

Advisor, House of Representatives
Member, International Relations Committee

Ms. Su Mon Aung NAN
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor, Assembly of the Union

NLD National League for Democracy

**III. ADVISERS AND OTHER PERSONS TAKING PART IN THE WORK OF THE 151st ASSEMBLY
– CONSEILLERS ET AUTRES PERSONNES PARTICIPANT
AUX TRAVAUX DE LA 151^e ASSEMBLÉE**

ISRAEL

Ms. Liat MARGALIT
Secretary of the Group

Advisor, Knesset

KUWAIT

Mr. Jasem ALNUSIF

Deputy Director, National Assembly

SEYCHELLES

Ms. Agnes LILUNGWE
Secretary of the Group

Advisor or Secretary
National Assembly

TIMOR-LESTE

Mr. Martins EDGAR SEQUERIA
Secretary of the Group

Secretary General, National Parliament

Mr. Da Cruz MANUEL

Advisor, National Parliament

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Mr. Baraka LEONARD
Secretary of the Group

Clerk, National Assembly

Mr. Eliufoo Daniel UKHOTYA

Director, National Assembly

Ms. Katherine KAIHULA

Advisor, National Assembly

Ms. Ruth MAKUNGU

Advisor, National Assembly

IV. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – MEMBERS ASSOCIES**ARAB PARLIAMENT**

Mr. Mohamed ALYAMMAHI Leader of the Delegation	Speaker
Mr. Tareq ALSHAMMARI	Member of Parliament
Mr. Humaid AL NASIRI	Member of Parliament
Mr. Mujhem ALSQOUR	Member of Parliament
Mr. Coun Kamel SHARWY	Secretary General
Mr. Ashraf ELSEIDY Adviser	Advisor
Mr. Karim ABDELRAZIK Adviser	Advisor

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

Mr. Joseph NTAKIRUTIMANA Leader of the Delegation	Speaker
Mr. Abdullah HASNUU MAKAME	Member of Parliament Chairperson, General Purpose Committee Member, Legal, Rules and Privileges
Ms. Emily OKEMA KIRUNGI	Advisor
Ms. Joyce Wilfred ULOY	Advisor
Ms. Priscilla AMODING	Advisor
Mr. Alex LUMUMBA OBATRE	Secretary General

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN PARLIAMENT (PARLATINO)

Ms. Norma CALERO FERNANDEZ	Advisor
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PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

Mr. Fortune Zephania CHARUMBIRA Leader of the Delegation	Speaker
Ms. Mimi Choon-Quinones	Advisor

PARLIAMENT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES(ECOWAS)

Ms. Memounatou IBRAHIMA Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of Parliament
Mr. Patrick Kodjovi SENAM BOLOUVI	Member of Parliament Chairman, Committee of Telecommunication and Information Technology
Ms. Zainab GIMBA	Member of Parliament Member, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights
Mr. Kountouon Bertin SOME	Secretary General

Mr. Kouao N'dessonn Yves N'GUESSAN
Secretary of the delegation

Advisor

Mr. Mohammed Kabeer GARBA

Advisor

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF LA FRANCOPHONIE (APF) / ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE
DE LA FRANCOPHONIE**

Mme Amelia LAKRAFI
Cheffe de la délégation

Vice-Présidente

M. Jean-Baptiste LECLERE

Secrétaire général

M. Florian Valentin Orphée GIACOBINO

Conseiller

M. Benoit ONAMBELE

Conseiller

PARLIAMENT OF MERCOSUR (PARLASUR)

Mr. Rodrigo GAMARRA

Vice-President

Mr. Juan José OLAIZOLA

Member of Parliament

Mr. Franco METAZA

Member of Parliament

Mr. Guilherme SILVA ROSSI

Advisor or Secretary

Mr. Roberto STUCKERT

Advisor or Secretary

V. OBSERVERS – OBSERVATEURS**UNITED NATIONS**

Ms. Michelle GYLES-MCDONNOUGH	Executive Director, UNITAR
Mr. Marc LASSOUAOU	UNRWA Senior Manager
Mr. Sergi CUADRA DOMÍNGUEZ	UNRWA Advocacy Europe
Ms. Shannon HOWARD	Director, World Food Programme Geneva Office
Mr. Michael SPIES	Deputy Chief, UN Office for Disarmament Affairs Geneva Branch

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

Mr. Jean-Léonard TOUADI	Special Coordinator for Parliamentary Alliances
Mr. Victor QUEZADA NAVARRO	Partnerships Officer

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)

Ms. Safak PAVEY	Senior Advisor
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PARTNERSHIP FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH (PMNCH)

Mr. Rajat KHOSLA	Executive Director
Ms. Flavia BUSTREO	Partner

UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (UN WOMEN)

Ms. Lea PACCAUD	Coordination, Advocacy and Communications
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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

Ms. Elisa SCOLARO	External Relations Officer, Parliamentary Affairs
Ms. Xiao Jingxi	WHO Youth Council Representative

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)

Mr. Gabriel ROLAND-GOSSELIN	Information and External Relations Division
Ms. Violeta GONZALEZ BEHAR	Counsellor

AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION (APU)

M. Boubacar IDI GADO	Secrétaire General
M. Jose RAIMUNDO	Directeur de Conférence
M. Pierre Flambeau NGAYAP	Senateur

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	Deputy Secretary General
Mr. Seyed Javad HASHEMI HASSANABADI	Director of International Division

COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (CSTO PA)

Mr. Gleb BOKHANOVICH Secretary

**FORUM OF PARLIAMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION (FP-ICGLR)**

Mr. Deo MWAPINGA Secretary General

Ms. Isaura VICENTE Program Manager

GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

Mr. Scott BOULE Senior Specialist, Parliamentary Affairs

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF SUPREME AUDIT INSTITUTIONS (INTOSAI)

Mr. Antonio ANASTASIA Representative

Ms. Camilla FREDRIKSEN Senior Manager, SAI Governance Department

INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENT ON TOLERANCE AND PEACE (IPTP)

Mr. Zoran ILIEVSKI Secretary General

INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK FOR EDUCATION (IPNE)

Mr. Joseph NHAN-O'REILLY Executive Director

Ms. Beth GUM Senior Policy & Advocacy Adviser

INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY ON ORTHODOXY (IAO)

Mr. Ioan VULPESCU President of the General Assembly

Mr. Konstantinos MYGDALIS Advisor of the IAO

Mr. Evangelos PARRAS Secretary

MAGHREB CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

Mr. Said MOKADEM Secretary General

PARLAMERICAS

Ms. Alisha TODD Director General

PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT (PNND)

Ms. Margareta KIENER NELLEN Council Member

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMUNITY OF PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES (AP-
CPLP)**

Mr. Atanasio CHACANANE Permanent Secretary

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM)

Mr. Gerhard PUTMAN CRAMER Ambassador, Permanent Observer

Ms. Sabah ALHAAJ FARAJ Head of the Libyan delegation to PAM

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (PA-UFM)

Mr. Mohamed ABOUELENEEN President

Ms. Heba Shabana Assistant to the President

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF TURKIC STATES (TURKPA)

Mr. Ramil HASAN Secretary General
Mr. Talgat ADUOV Deputy Secretary-General

PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS (COPA)

Mr. Estrella MARTINEZ SOTO Vice President Network of Women Parliamentarians

PARLIAMENTARY UNION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION MEMBER STATES (PUIC)

Mr. Mouhamed Khouraichi NIASS Secretary General
Mr. Ali Asghar Mohammadi SIJANI Deputy Secretary General

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (SADC-PF)

Ms. Boemo Mmandu SEKGOMA Secretary General
Mr. Munashe TOFA Programme Manager - Climate Change, Environment, Health/SRHR

GLOBAL GREENS

Ms. Evelyne HUYTEBROECK Global Greens Cordination Lead for EGP

LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL (LI)

Ms. Astrid THORS Deputy President

UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health

Ms. Bettina BLOSEL Head of Parliamentarian's' Engagement

PERMANENT CONFERENCE OF POLITICAL PARTIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (COPPAL)

Ms. Leidy Margarita ESPINAL Member

GENEVA CENTRE FOR SECURITY SECTOR GOVERNANCE (DCAF)

Ms. Dawn LUI Programme Manager, Research and Training

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)

Mr. Pierre KRÄHENBÜHL Director-General
Ms. Emily MISOLA RICHARD Legal Adviser
Mr. Richard LENNANE Disarmament Adviser

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW ORGANIZATION (IDLO)

Mr. Mark CASSAYRE Permanent Observer to the United Nations and International Organizations in Geneva
Mr. Arsen KHANYAN First Secretary

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE (INTERNATIONAL IDEA)

Mr. Pierre CARSANA Network Facilitator

SOVERIEGN ORDER OF MALTA

Ms. Marie-Thérèse PICTET-ALTHANN Permanent Observer
Mr. Yannick GALEAZZI First Secretary

**VI. SPECIAL GUESTS TAKING PART IN ACTIVITIES FORESEEN ON THE OCCASION OF THE
151st ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
INVITES SPECIAUX PRENANT PART A DES ACTIVITES PREVUES A L'OCCASION DE LA
151^e ASSEMBLEE DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE**

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security / Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale

Ms. Melissa PARKE, Director, International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)
Ms. Shimona MOHAN, Researcher, UNIDIR
Mr. Carlos FORADORI, President, Eleventh Conference of States Parties (CSP11), Arms Trade Treaty
Ms. Yvette ISSAR, Researcher, QUNO
Mr. Diego LOPES DA SILVA, Senior Researcher, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
Ms. Sanam NARAGHI-ANDERLINI, Founder & CEO, International Civil Society Action Network
Mr. Paul DZIATKOWIEC, Director of Mediation and Peace Support, GCSP
Ms. Carina SOLMIRANO, Director, Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Secretariat
Mr. Donato KINIGER PASSIGLI, Vice President, World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS)

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development / Commission permanente du développement durable

Ms. Shari SPIEGEL, Director of the Financing for Sustainable Development Office, UN DESA
Mr. Michael KOBETSKY, Honorary Professor, Australian National University College of Law; Fellow, Tax and Transfer Policy Institute, Crawford School of Public Policy
Mr. Russ FEINGOLD, Chair of the Global Steering Committee of the Campaign for Nature
Mr. Ahtesham R. KHAN, Advisor, International Cooperation and Tax Policy Financing for Sustainable Development Office, UN DESA

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs / Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies

Ms. Heba ALY, Director, UN Reform Coalition
Ms. Barbara ADAMS, Global Policy Forum
Mr. Peter LÍNNER, Programme Director, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation
Ms. Susanna MALCORRA, President and Co-Founder of GWL Voices for Change and Inclusion
Mr. Guy RYDER, UN Under-Secretary-General for Policy

Forum of Women Parliamentarians / Forum des femmes parlementaires

Ms. Amanda ELLIS, Senior Director, Strategic Partnerships & Networks, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory, ASU Global Institute of Sustainability and Innovation
Ms. Caitlin KRAFT-BUCHMAN, CEO and founder of Women at the Table and a co-founder of International Gender Champions

Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law / Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire

Ms. Pamela MORAGA, Director, Implementation Support Unit of the CCM
Mr. Juan Carlos RUAN, Director, Implementation Support Unit of the APMB

Committee on Health / Comité sur la santé

Mr. Neil DATTA, Executive Director, European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (EPF)
Mr. Adrien LEGER, Policy Associate, European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (EPF)
Mr. Juan Pablo LETELIER, Governance Institute Andean Parliament

Committee on Middle-East Questions / Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient

Ms. Maryam Humood AL KHALIFA, Senior Specialist, Communication, King Hamad Global Center for Coexistence and Tolerance (KHGC)
Mr. David Fernández PUYANA, Ambassador, Permanent Delegation of the University for Peace to the United Nations Geneva
Mr. Abdulla AL MANAI, Executive Director, King Hamad Global Center for Coexistence and Tolerance (KHGC)

High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism / Groupe consultatif de haut niveau de l'UIP sur la lutte contre le terrorisme et l'extrémisme violent

Mr. Serge STROOBANTS, Director of Europe and the MENA region, Institute for Economics and Peace

Working Group on Science and Technology / Groupe de travail sur la science et la technologie

Ms. Sonja KOEPPAL, Secretary, UN Water Convention (UNECE)
Ms. Mélissa GOMIS, Science-Policy Engagement Officer, Geneva Science-Policy Interface

Open Session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law / Séance publique du Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire

Ms. Joanne WONG, Legal Advisor, MSF

Ms. Marie-Elisabeth INGRES, Humanitarian Representative to the UN in Geneva, MSF

Ms. Shannon HORWARD, Director, Geneva Global Office, WFP

Panel discussion: Migration, terrorism and transnational organized crime: Challenges and parliamentary responses / Réunion-débat : Migration, terrorisme et criminalité transnationale organisée : difficultés rencontrées et réponses parlementaires

Ms. Seda KUZUCU, UNHCR Representative in Bulgaria

Mr. Norbert B. TANKOANO, Chef de service des Organisations et Assemblées parlementaires internationales du parlement du Burkina Faso

Mr. Antonio Giovanne LUZZI, Head of Analysis, Terrorism Prevention Branch – UNODC

Interfaith workshop: Countering intolerance and fostering religious literacy for more inclusive and peaceful societies / Atelier sur le thème du dialogue interconfessionnel : Lutter contre l'intolérance et promouvoir les connaissances en matière de religion pour des sociétés plus inclusives et pacifiques

Mr. Fadi DAOU, Globethics

Mr. Josh CASS, Culham St. Gabriel's

Mr. Alexandre ADAM, Adyan

Mr. Asif MAHMOOD, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)

Mr. Guillermo CANTOR, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)

Generation equality-Women MPs dialogue

Ms. Yvonne Apiyo BRÄNDLE-AMOLO, Member of Parliament, Switzerland

Ms. Calixte BLOQUET, Consultant

Ms. Léa PACCAUD, UN Women representative

Generation equality-Young MPs dialogue

Ms. Marianne MIKKO, Vice-Chairperson, UN CEDAW Committee

Ms. Carmen GEHA, Consultant

Committee on Rights of the Child

Ms. Sophie KILADZE, Chairperson

12Plus side event: International Humanitarian Law and APMBC

Ms. Cordula DROEGE Chief Legal Officer and Head of the Legal Division, ICRC

Mr. Juan Carlos RUAN, Director, Implementation Support Unit of the APMBC

Ms. Tamar GABELNICK, Director, International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)

AI Workshop

Mr. Greg POWER, Founder & Board Chair, Global Partners Governance

Aleida FERREYRA, Global Lead, Democratic Institutions and Processes in a Digital Era, UNDP

Mr. Fayez AL-SHAWABKEH, Secretary General, The Asian-African Parliamentary Council

Mr. Saud Rashid Falah AL-HAJILAN, The Asian-African Parliamentary Council

Ms. Claudia FUENTES JULIO, Global Board of International Gender Champions

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