



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

152nd IPU Assembly and related meetings

Istanbul, Türkiye
15–19 April 2026

Results of the proceedings



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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152nd Assembly

1. Inaugural ceremony

The inaugural ceremony of the 152nd IPU Assembly took place at the Hilton Istanbul Bomonti Hotel and Conference Center, Istanbul, Türkiye, at 18:30 on Wednesday, 15 April 2026.

The IPU anthem and the national anthem of Türkiye were played.

A video promoting Turkish history and tourism was shown.

Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, said that it was the fourth time that an IPU Assembly had been convened in Istanbul. Having attended the 95th Conference in Istanbul in 1996 early in his career at the IPU Secretariat, he had come full circle, as the 152nd Assembly would be the last of his tenure as Secretary General. He expressed appreciation for the efforts undertaken to organize the Assembly and thanked the Turkish authorities for graciously hosting it in optimum conditions.

Referencing the theme of the Assembly, he urged those present to keep considerations about future generations at the forefront of their minds. Among the events scheduled to take place during the Assembly, he highlighted in particular the special session on advancing the two-State solution for Israel and Palestine and the discussion on Palestine to be hosted by the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, both of which would reaffirm the IPU's belief that the two-State solution was the most effective way to resolve the crisis in the Middle East. In closing, he thanked the IPU Member Parliaments for their support during his 12-year tenure as Secretary General.

Mr. Babatunde A. Ahonsi, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Türkiye, said that, as the cornerstone of democratic governance, parliaments should ensure accountability and the rule of law. Parliaments had a central role in building inclusive and resilient economic systems that responded to global challenges. They had also become more critical in strengthening trust and social cohesion, including through dialogue, consensus-building and peaceful dispute resolution.

The United Nations attached great importance to its partnership with parliaments worldwide, which was essential to ensuring that global commitments were translated into national action. Türkiye, a regional and cultural crossroads, had shown timely and significant leadership in hosting the Assembly, which would bring together many parliamentary voices.

Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, speaking in a pre-recorded video message, expressed his best wishes to Mr. Chungong ahead of the conclusion of his mandate in June 2026, and said that parliamentarians' role of connecting citizens to institutions and national priorities to global responsibilities was vital in light of current geopolitical tensions, inequalities, eroding trust and human suffering. Given the increasing civilian impact and instability caused by global conflicts, there was a need for dialogue, de-escalation and full respect for international law. It was necessary to address global inequalities by reforming the international financial architecture through enhanced representativeness, inclusiveness and alignment with current economic realities. Technology should be leveraged to provide inclusive opportunities. The current global situation also called for solidarity to implement climate action. He thanked parliaments for their leadership and commitment and encouraged them to continue advancing the aims of the IPU.

Dr. Tulia Ackson, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, said that IPU Assemblies should never be taken for granted. The rapidly evolving crisis in the Middle East had cast a long shadow over international affairs and multilateralism, but the IPU had remained firm in its position, demonstrating its resilience and its conviction that people's voices would not fall silent in crisis. The current global turmoil had resulted from the pursuit of short-term interests and countries' repeated failure to settle disputes through peaceful means, which was a legal obligation under the Charter of the United Nations and a moral imperative to ensure that future generations would live in peace and dignity.

Parliaments were key to public life and were fertile ground for building consensus. They must reject short-termism, ensure social and intergenerational justice through the fair distribution of resources, risks and opportunities, uphold political integrity, and address gaps in representation and inclusiveness to ensure informed decisions, increased legitimacy and enduring legacies. The best hope for peace and justice lay in a strong multilateral system, with the UN at its centre, and with parliaments complementing traditional diplomacy by exercising legislative oversight and playing a representational role to maintain dialogue even when formal channels were under strain.

A video about the 152nd Assembly was shown.

Mr. Numan Kurtulmuş, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, welcomed delegates to Istanbul and said that it was an honour to host such an important gathering at such a critical time. As the principles of international politics were no longer applicable amid the current unprecedented global challenges, it was up to governments and parliaments to determine whether or not the new era they faced would be built on fairness, justice, equity and moral conscience.

Most institutions that had been established to address current global issues were not functioning effectively. The UN, in particular, had become shaped to suit the will of the powerful, giving rise to double standards that legitimized, for example, the attacks by Israel on Gaza and by Israel and the United States of America on the Islamic Republic of Iran and other countries in the Middle East. In closing, he urged the international community to shoulder its primary obligations to ensure the sovereignty of all States and equal rights for all people and to build a just and equitable global system.

Mr. Numan Kurtulmuş declared the 152nd IPU Assembly open.

2. Opening of the General Debate

Mr. N. Kurtulmuş, President of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye and President of the 152nd Assembly, opened the Assembly on 16 April 2026 and expressed his commitment to ensuring a fair, fruitful and orderly debate. The theme for the General Debate, *Nurturing hope, securing peace and ensuring justice for future generations*, was highly relevant in the face of urgent global challenges such as escalating conflict, deepening inequalities and mass displacement. The international system was failing to effectively enforce its own rules and principles, instead applying them unevenly in a way that benefited powerful actors while disadvantaging weaker ones.

The situation in Gaza, where the basic rights of civilians were consistently being violated, was a prime example of the failure of the international system. What was needed now was not more declarations but concrete action on the commitments already made. Silence in the face of suffering could not be disguised as impartiality, diplomacy must not be used as a pretext to mask oppression, and the right to life must never be subject to political bargaining.

He stressed the importance of fair, civilized and respectful dialogue, even among differing viewpoints, noting that the world could not remain a place where the strongest players dictated the agenda. Through such an approach, it would be possible to achieve constructive outcomes for humanity and thus nurture hope.

Dr. T. Ackson, President of the IPU, said that the Assembly had gathered at a time when the world was increasingly in jeopardy, marked by conflict, fragile peace and selective justice. It was important to be honest with future generations: if current trends continued, they would inherit a world that was irreparably damaged and dangerous, burdened by climate change, technological risks, displacement, persistent poverty, gender inequality and democratic decline. Urgent action was therefore needed.

There was, however, reason for hope. The international system, established decades earlier to protect future generations from the evils of war, injustice and inequality, remained a significant achievement despite its flaws. The task going forward was simply to honour the commitments made by previous generations.

She highlighted the importance of solidarity and the need to act in a spirit of brotherhood, which were expressions of a shared humanity reflecting the interconnectedness of all people. Without them, commitments to one another and to future generations would lose their meaning and become purely mechanical. Building a more optimistic, peaceful and just future for the world's children began with making good decisions today. Such decisions must also work for future generations.

Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, said that, in a world facing escalating wars, deepening inequality and growing distrust in democracy, where violence and force were increasingly normalized, many had been left in a constant state of instability and hopelessness. Hope and peace would be rebuilt not with weapons but through collective actions from countries, parliaments and communities.

There was no hope for future generations without equality, yet gender inequality continued to shape power structures, placing women at a disproportionate disadvantage, particularly in times of crisis. Women remained significantly underrepresented in parliaments, cabinets and leadership positions, with representation in some cases even regressing. She warned against such backsliding and urged renewed commitment to gender equality, welcoming new milestones such as the upcoming appointment of the first woman Secretary General of the IPU.

Ms. N. Abu Ghosh (Jordan), President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians, welcomed the theme of the Assembly, noting that every decision made by parliaments today would carry consequences for future generations. Intergenerational partnerships were needed to make hope, peace and justice a reality, but to build them, it was important to be honest about where the world stood, including on youth participation. A new IPU report revealed that only 2.8% of parliamentarians worldwide were under age 30, with no progress since 2023 and even lower representation among young women.

There was a need to address the impact of present-day conflicts, particularly in the Middle East, on young people, whose education, livelihoods and sense of safety were under threat. Justice for future generations could not be achieved by ignoring present injustices. Parliaments needed to act to increase the participation of young people in their work, adopt long-term and forward-looking policy approaches, and ensure the protection of young people's rights.

The opening of the General Debate included, for the first time, an intergenerational exchange between **Mr. B. Salih, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**, and **Ms. G. Magesa, an 11-year-old youth and climate activist from the United Republic of Tanzania**. The exchange was moderated by Mr. T. Fitzsimons, IPU Director of Communications.

Mr. Salih emphasized that the Assembly was taking place in a region that had been afflicted by conflict for generations and that he, as a former refugee, had also felt its effects. There were currently around 120 million people living in forced displacement worldwide. Türkiye had made a noteworthy contribution by hosting millions of refugees over decades. Mr. Salih underscored the important role of parliaments in legislating for the protection and inclusion of refugees.

Ms. Magesa shared her joy at meeting people who were willing to fight for the rights of children, since children were unable to protect themselves. If they were not protected, they could not, in turn, protect the planet.

Mr. Salih noted that he had spoken to children in refugee camps around the world, and that they all shared the desire to live in dignity, with access to basic services, clean water and education. It was important to listen to children.

Ms. Magesa said that children were resilient. Yet if action was not taken now, especially on climate change, children could face more difficult circumstances in the future. Since climate change did not stop at borders, neither should solutions. Leaders of different countries should work together, with urgency and responsibility. Education was important for teaching children how to take care of the planet.

Mr. Salih said that it was a moral and human obligation to protect people fleeing conflict and living in displacement, as well as to support them in transitioning from dependency and victimhood to having agency. He appealed to parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, to reflect on the imperative of the 1951 Refugee Convention. Rather than view displacement as a burden, they should commit to working together to address its fundamental causes and to promote and protect dignity and basic human rights.

Ms. Magesa said that Mount Kilimanjaro was predicted to lose all its snow and ice by 2030. Countering global warming and climate change was the responsibility of the whole world, not just of Africans.

3. Participation

Delegations from 133 Member Parliaments took part in the work of the Assembly*:

Afghanistan**, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Eswatini, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia (The), Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar**, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The following 10 Associate Members also took part in the Assembly: the Arab Parliament, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the European Parliament, the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), the Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO), the MERCOSUR Parliament (PARLASUR), the Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF).

Observers included representatives of:

- (i) the United Nations and related organizations: United Nations, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), World Health Organization (WHO), and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO);
- (ii) parliamentary assemblies and associations: African Parliamentary Union (APU), Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA), Collective Security Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly (CSTO PA), Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO), Maghreb Consultative Council, 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 political party federations: Liberal International (LI) and Socialist International;
- (iv) other partner organizations: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the World Future Council.

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

Of the 1,432 delegates who attended the Assembly, 697 were members of parliament (678 from Member Parliaments and 19 from Associate Member delegations), including 77 Presiding Officers, and 34 Deputy Presiding Officers. Member Parliament delegations included 244 women MPs (36%) and 85 young MPs (12.5%).

* For the complete list of IPU Members, see [page 41](#).

** 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 in accordance with Article 4.2 of the Statutes.

In continuation of practices established at recent Assemblies, the 152nd Assembly was an in-person event with adaptations for hybrid participation. All of the non-plenary session rooms were equipped for remote participation and remote interpretation and these technical capacities were well used throughout the Assembly. A total of 101 meetings were held.

The inaugural ceremony, as well as the proceedings of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, Assembly and Governing Council, were live streamed in English and the original language, garnering almost 9,000 views. See the [Media and Communications](#) section for more details.

4. Choice of an emergency item

On 17 April 2026, the President informed the Assembly that the following three requests for the inclusion of an emergency item had been submitted:

- *Condemnation of the attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran against the Gulf Cooperation Council States and Jordan* (Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates)
- *The urgent need for concerted parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and support peacebuilding in the Middle East and other regions* (Qatar, Australia, Türkiye, France, Brazil, Zambia, Poland, Portugal, Italy and Ireland, with the support of the Arab Group, the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the African Group)
- *Condemnation of military aggression and acts of terrorism against the Islamic Republic of Iran by the United States of America and Israel, including those involving the use of foreign military bases in the Persian Gulf countries* (Islamic Republic of Iran)

The Islamic Republic of Iran withdrew its proposal and expressed its support for the joint proposal co-sponsored by Qatar.

The Assembly then proceeded with a roll-call vote on the two remaining items (see [pages 58-59](#)). The joint proposal co-sponsored by Qatar, which received the required two-thirds majority of the vote, was adopted and added to the agenda as Item 10.

5. Debates and decisions of the Assembly and its Standing Committees

(a) General Debate: *Nurturing hope, securing peace and ensuring justice for future generations*
(Item 3)

During the three days of deliberations, some 146 legislators from 113 Member Parliaments and the 2 non-voting observer parliaments, including 51 Presiding Officers and 14 young parliamentarians, as well as representatives of 7 Associate Members and 12 permanent observers, contributed to the General Debate. The proceedings of the Debate were webcast, and many of the good practices and recommendations that emerged were reflected in the outcome document.

(b) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security held three sittings from 16 to 18 April 2026, with its Vice-President, Ms. F. Belhirsch (Netherlands), presiding as Chair in the absence of the President, as per Rule 11 of the Standing Committees. The Committee was entrusted with the task of debating the draft resolution *The role of parliaments in establishing robust post-conflict management mechanisms and restoring a just and lasting peace*. The draft resolution and an accompanying explanatory memorandum had been prepared by a team of three co-Rapporteurs: Mr. A. Al-Zu'bi (Jordan), Ms. F. Belhirsch (Netherlands) and Mr. B. Kalu (Nigeria).

Following the presentation of the draft resolution by two of the co-Rapporteurs, 34 speakers took the floor to express their thoughts on the matter. During the drafting process, the Committee considered 155 amendments tabled by 21 Member Parliaments and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians. The Forum of Women Parliamentarians had decided to support two of these amendments and to submit four additional ones.

The Bureau of the Committee gathered in the morning of 18 April 2026. Its main decision was to agree on its next subject item and its workplan for the next two Assemblies. Three candidates were elected to fill vacancies on the Bureau and two seats remained vacant (see [page 39](#)).

At its last sitting, in the afternoon of 18 April 2026, the Committee considered the revised draft resolution, which was adopted by majority vote. Following the adoption of the resolution by the Committee, the delegations of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation expressed opposition to the entire text of the resolution, and the delegation of China expressed a reservation on the entire text of the

resolution. The Committee decided to challenge the subject item on parliamentary diplomacy proposed by the Bureau and instead adopted the following subject item: *Strengthening maritime security and protecting critical infrastructure in times of conflict: The role of parliaments in safeguarding international navigation and global economic stability*. The Committee also adopted a revised workplan based on the proposal put forward by the Bureau.

On 19 April 2026, the President of the Committee presented the draft resolution at the plenary sitting of the Assembly, and it was adopted by consensus. The delegation of China reiterated its reservation on the resolution, and the delegations of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation reiterated their opposition to the resolution.

The Assembly approved the subject item proposed by the Committee and the nomination of two co-Rapporteurs for the Committee's next resolution (see [page 39](#)).

(c) Standing Committee on Sustainable Development

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development held its sittings on 16 and 18 April 2026 with its President, Ms. M.S. Al Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates), as the Chair. The Committee was entrusted with the task of drafting the resolution entitled *Building a fair and sustainable global economy: The role of parliaments in combating protectionism, reducing tariffs and preventing corporate tax avoidance*. The draft resolution and an accompanying explanatory memorandum had been prepared by the co-Rapporteurs, Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia), Mr. J.M.R. Edwards (Chile) and Ms. J. Sabao (Zambia).

Drafting of the resolution was conducted in plenary. In total, the Committee had received 140 amendments submitted by 22 Member Parliaments, as well as contributions from the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians. Thanks to the active engagement, dedication and collaborative efforts of the co-Rapporteurs and the Committee members, the drafting process was completed during the first sitting.

At its final sitting and at the proposal of its Bureau, the Committee adopted its next subject item entitled *Parliamentary leadership to protect mountain and ocean ecosystems and achieve the 30% conservation goal by 2030*. The Committee approved the nomination of three co-Rapporteurs (see [page 39](#)).

The Committee also approved a workplan for the next Assembly, including a debate on the topic of the next resolution, a panel debate on the impact of artificial intelligence on jobs and the future of work, and a segment to prepare for the Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Türkiye (COP31).

(d) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

The Committee held two sittings with Vice-President Ms. F. Ilimi Haddouche (Algeria) as the Chair.

At its first sitting, held on 17 April 2026, the Committee debated its next resolution, *Inclusive social development for all: Parliamentary strategies to promote the rights and empowerment of people living with disabilities*, which will be considered at the 153rd Assembly. The debate opened with expert interventions from Ms. H. Hagrass (United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities) and Mr. N. Kabbara (President, International Disability Alliance), followed by insights from the three co-Rapporteurs: Ms. C.M. Mumma (Kenya), Mr. C. Lohr (Switzerland) and Ms. F. Öncü (Türkiye). A total of 30 delegations contributed to the debate.

At its second sitting, held on 18 April 2026, the Committee held a debate on recent developments in artificial intelligence (AI). This debate was in follow-up to the 2024 IPU resolution *The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law* and the conclusions of the November 2025 conference on *The Role of Parliament in Shaping the Future of Responsible AI*, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The debate focused on parliamentary action against AI-generated non-consensual intimate images. At the conclusion of the debate, the Standing Committee adopted a motion entitled *Advancing parliamentary action on artificial intelligence*, calling for continued urgent parliamentary action on AI.

One candidate was elected to fill a vacancy on the Bureau of the Committee. The position of President of the Committee remained vacant (see [page 39](#)).

For further information about the two debates, see [page 62](#).

(e) Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

The Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs held two sittings, on 17 and 18 April 2026, with Mr. F. Al-Nouiri (Libya), Vice-President, presiding as Chair.

The first sitting was dedicated to a discussion on the theme *The UN field presence in Türkiye: A test case of greater UN engagement with parliaments*. The presenters were: Mr. B.A. Ahonsi (UN Resident Coordinator, Türkiye), Ms. D.C. Cicchella (Deputy Representative, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Türkiye), Ms. M. Guimond (Country Director, UN Women, Türkiye) and Ms. M. Gandhi (Deputy Representative of the United Nations Children's Fund, Türkiye). The sitting was attended by 30 delegations, and 7 interventions came from the floor.

During its second sitting, the Committee held a discussion on the theme *Towards a more effective and representative United Nations: The need for a Charter review*. The presenters were: Ms. R. French (Director of Policy and Diplomatic Engagement, Article 109 Coalition) and Mr. S. Prokhorov (Programme Manager, UN Funding and Effectiveness, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation). The sitting was attended by 28 delegations, and 13 interventions came from the floor.

In addition, on 16 April 2026, three members of the Bureau of the Committee (Ms. S. Ataullahjan, Canada; Mr. F. Al-Nouiri, Libya; and Mr. O. Zhmerenetskyi, Ukraine) participated in a field trip to a city-run refugee assistance centre which is being supported by UNHCR.

Four candidates were elected to fill vacancies on the Bureau of the Committee (see [page 39](#)).

For further information about the two debates, see [page 65](#).

(f) Debate on the emergency item

The debate on the emergency item was held in the morning of 18 April 2026 and was presided over by Mr. F. Jitoko (Fiji).

Eight delegates took the floor during the debate, namely from Australia, Botswana, Canada, Qatar, Russian Federation, South Africa, Ukraine and Yemen.

Delegates expressed their support for the proposal, noting that the world is experiencing numerous conflicts across multiple regions, posing grave threats and proliferating violence globally. They underscored the need for parliamentary action, which has never been more urgent.

While most delegates supported the proposal, which focused on the situation in the Middle East, several delegates stated that the emergency item, and the IPU as a whole, should also address other urgent and ongoing crises.

Wrapping up the debate, Ms. H.B.H. Al-Sulaiti (Qatar), the co-sponsor of the proposal, thanked all parliaments that had supported the proposal, which sought to strengthen international peace and stability through parliamentary diplomacy. She underscored the importance of guaranteeing the protection of civilian infrastructure, and the security of supply chains, as well as the need to address the post-war phase, referring to the impacts that these conflicts have on children, including their behaviour and psychosocial development.

The Assembly referred the emergency item to a drafting committee made up of delegates from Algeria, Australia, Canada, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Mexico, Russian Federation, Ukraine and Uruguay.

6. Special accountability segment of the General Debate

As at previous Assemblies, the General Debate included a special accountability segment, held on 18 April 2026 and chaired by the IPU President. Delegations were invited to share concrete examples of parliamentary action to implement IPU resolutions, decisions and other initiatives.

The IPU President recalled the responsibility of Member Parliaments to translate IPU outcomes into national realities. The segment focused on three priority areas: youth participation in parliaments, human rights, and climate action to live in harmony with nature.

The Secretary General presented the IPU's annual reporting exercise on the implementation of decisions, recalling that Member Parliaments are required – under the IPU Statutes and Rules – to report on follow-up measures taken. He noted that the 2025 reporting cycle had achieved a response rate of 76%, and encouraged Members to provide concrete examples of implementation during the 2026 cycle.

The first part of the segment focused on parliamentary action to enhance youth participation. The Secretary General introduced the 2025 edition of the report on *Youth participation in national parliaments*, noting that, after years of gradual progress, representation of young people had recently

stalled. Mr. D. Joshi (IPU consultant on youth representation), author of the report, and Ms. N. Abu Ghosh (Jordan), President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians, presented key findings and proposed measures to address structural barriers, including reforms to eligibility criteria, political party practices and parliamentary working conditions.

Delegations from Namibia, Norway and Uruguay shared national experiences of youth empowerment. The delegate from Uruguay pointed to structural and cultural barriers limiting youth representation, and outlined efforts to expand access and participation. The Namibian delegate referred to initiatives aimed at promoting youth leadership, including dedicated platforms and training programmes. The delegate from Norway drew attention to the role of independent youth political organizations in fostering participation and creating pathways to parliamentary representation.

The segment then turned to parliamentary action to safeguard human rights, reflecting the IPU's priority theme for 2026. Delegations from Chad, Ghana and San Marino outlined national measures. The delegate from Chad referred to legislative reforms aimed at strengthening fundamental freedoms and addressing gender-based violence. The Ghanaian delegate reported on the adoption of an affirmative action law, the abolition of the death penalty and the establishment of a dedicated parliamentary human rights committee. The delegate from San Marino described legislative efforts to combat discrimination and enhance engagement with international human rights mechanisms, including treaty bodies.

The third part of the segment addressed parliamentary action to tackle climate change and promote living in harmony with nature. Delegations from Bhutan, South Africa and Spain, all winners of the 2025 edition of the World Future Policy Award, presented national initiatives. The delegate from Bhutan described its Biodiversity Act, aimed at strengthening conservation, protecting ecosystems and promoting sustainable development. The South African delegate outlined legislative measures to protect biodiversity and uphold the right to a healthy environment. The delegate from Spain reported on legislation granting legal personality to the Mar Menor Lagoon and its basin, in recognition of the rights of natural ecosystems.

Several other delegations took the floor to share further examples of parliamentary follow-up on IPU decisions:

- Algeria: Efforts to promote multilateral cooperation and align national legislation with international commitments, including to promote gender equality and youth empowerment, and to combat climate change.
- Canada: Initiatives to engage young people in parliamentary work, including through committee studies, internships, visits to Parliament, and the Senate's SENGage programme.
- Portugal: Establishment of a Youth Parliament Programme to promote civic engagement and education.
- Thailand: Initiatives to strengthen sustainable development policies and combat climate change, including through improved land use, the expansion of green energy and transportation, and green finance.
- Tunisia: Measures to advance environmental sustainability and strengthen related parliamentary diplomacy, including with regard to implementing the Paris Agreement.
- Ukraine: Initiatives to uphold international law, align national law with international standards and strengthen democratic resilience in the context of the war in the country.

7. Special segment to mark the 50th anniversary of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

The special segment on the 50th anniversary of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians highlighted the Committee's tangible impact on the lives and work of individual MPs, as well as the vital role of the IPU and parliamentary solidarity in upholding democratic values and the rule of law. Moderated by the IPU President, the segment featured a [video](#) presenting five success stories to illustrate five decades of impact. Contributions were made by the following panellists: Ms. N. Odsuren (Mongolia), the Committee's President, who provided recent examples of the Committee's work; Mr. M.R. Onanga Ndiaye (Speaker of the National Assembly of Gabon), who discussed how dialogue and diplomacy had helped to find a satisfactory solution to a case in his country; Ms. K. Fey (Germany), who presented the German Bundestag's *Parliamentarians Protect Parliamentarians* programme; and Ms. M.G.A. Odhiambo (Kenya), who emphasized the importance of global partnerships in supporting at-risk MPs, including through the ongoing cooperation between the Committee and Parliamentarians for Global Action. Delegations from Iraq, Senegal and Zambia shared their positive experiences of interacting with the Committee, which had led to cases in their countries being satisfactorily resolved.

8. Concluding sitting of the Assembly

At the concluding sitting on 19 April 2026, **Mr. F. Jitoko (Fiji)** and **Ms. B. Nghifikwa (Namibia)** introduced the Istanbul Declaration on *Nurturing hope, securing peace and ensuring justice for future generations* (see [page 43](#)). The Assembly unanimously endorsed the Istanbul Declaration.

Ms. F. Belhirsch (Netherlands), Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, presented the resolution *The role of parliaments in establishing robust post-conflict management mechanisms and restoring a just and lasting peace* (see [page 46](#)). The Assembly adopted the resolution, with opposition expressed by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation on the entire text, and a reservation expressed by China on the entire text.

Ms. A. Shakya (Nepal), member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, presented the resolution *Building a fair and sustainable global economy: The role of parliaments in combating protectionism, reducing tariffs and preventing corporate tax avoidance* (see [page 54](#)). The Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution.

The Assembly took note of the reports of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, presented by its Vice-President, **Ms. F. Ilimi Haddouche (Algeria)**, and of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, presented by its Vice-President, **Mr. F. Al-Nouiri (Libya)** (see [page 65](#)).

The Assembly took note of the motion adopted by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, *Advancing parliamentary action on artificial intelligence* (see [page 68](#)).

The Assembly approved the subject items for the resolutions to be drafted by the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, for adoption at the 154th Assembly, together with the co-Rapporteurs who would be working on the draft resolutions (see [page 39](#)).

The Assembly unanimously adopted an amendment to the Rules of the Assembly formalizing the 48-hour deadline for the submission of emergency item proposals before the vote.

Ms. M. Guerra Castillo (Mexico), rapporteur of the drafting committee, introduced the emergency item resolution, *The urgent need for concerted parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and support peacebuilding in the Middle East and other regions* (see [page 60](#)). The Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution.

Mr. D. Sillo (United Republic of Tanzania) invited delegates to the 153rd Assembly, which would take place in Arusha from 5 to 9 October 2026. A short video was played.

The **IPU President** led a special segment in tribute to outgoing IPU Secretary General Mr. M. Chungong. A short video was played with highlights of Mr. Chungong's 12-year tenure.

The representatives of the geopolitical groups took the floor to pay tribute to Mr. Chungong and reflect on the 152nd Assembly: **Mr. A. Bagbin (Ghana)**, President of the African Group, **Ms. M.d.C. Alva Prieto (Peru)**, on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, **Mr. M.A. Bouchouit (Algeria)** on behalf of the Arab Group, **Mr. L. Dorji (Bhutan)**, Chair of the Asia-Pacific Group, and **Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland)**, Chair of the Twelve Plus Group. They expressed their deep gratitude to Mr. Chungong, who had rewritten history as the first non-European and first African to head the IPU. They praised the many achievements of his tenure, his commitment to the values of the IPU, and the dedication, integrity, foresight and humility that he had brought to the role. They wished him a happy and well-deserved retirement. With regard to the Assembly, they expressed their renewed conviction that dialogue, cooperation and parliamentary diplomacy were essential pillars in addressing the challenges of the time. They agreed that the emergency item resolution in particular had demonstrated that solidarity and cooperation between the geopolitical groups could yield concrete outcomes, even in troubled times. They thanked the President, Government and Grand National Assembly of Türkiye for their capable and generous hosting of the Assembly, which had unquestionably been one of the biggest and most successful in the IPU's history. They further thanked the IPU Secretariat, the interpreters, and the staff of the conference centre. They expressed their congratulations to Ms. A. Filip on her election as Secretary General. They wished all delegations safe travels and looked forward to the 153rd Assembly in Arusha in October 2026.

Ms. O. Koulthoumi (Cameroon) took the floor to pay tribute to Mr. Chungong on behalf of his home country. **Ms. G. Magesa (young activist, special guest)** also took the floor to pay tribute.

Mr. M. Chungong, IPU Secretary General, said that his response to the kind tributes would be one of the hardest speeches of his professional career. He thanked the IPU membership for the trust they had placed in him and noted that his successes should not be considered personal to him but the collective successes of the IPU as a whole. He had served the IPU in accordance with the vision of its founding fathers and he was proud to have overseen a period in which the Organization had become more agile, more transparent and more relevant. He thanked his family, whose support had been steadfast throughout his mandate. He thanked the Secretariat staff and his home country. He congratulated Ms. Filip on her election as his successor and expressed his confidence that it would be a smooth transition. He thanked the IPU President, with whom he had worked in close tandem over the past two and a half years.

In her concluding remarks, **Dr. T. Ackson, IPU President**, said that the record attendance at the 152nd Assembly had once again demonstrated the immense potential of parliamentary diplomacy. It had been a historic Assembly, with the adoption of an inclusive emergency item resolution, the approval of a new Strategy to guide the IPU's work for the coming five years, and the election of the IPU's first woman Secretary General. Dialogue and democracy were the tools to allow equals to disagree without discord, and societies to balance the interests of the many with those of the few. Multilateralism was under threat but it always had been: each time the pendulum had swung towards destruction, the leaders of the world had found the will to come back to the table. Intergenerational solidarity was a way to breathe hope into younger generations and to protect their dreams and aspirations. She encouraged those present to return to their countries with the message that gatherings like the Assembly were convened not out of habit or obligation but out of a conviction that dialogue was stronger than conflict and cooperation wiser than competition. She thanked the Host Parliament and all those present for their engagement, support and commitment to the people they served.

In his concluding remarks, **Mr. N. Kurtulmuş, President of the 152nd Assembly and President of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye**, expressed his gratitude to all those who had made the Assembly a success: his colleagues in the Grand National Assembly, the IPU Secretariat, the interpreters, the conference centre staff, transportation providers, security services and those overseeing protocol. He expressed his best wishes to both Mr. Chungong as the outgoing Secretary General and Ms. Filip as Secretary General-elect. He expressed the view that every discussion during the Assembly, on a wide range of issues, had been important, especially given the highly turbulent period the world was facing, with tensions and conflicts affecting everyone and resulting in poverty, hunger and the displacement of people. International gatherings such as the Assembly must acknowledge that it was not a case of business as usual, but a time to set the world on a new trajectory, based on dignity and respect. He wished all delegates a safe journey home.

Mr. N. Kurtulmuş declared the 152nd IPU Assembly closed and the IPU anthem and national anthem of Türkiye were played.

217th session of the Governing Council

1. Election of the President of the 152nd Assembly

On the proposal of Ms. T. Narbaeva (Uzbekistan), seconded by Ms. S. Gafarova (Azerbaijan), the Governing Council elected Mr. N. Kurtulmuş, President of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, as the President of the 152nd Assembly.

2. Election of the IPU Secretary General

At its sitting on 19 April 2026, the Governing Council heard a brief presentation by the four candidates for the post of Secretary General of the IPU proposed by the Executive Committee:

Ms. Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou (Greece), Ms. Anda Filip (Romania), Ms. Fatou Dieng Thiam (Senegal) and Ms. Cecilia Widegren (Sweden).

A vote was then held by secret ballot, with the following results:

Total number of ballots: 321
Blank or void ballots: 2
Valid ballots: 319
Absolute majority: 160

Votes obtained:

Ms. Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou: 47

Ms. Anda Filip: 229

Ms. Fatou Dieng Thiam: 14

Ms. Cecilia Widegren: 29

Ms. Anda Filip was accordingly elected Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for a period of four years (1 July 2026 to 30 June 2030).

3. Report of the IPU President

The Governing Council took note of the President's report on her activities since the last session of the Governing Council, covering representation of the IPU at regional and international high-level meetings, and her chairing of IPU and partner meetings in accordance with the IPU Strategy.

4. Impact Report 2025

The Secretary General presented the Impact Report 2025, covering the IPU's activities in the fourth year of implementation of its Strategy for 2022-2026. He highlighted numerous areas of impact across the Organization's five strategic objectives and the 2025 priority theme of gender equality.

In 2025, the IPU had organized a total of 80 regional and global events (held in person or online) to mobilize and leverage parliamentary action and facilitate learning, including two Assemblies. 40 national support activities or other national events were organized in some 20 countries.

The Secretary General presented a review of activities carried out under the IPU's five Strategic Objectives. Special attention was paid to: the work carried out to defend the rights of MPs worldwide as well as to combat violence against MPs, including women MPs; support provided to parliaments in transition; efforts towards achieving universal membership, including the affiliation of two new Member Parliaments; initiatives relating to parliamentary diplomacy and dialogue; and the organization of major multilateral high-level gatherings, such as the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament. Promotion of gender equality and women's rights remained high on the agenda in view of the current slowing of progress and overall backlash. Work on digital transformation, the use of artificial intelligence in parliament and the governance of artificial intelligence were also enhanced throughout the year.

Member Parliaments expressed their appreciation to the Secretary General and his team for the work accomplished, and in particular for providing support to parliaments that are faced with challenging political environments.

The Governing Council took note of the Impact Report 2025.

5. Financial results for 2025 and financial situation of the IPU

The Governing Council examined the Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements for 2025.

The financial results for 2025 were introduced by Mr. M. Dick (Australia), the President of the Sub-Committee on Finance. He reported that the 2025 accounts showed a sound financial situation, as confirmed by the External Auditors, and took note that expenditures had been within budget for each of the Strategic Objectives. The income from the IPU's investments had been positive thanks to the favourable market conditions in 2025. The IPU Working Capital Fund stood at 88% of its target level and the key financial indicators for the IPU had been confirmed by the External Auditors to be sound. He thanked Indonesia for the excellent service provided by its Audit Board as the IPU's current External Auditors.

Mr. Dick noted some improvement in the payment of Member Parliament contributions and arrears since this issue had been raised in the 2024 audit. He encouraged the governing bodies to keep their focus on this matter as it was important to keep arrears to a minimum.

The Executive Committee had also reviewed the financial situation of the IPU at 31 January 2026. The Organization's budget performance was on track for the start of the year so far and the IPU was in good financial health. Mr. Dick welcomed the strong results in mobilizing voluntary funds that comprise 25% of the IPU's budget, and recognized the broad range of Member Parliaments and partners that have provided financial support.

The Internal Auditors' report was presented by Mr. M. Nadir (Guyana) and Mr. L. Bugli (San Marino). They conveyed their opinion that the financial statements presented by the IPU accurately reflected its financial position as of 31 December 2025 and its financial performance throughout 2025, and complied fully with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). The External Auditor had expressed a positive opinion on the Financial Statements with no reservations, confirming that all previous audit recommendations had now been implemented. The net assets of the IPU had decreased due to an operating deficit of CHF 0.3 million, consisting primarily of the write-off of arrears of three Member Parliaments and two Associate Members, the increase of the provision for future potential credit losses from assessed contributions, and the adoption of a new IPSAS standard relating to leases.

Two recommendations had been made by the External Auditors, proposing a comprehensive review of the IPU's Statement of Investment Policy Goals and Guidelines to assess whether the investment objectives, investment guidelines, and overall risk parameters remain appropriate and achievable given the IPU's current financial position and operating environment. The IPU should also explore alternative banking solutions for the building reserve funds and update the policy on depreciation charged to the reserve. The Secretary General had welcomed these recommendations and indicated that the Secretariat would implement them in 2026.

Mr. Nadir and Mr. Bugli concluded that the financial management of the IPU had a strong foundation based on internal controls, and that its financial position was healthy. They recommended that the Governing Council approve the Secretary General's financial administration of the IPU and the financial results for 2025.

The Governing Council approved the Secretary General's financial administration of the IPU and the financial results for 2025.

6. IPU Strategy for 2027-2031

The Governing Council adopted the IPU Strategy for 2027-2031, which had previously been endorsed by the IPU Executive Committee.

The new IPU Strategy is the result of a broad consultation, with more than 1,000 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, partners and other stakeholders from 111 countries interviewed and surveyed.

The IPU Strategy for 2027-2031 ultimately aims to support democratic parliaments working together for the people through three interconnected objectives:

- Building strong and inclusive parliaments
- Facilitating parliamentary diplomacy, dialogue and joint action
- Strengthening the IPU as a responsive and accountable organization

It emphasizes deeper Member engagement within the parliamentary ecosystem and leveraging of digital and communication tools, including responsible use of artificial intelligence.

The Strategy is underpinned by IPU policy work on peace and security, democracy, human rights, sustainable development, climate action, gender equality, and youth participation.

7. Questions relating to IPU membership and observer status

The Governing Council took note that no new requests for membership had been received and welcomed the ongoing efforts to encourage new Members to join.

The Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to suspend the membership rights of El Salvador, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Vanuatu. The President explained the Executive Committee's view that this suspension was intended to avoid those Member Parliaments accumulating unmanageable levels of arrears but would not impact the potential support the IPU would provide to them.

The Governing Council agreed with the Executive Committee's proposal to defer its decision on potential suspension of the membership rights of Guinea, Liberia, Marshall Islands and Tuvalu until the 153rd Assembly in Arusha.

The Governing Council was apprised of the situation of certain parliaments in the following categories:

Parliaments that are not functioning

Afghanistan

In accordance with the decision of the governing bodies, the IPU continues to engage with the Parliament in place prior to the Taliban taking power in 2021, allowing it to participate in the IPU's activities as a non-voting observer.

The Governing Council decided to maintain that position and recommended continuing to engage with that Parliament in the hope that in the near future the situation would normalize and the IPU could welcome a fully fledged parliament that is representative of the will of the people.

Bangladesh

This country has been functioning in transitional mode since the sociopolitical turmoil that overthrew the administration of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The IPU continues to engage with the transitional authorities on different areas, including human rights, with a view to facilitating a speedy return to constitutional order. The situation was evolving in a positive direction, with the organization of elections on 12 February 2026, following which governing structures were put in place.

The Governing Council took note of this positive development, welcomed the newly elected Parliament, which had sent a delegation to the 152nd Assembly, and recommended engagement with this Parliament made up of many first-time parliamentarians, to assist them in effectively performing their mission.

Eritrea

The IPU's efforts to resume contact with the authorities and gather information about the situation in the country remain unsuccessful. There are no signs that elections will take place any time soon. However, the IPU continues to monitor the situation and pursue its work on defending the human rights of some parliamentarians who have disappeared in Eritrea.

The Governing Council took note of this lack of progress, recommended that the IPU continue to monitor the situation and expressed its hope that there would soon be entry points for the IPU to engage constructively.

Haiti

Haiti has had its membership rights in the IPU suspended due to non-payment of its arrears and there is no longer a functioning parliament in the country. Following unsuccessful efforts in recent months to put in place a parliament, more recent developments give cause for hope that elections will be held soon.

The Governing Council took note of these developments and endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to continue to monitor this situation, and offer assistance if required, to ensure that elections would take place as soon as possible.

Kuwait

Following the dissolution of the Parliament in 2023, the Emir of Kuwait assumed legislative powers for a maximum of four years, in accordance with the country's Constitution. The IPU continues to engage with the country, and the administration of the parliament is functioning, allowing it to continue making its financial contribution to the IPU.

The Governing Council maintained its former position, for the IPU to continue to monitor the situation and explore any possibility of assistance to be provided for the speedy return of a fully fledged parliament in Kuwait.

Myanmar

Following the military takeover in 2021, the IPU decided to recognize the Parliament that was due to have been sworn in at that time and which reconstituted itself as the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH). Since then, the IPU has considered the CRPH as its interlocutor, allowing it to participate in the IPU's activities as a non-voting observer. The recent elections in the country have not been recognized as valid outside the country.

The Governing Council took note of this development and approved the recommendation of the Executive Committee to maintain the initial decision that the IPU continue to engage with the CRPH until such a time as more legitimate elections can take place and the will of the people of Myanmar can be fully represented by their institutions.

Sudan

Sudan has not had a functioning parliament since it was dissolved as a result of a coup d'état. Since then, many attempts to hold elections have been unsuccessful. The eruption of civil war in 2023 undermined any prospect of elections taking place any time soon. This prevailing situation has prevented the IPU from implementing the recommendation of the Governing Council to explore possibilities to contribute to restoring peace and constitutional order in the country.

The Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to continue to monitor the situation in Sudan.

Syrian Arab Republic

Progress has been noted with regard to the establishment of a legislative institution in the Syrian Arab Republic after the fall of the regime of Bashar al-Assad. The post-conflict situation in the country makes it difficult to identify interlocutors with whom to follow up on the recommendation of the governing bodies to engage with the authorities to support efforts to restore peace.

The Governing Council took note of the situation and endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to welcome developments since the departure of Bashar al-Assad, including the tentative establishment of a new parliament, and to continue to advocate for the IPU's support to the new authorities in the Syrian Arab Republic with a view to re-establishing constitutional rule.

Transitional parliaments

Gabon

The transitional process following the coup d'état in August 2023 has proceeded successfully, with the drafting of a new constitution, which the IPU supported in the form of technical workshops, as part of the recommendation by the governing bodies to provide assistance to transitional parliaments in West and Central Africa. The organization of elections, including parliamentary elections, successfully concluded the transitional period in Gabon as of December 2025. In light of the smooth conduct of this transition, the Parliament hosted a regional conference of the Speakers of Parliaments of the countries in transition in those regions, during which good practices were shared. In light of this successful event, the newly elected Parliament will host a follow-up conference in May 2026.

Welcoming these developments, the Governing Council approved the recommendation of the Executive Committee to congratulate Gabon on its graduation from the category of transitional parliaments that are under review by the IPU, and recommended that the IPU continue its support so as to enable the newly elected Parliament to fulfil its mission.

Chad

Chad is in a similar situation to Gabon, as it has also successfully concluded its transitional process.

The Governing Council approved the recommendation of the Executive Committee to reiterate its congratulations to Chad and wish its new Parliament well.

Burkina Faso

The transitional parliament in Burkina Faso is functioning well, undertaking significant legislative work as well as increasing contact with constituents. The Governing Council took note of the clarification by the delegation of Burkina Faso both on the transfer of the management of elections to the Ministry of Domestic Affairs, and on the decrease in the number of internally displaced persons, some of whom had returned to their places of residence after being liberated from terrorists.

The Governing Council approved the recommendation of the Executive Committee to continue to engage with the authorities of Burkina Faso, while expressing the hope that the transitional process could be hastened so that it would come to a successful conclusion as had been the case in Gabon and Chad.

Guinea

As for other African transitional parliaments, the IPU was very active in providing technical assistance to refine the organic laws that will govern post-transition Guinea. These organic laws are designed to facilitate the implementation of the new Constitution adopted in September 2025 by referendum. Parliamentary elections are planned to take place in May 2026 for the National Assembly, and later for the upper house.

The Governing Council approved the recommendation of the Executive Committee to take note of these positive developments and to continue to engage with the Guinean authorities with a view to restoring full democracy and constitutional rule.

Guinea-Bissau

The situation in Guinea-Bissau is more complex. Former President Embalo wrested legislative power from the parliament in place in 2022, and the IPU governing bodies, out of solidarity, recognized the then Speaker of Parliament, Mr. Simoes Pereira, as the IPU's interlocutor. A coup d'état had halted the recent contentious election from which the opposition was excluded. The transitional legislative body that was then established was not recognized by either the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) or by the African Union. Mr. Pereira has been released from prison but is under house arrest. A delegation of the recognized parliament was received by the Executive Committee for a discussion during its 299th session in Istanbul. From that exchange it appeared that the opposition was ready to engage in constructive dialogue with the junta in Bissau with a view to finding a solution to the current stalemate in the country.

The Governing Council approved the recommendation of the Executive Committee to take note of these developments, to continue to engage with the authorities, and to look at how to partner with other stakeholders like ECOWAS and the African Union in order to promote the dialogue that is sorely needed for the restoration of normality in the country.

Mali

Mali is in a similar situation to Burkina Faso and is also affected by terrorist attacks, dealing with which is the main priority of the transitional authorities in light of their damaging implication on the population and territorial integrity of the country.

The Governing Council approved the recommendation of the Executive Committee to take note of this situation and of efforts in place to fight against terrorism, and to continue to monitor the situation and engage with the authorities with a view to a speedy return to constitutional order.

Niger

Niger was readmitted to the IPU following the establishment of the *Conseil Consultatif de la Refondation* (CCR), which the governing bodies recommended to support in line with other assistance provided to transitional parliaments. In that view, a national workshop took place on 3 and 4 December 2025 in Niamey. A process to establish a roadmap for continued support to the transitional parliament is under way.

The Governing Council took note of these developments and endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to continue to monitor the situation and increase the IPU's assistance to the CCR.

South Sudan

A functioning transitional parliament, together with other transitional mechanisms, has been in place since 2016. Elections have repeatedly been postponed.

The Governing Council took note of this situation and approved the recommendation of the Executive Committee not only to continue to monitor the situation, but also to express the strong wish that elections for a new parliament would take place as soon as possible.

Countries where the political situation is impacting the functioning of parliament

Madagascar

A functioning National Assembly is still in place despite the Generation Z uprisings that rocked the country and led to the downfall of former President Andry Rajoelina.

The Governing Council approved the recommendation of the Executive Committee to continue to monitor the situation.

Nepal

The sociopolitical turmoil that occurred in late 2025 resulted in the dissolution of parliament. The situation has evolved since then, as new elections were held and a fully-fledged parliament is now in place, albeit with the political environment remaining fragile.

The Governing Council took note of this positive development and approved the recommendation of the Executive Committee for the IPU to engage with the new authorities with a view to supporting the capacities of the Parliament now in place.

Palestine

Elections have not been held in Palestine for many years due to the ongoing conflict in the region. Elections to the Palestinian National Council, the umbrella legislative body of Palestinians in the occupied territories, and also in the diaspora, which exercises membership for Palestine in the IPU, are scheduled to take place in November 2026.

The Governing Council took note of this positive development and endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to continue to monitor the situation, and to express the hope that the elections would take place as planned.

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

The situation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela with respect to the IPU remains complex, as it includes both a political aspect (non-recognition of the most recently elected National Assembly) and a financial aspect (11 years of arrears in assessed contributions). Following elections in May 2025, a new Parliament is now in place. While consultations are still ongoing as to whether the IPU should recognize that Parliament or not, this is an evolution of the situation of several years ago when the National Assembly elected in 2015 and the National Assembly elected in 2020 were disputing each other's legitimacy.

The Governing Council approved the recommendation of the Executive Committee to continue to monitor the situation, which the Executive Committee will examine further during its next meeting in June 2026 in Geneva.

Yemen

Yemen is currently represented at the IPU by a parliament not functioning on Yemeni territory. Elections are not taking place because the country is in the throes of a war.

The Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to continue to monitor the situation.

8. IPU priority theme for 2026

The Governing Council heard a report on activities being carried out related to the 2026 priority theme on respect for human rights.

Three important milestones in 2026 were highlighted: the 50th anniversary of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Human Rights Council, and the 60th anniversary of the two International Covenants on human rights. Against this backdrop, the IPU had designated human rights as its priority theme for 2026, with the aim of strengthening parliamentary engagement, reinforcing accountability, and supporting parliaments in translating international commitments into concrete action.

The IPU Secretary General presented the IPU campaign *Bring human rights into focus*, which was being launched at the 152nd Assembly. The campaign seeks to mobilize parliaments, promote institutional reforms, strengthen solidarity with parliamentarians at risk, and reinforce parliamentary leadership in defending human rights worldwide. Throughout the year, a range of activities will support this objective. These include thematic exchanges among parliamentarians on key human rights challenges, national "Human Rights in Parliament" audit weeks, and a global parliamentary conference in Geneva that will culminate in a call to action with practical steps for parliaments.

Particular attention will be given to the protection of parliamentarians at risk, building on the unique work of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and marking its 50 years of action in defence of elected representatives worldwide.

A calendar of events related to the human rights priority year was disseminated to participants and Member Parliaments were encouraged to actively take part in the planned activities.

9. Future inter-parliamentary meetings

The Governing Council approved the list of future meetings as recommended by the Executive Committee. The Governing Council took note that the Geneva International Conference Centre would be closed for renovations in 2028, and therefore encouraged Member Parliaments to consider hosting an IPU Assembly during that period.

Members of the Governing Council were invited to attend the Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians, which will take place from 2 to 4 June 2026 in Belgrade, Serbia.

10. Reports of committees and other bodies

The Governing Council approved the recommendations contained in the reports on the activities of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (CHRP), the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, the Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, the Committee on Middle East Questions, the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, the Gender Partnership Group, the Committee on Health, the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG), the Group of Facilitators for Cyprus, and the Working Group on Science and Technology. The Council endorsed the new appointments to those bodies (see [page 37](#)).

299th session of the Executive Committee

1. Selection of the new Secretary General

The selection process for the new IPU Secretary General, to replace Mr. M. Chungong, whose third and final term was due to expire on 30 June 2026, was launched by the Executive Committee in March 2025, in accordance with the *Procedure for selecting the Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union* set out in an annex to the IPU Statutes and Rules. A vacancy notice was published on 1 April 2025 with a deadline for applications of 1 August 2025. Subsequently, guided by the Registrar for the process, the IPU President and Vice-President drew up an initial shortlist, reducing the 58 applicants down to 20. In December 2025, the Executive Committee was invited to further reduce that shortlist down to five candidates through a vote by email correspondence.

At a special sitting in Istanbul on 12 April 2026, the Executive Committee was informed of the results of an expert assessment of those five candidates, which included background checks and validation of their credentials and of their proficiency in the IPU's two official languages. The Executive Committee was able to confirm that confidentiality, transparency with regard to the process, and equal opportunities for all candidates were maintained throughout the process. The Executive Committee then held interviews with the five candidates, namely Ms. Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou (Greece), Ms. Anda Filip (Romania), Mr. Sangsoo Jun (Republic of Korea), Ms. Fatou Dieng Thiam (Senegal) and Ms. Cecilia Widegren (Sweden).

Regrettably, Mr. Jun experienced a health emergency during his interview. The Executive Committee immediately issued a statement recognizing the quality and calibre of Mr. Jun's candidature and his interest, suitability and commitment to the values of the IPU. The Executive Committee wished him a speedy recovery and all the very best with his future endeavours.

Subsequently, the Executive Committee decided to put forward four candidates to the Governing Council for the election process in the morning of 19 April 2026, namely Ms. Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou (Greece), Ms. Anda Filip (Romania), Ms. Fatou Dieng Thiam (Senegal) and Ms. Cecilia Widegren (Sweden).

2. Sub-Committee on Finance

The President of the Sub-Committee on Finance, Mr. M. Dick (Australia), informed the Executive Committee of the work of the Sub-Committee on Finance, which had met to discuss financial questions ahead of the session of the Executive Committee.

The Sub-Committee had examined the consolidated financial statements for 2025 and the External Auditor's report. The audit of the IPU's accounts for 2025 had been carried out once again by the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia. Mr. Dick had met with the External Auditor, along with the IPU Secretary General, and received a formal presentation of the audit results. Two new audit recommendations had been issued and the previous recommendations had been implemented, with new developments on the IPU's financial reporting software being undertaken by the Secretariat.

The Sub-Committee had also reviewed the financial situation of the IPU at 31 January 2026 and noted that the arrears of Member Parliaments' contributions remained an area that needed the attention and support of all Member Parliaments. It expressed appreciation that most Member Parliaments were paying their contributions in full and on time, even if the list of Members with arrears remained long.

The Executive Committee received and reviewed the Secretary General's usual update on the mobilization of voluntary funding. Funding was confirmed from a range of sources including the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, China, the United Arab Emirates and the European Commission, among other donors. The situation of voluntary funding was promising thanks to successful fundraising efforts by the Secretary General and his team.

Mr. Dick thanked the IPU Secretary General and his team for their work.

3. Questions relating to IPU membership and observer status

The Executive Committee took note that no new requests for membership had been received and expressed its hope that initiatives for new Members to join, especially in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, would bear fruit soon. The Executive Committee seized the opportunity to thank Australia, Fiji and New Zealand for their efforts in favour of promoting universal membership of the IPU.

In light of the update provided by the Secretariat that nine Member Parliaments had accumulated more than three years of arrears, and in conformity with the recommendation of the External Auditors to take steps to ensure that the level of arrears did not become unmanageable, the Executive Committee decided to recommend suspension of the membership rights of El Salvador, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Vanuatu. El Salvador had accumulated four years of arrears and had recently confirmed its unwillingness to continue to pay into the IPU budget. The Executive Committee requested the IPU to continue supporting these parliaments despite the suspension of their membership rights.

The Executive Committee discussed concrete measures of support to parliaments of small island developing States (SIDS) including financial support for participation (via the Parliamentary Solidarity Fund – PSF, which should not be used to fund contributions); encouraging participation in IPU bodies; encouraging submission of agenda items; and holding informal meetings at Assemblies.

In the same vein, the Executive Committee encouraged the Secretariat to seek good practices for SIDS engagement from organizations like the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).

Taking into account the update provided by Mr. M. Dick (Australia), the Executive Committee decided to defer its decision on potential suspension of the membership rights of Marshall Islands and Tuvalu under Article 5.3 until the 153rd Assembly in Arusha. Both of these have accumulated five years in arrears and their voting rights are suspended under Article 5.2.

The Executive Committee also deferred decisions on the possible suspension of the rights of Guinea and Liberia under Article 5.3 until the 153rd Assembly in Arusha, pending further consultations with these Members.

Considering the complex case of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which has accumulated arrears over some 11 years, the Executive Committee decided to revisit the full situation of this country, considering both its political situation and arrears status together, at its next meeting in June 2026 in Geneva.

The Executive Committee commended the Secretariat's efforts to keep in contact with non-active Member Parliaments and support their participation in the IPU's activities. Encouraging such initiatives, the Executive Committee pleaded in favour of Member Parliaments' assistance to keep the IPU's global membership more active and dynamic.

In the context of its examination of the situation of certain parliaments, the Executive Committee held a hearing with Ms. R. Monteiro, the Chief of Staff of Speaker Domingos Simões Pereira of the People's National Assembly of Guinea-Bissau. Ms. Monteiro informed the Executive Committee that Speaker Pereira was currently under house arrest, with growing concerns for his physical and mental health. She described the critical political and human rights situation in her country, including reports of killings, disappearances, media restrictions, targeting of political opponents, intimidation and recurring assassination threats.

She called for the IPU's support in facilitating dialogue with the military authorities and encouraging regional stakeholders such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to implement their decisions and protect political actors in the country. The Executive Committee took note of this testimony, which it believed added nuance to its understanding of the situation and reinforced the need for more robust and constructive engagement.

4. IPU initiatives in the area of parliamentary diplomacy

The President of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (CHRP), Ms. N. Odsuren (Mongolia) briefed the Executive Committee on case duration and overall caseload. The Executive Committee learned that most cases (60%) are under five years old, covering 401 members of parliament across 27 countries. A further 37% are between 5 and 20 years old, with just a small number (3%) having been on the Committee's books for over 20 years. 96% of the cases closed in 2025 were resolved successfully due to positive and constructive cooperation from national authorities.

The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians appealed for the support of the parliamentary community in finding satisfactory resolutions to other cases. The Executive Committee commended the Committee's leadership, perseverance on long-standing cases, and the value of accurate, timely reporting and of highlighting success stories. While echoing the request for support to close cases, the Executive Committee recommended balancing public pressure with discreet diplomacy to avoid jeopardizing outcomes for incarcerated or threatened individuals.

The Executive Committee also had the opportunity to hear an update on the activities of the IPU Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine chaired by Mr. A. Al Nuaimi (United Arab Emirates). Mr. Al Nuaimi underlined the war's global impact beyond Europe, including on food security, and its wider destabilization dynamics (hate, terrorism, rule-of-law erosion, and State fragility – especially in Africa). The Task Force has focused on achievable humanitarian "quick wins" notably involving Ukrainian children. He further stressed that both parties in the conflict were receptive to engagement. The Executive Committee voiced support for the Task Force, recognized its slow but real progress, and encouraged its continued work – especially on the issue of displaced children.

The spokesperson of the Group of Facilitators on Cyprus, Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland), reported a difficult context given the long-running division on the island since 1974. Despite occasional agreement between the parties on basic but important confidence-building topics, implementation on the ground had not progressed. The facilitators, currently from Armenia, Portugal and Switzerland, would hold a meeting during the 152nd Assembly to generate new ideas and impulses and to maintain momentum for further structured dialogue. The Executive Committee commended the Group's efforts and encouraged the facilitators to keep pushing and not give up.

The Executive Committee took note of the briefing of the Secretary General on the work of the Committee on Middle East Questions, as well as on additional parliamentary initiatives including:

- Armenia-Azerbaijan: where the IPU has provided its good offices for Speaker-to-Speaker engagement. The next bilateral session had been agreed to take place in Istanbul during the 152nd Assembly.
- On the Korean peninsula, a potential opening for the Secretary General to visit the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was being explored, although it might not be possible before his retirement.
- In the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, the earlier positive momentum had stalled due to recent negative developments.

The Executive Committee commended the efforts of the Secretary General to support parliamentary initiatives to restore peace in these regions.

5. IPU Strategy for 2027-2031

The Executive Committee received an update on the development of the IPU's forthcoming Strategy for 2027-2031, alongside a review of the current Strategy for 2022-2026. The lead consultant for the review presented key findings from the assessment, which included both qualitative and quantitative data from a record number of survey respondents and focus groups. These consultations involved Member Parliaments, partners, donors, civil society, stakeholders, and Secretariat staff, with a greatly expanded respondent profile compared to prior processes.

The Executive Committee took note of the respondents' feedback, including a desire for more IPU activities – events, capacity building, monitoring and evaluation, greater inclusion; increased engagement via online and social media tools; as well as improvements to the IPU's outreach and public visibility.

The Executive Committee commended the thoroughness of the research and the consultative process, while insisting that the final Strategy must be agile and flexible.

Expressing its appreciation of the final outcome of this process, the Executive Committee endorsed the IPU Strategy for 2027-2031 and decided to recommend it for adoption by the Governing Council.

6. IPU Sustainability Policy

The Executive Committee had already had the opportunity to discuss this proposed policy when it met just prior to the 151st IPU Assembly in October 2025. This document is part of the IPU's initiatives in order to meet the commitment in its Strategy to sustainable development. It is also meant to respond to a key item of Member Parliaments' feedback, according to which climate action was determined as the IPU's top priority among its four policy goals. Consequently, the integration of sustainability considerations into all IPU activities is inseparably linked to their successful implementation.

The Executive Committee unanimously welcomed the Secretary General and his team's effort to draft this important document, the provisions of which will be improved as it is implemented. In this light, the Executive Committee recommended the IPU Sustainability Policy for adoption by the Governing Council.

7. Revised Rules for the Committee on Middle East Questions

The Executive Committee was apprised of proposed amendments to the Rules of this Committee. This reform stemmed from the IPU's 2025 resolution on a two-State solution in Palestine.

The amendments aimed to strengthen the existing Committee so as to make it more effective, representative and action oriented with a core mandate focused on the Israel–Palestine situation and a secondary focus on other Middle East issues. The key proposed changes to the Committee included a membership restructuring to ensure geopolitical balance – two members per geopolitical group – alongside ex officio members from Israel and Palestine and representatives from the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians.

8. Opportunities to improve the emergency item process at IPU Assemblies

The Executive Committee has made this issue a priority, particularly in light of the failure of the membership at recent Assemblies to find consensus around an emergency item. The core problems identified included failure to reach the required two-thirds majority; increasing polarization among Member Parliaments making consensus harder; and the proposal of topics often not aligned with the definition of "a recent major situation of international concern on which urgent action by the international community is required" as set out in Rule 11.2(a) of the Assembly. Against this backdrop, the Executive Committee received a document prepared by the Secretary General and his team which contained an overview of the current situation and possible ways forward.

The Executive Committee took note of some improvements already introduced, including the extra 24 hours before the vote to allow the merging of proposals; the production of guidelines for submissions to improve quality and relevance; the stronger role for the Assembly Steering Committee in reviewing proposals; and efforts to improve communication between the geopolitical groups.

While there was a strong consensus among the members of the Executive Committee regarding the relevance of the emergency item – as a valuable mechanism at the disposal of the IPU which should be retained, the Executive Committee pleaded in favour of the necessary reform to make this mechanism fit for purpose. This included formalizing the 48-hour deadline for submitting proposals (which was subsequently adopted as an amendment to the Rules of the Assembly at the 152nd Assembly); keeping the two-thirds majority which ensures broad support; improving the consensus-building mechanism and promoting greater inclusion of smaller countries' voices, as well as greater involvement of the Executive Committee, while simultaneously strengthening the Steering Committee's role. The Executive Committee will continue its discussion on the matter, including with regard to the introduction of a second emergency item to reduce competition, better reflect multiple priorities and increase inclusivity.

9. Preparation for the 152nd Assembly

In the run-up to the 152nd Assembly, the Executive Committee also followed carefully the developments in the geopolitical situation in the Middle East. In anticipation of any impact the conflict might have on the organization of the Assembly, it studied a series of possible contingency plans to ensure that the Assembly and Governing Council could take the necessary governance decisions for the functioning of the IPU. These contingency plans included hybrid and remote participation or even postponement of the Assembly.

However, with in-person participation in the Assembly at a record high, the Executive Committee ultimately decided that it would not be necessary to resort to these contingency plans. The Executive Committee expressed its solidarity with the Middle East countries affected by the conflict.

10. IPU honorary Presidents and Secretaries General

With a view to showing institutional richness and potentially drawing on their experience, the Executive Committee expressed its support for the initiative that former IPU Presidents and former Secretaries General be invited, upon their availability, to attend IPU events. However, the costs of such participation should not automatically fall to the IPU unless tied to a specific role at the event in question.

11. IPU Secretariat

The Executive Committee was informed of staff movements and promotions.

12. Cremer-Passy Prize 2026

The Executive Committee was informed that nominations for the 2026 edition of the Cremer-Passy Prize, named after the IPU's two founders, would be declared open at the 152nd Assembly.

Nominations should be parliamentarians with an outstanding record in defending human rights in line with the IPU's theme of the year and the launch of its new *Bring human rights into focus* campaign.

Nominations are submitted through the IPU geopolitical groups, which should put forward two candidates – one woman and one man – by 30 June 2026.

Subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council

1. Forum and Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

The 41st session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was held on 15 April 2026 with 307 participants in attendance, including 156 parliamentarians (92 women and 64 men) from 62 countries. Ms. F. Aksal, member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, chaired the session.

As a contribution to the work of the Assembly, participants examined, from a gender perspective, the draft resolution before 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 the draft resolution before 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 avoidance*. The Forum proposed amendments from a gender perspective, all of which were incorporated into the texts of the draft resolutions.

The Forum held a discussion on the escalation of conflicts and their disproportionate impact on women and girls. During this discussion, participants expressed their solidarity with women and girls in war, and examined the gap between existing international commitments and realities on the ground. They called for stronger prevention, protection and accountability measures, and agreed that women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace processes was a condition for sustainable peace.

The Bureau of Women Parliamentarians met on 15 and 18 April 2026. The members discussed disinformation, misinformation and online violence against women in politics. They called for the IPU to maintain its focus on this issue, given its significant impact on women's political engagement and its wider implications for democracy.

2. Forum and Bureau of Young Parliamentarians

The Forum of Young Parliamentarians was held on 16 April 2026. It brought together 61 parliamentarians (34% women) from 41 countries. It was presided over by Ms. N. Abu Ghosh (Jordan), President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Abu Ghosh underscored that young people disproportionately bore the burden of ongoing conflicts and emphasized the role of young MPs as a bridge across generations for peace.

Members examined recent developments in youth participation, drawing on new IPU data showing stagnation in youth representation and a decline in young women's participation. They shared country experiences and called for measures such as lowering the age of eligibility, supporting youth in political parties, introducing term limits and eliminating violence in politics.

Members contributed youth perspectives to the work of the 152nd Assembly, calling for stronger youth inclusion in peacebuilding and governance. On the draft resolution before the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, young MPs emphasized the need to recognize young people as key actors in peace processes. On the draft resolution before the Committee on Sustainable Development, young MPs called for fairer economic systems and greater assessment of the impact of trade policies on youth.

In preparation for the 153rd IPU Assembly, the Forum appointed Mr. A. Koko Abdelgader (Chad) as youth rapporteur for the draft resolution on *Inclusive social development for all: Parliamentary strategies to promote the rights and empowerment of people living with disabilities*. Young MPs highlighted barriers faced by young people with disabilities and the need for evidence-based policies, and called for the participation of young people with disabilities in decision-making.

The Forum also held a hearing with candidates for the post of IPU Secretary General, and paid tribute to the outgoing Secretary General.

Earlier in the day, the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians reviewed youth participation at the 152nd Assembly and urged parliaments to ensure greater participation of young MPs in delegations. The Bureau also met with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and expressed common solidarity on protecting the rights and dignity of refugees.

3. Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

The Committee held its 180th session from 14 to 18 April 2026, chaired by its President, Ms. N. Odsuren (Mongolia).

During the session, the Committee examined the situation of 217 parliamentarians (35% of whom are women) in 21 countries. New cases concerning two parliamentarians were declared admissible, namely one MP in Ecuador and one MP in Mongolia. One case, involving one MP in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was declared inadmissible. The Committee also held seven hearings with national delegations and complainants.

The Committee submitted decisions to the Governing Council for adoption on the situation of 204 parliamentarians in the following countries: Algeria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Gabon, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Palestine/Israel, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine and Zambia.

[See the document detailing the decisions adopted.](#)

4. Committee on Middle East Questions

Since the last Assembly, held in October 2025, the Committee on Middle East Questions met once informally (on 4 February 2026) and once formally, in two sittings (on 16 and 18 April 2026).

The purpose of the informal meeting was to discuss the Executive Committee's review of the proposed amendments to the Rules of the Committee on Middle East Questions and to agree on the submission of the amended Rules to the Governing Council for adoption on 19 April 2026.

At its formal sittings, the Committee held discussions on the humanitarian impact of attacks on civilian populations and infrastructure in the region. Members underlined that resolving the Israeli–Palestinian conflict and achieving a two-State solution were essential to regional stability. Members recalled United Nations Security Council resolution 2803 (2025) and expressed concern that belligerent countries were not adequately responding to international appeals. The Committee received a briefing from Ms. Ö. Irmakkesen (Legal Adviser, Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre) on recent developments in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank through the lens of international humanitarian law (IHL). Members exchanged views with Ms. Irmakkesen on possible recommendations regarding parliamentary actions to ensure respect for IHL, particularly in relation to settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The Committee noted that, as a parliamentary democracy and a Member of the IPU, Israel remained accountable for its policies under international law. Members proposed that the Committee take concrete steps, including calling for the reversal of the Knesset legislation establishing capital punishment for acts of terrorism, noting concerns as to its potentially discriminatory application.

The Committee discussed the practical implementation of its reform. Members expressed support for the reform and emphasized the importance of meeting more regularly between Assemblies, including through virtual meetings, to address the rapidly evolving regional situation.

Under its new Rule 1.2, the Committee selected the role of parliamentary and inter-parliamentary mediation in the Middle East in ensuring implementation of UN resolutions as its rotating regional focus until the 153rd Assembly. For the standing priority, the Committee decided to focus on settlements in the West Bank through the lens of IHL.

In accordance with its new Rule 7.2, the Committee adopted concise outcomes and conclusions capturing key observations, commitments and follow-up actions. On the rotating priority, two follow-up actions were agreed: first, to convene a hearing with the Pakistani delegation to discuss the role of Pakistan as a mediator at the parliamentary level in the context of the tensions between the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel and the United States of America; and second, to coordinate with the IPU Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs. On the standing priority, two follow-up actions were agreed: first, to coordinate with the Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre on parliamentary actions regarding settlements; and second, to organize a field visit to the West Bank to assess the situation on the ground and liaise with relevant UN offices.

Members reaffirmed their support for the work of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

5. Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

The Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law met on 17 April 2026. It paid particular attention to Lebanon and was briefed by representatives from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The Committee took note that, since the beginning of March 2026, the humanitarian situation in Lebanon had deteriorated sharply following the intensification of the hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel. These hostilities came on top of years of compounded crises, where essential services were already stretched to breaking point, the economic situation was dire and countless families were struggling to cope.

As of mid-2025, Lebanon hosted approximately 1.3 million Syrian refugees, alongside smaller populations of Iraqi and Sudanese refugees and those of other nationalities. Since the latest escalation of hostilities, over 1 million people have been internally displaced within the country. Lebanese authorities have also reported 1,461 people killed and 4,430 injured, including 129 children and 97 women. Airstrikes and missile exchanges have caused widespread damage to civilian infrastructure including residential buildings, schools, healthcare facilities and essential services.

The Committee expressed serious concern about the escalating hostilities in Lebanon and their devastating humanitarian impact on communities across the country. It noted that women, children and the elderly had been disproportionately affected by the ongoing armed conflict. The Committee also brought attention to the need to protect the rights of those forcibly displaced as a result of the intensification of hostilities. Finally, the Committee drew attention to the urgent need to prioritize de-escalation of violence to prevent further loss of life, and for parties to the conflict to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law (IHL), including taking constant care to spare civilians and civilian objects.

The Committee called on IPU Member Parliaments to raise awareness, within their parliaments and geopolitical groups, about the humanitarian situation in Lebanon and in other countries affected by the conflict in the Middle East, and on all parties to respect and to ensure respect for IHL, and to ensure the protection of civilians.

The Committee heard from the ICRC on recent developments regarding the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law. It discussed parliamentary strategies to contribute to the outcome documents of the Global Initiative, as well as to the High-Level Conference on Humanity in War, which will mark the conclusion of the Global Initiative and will be held in Jordan in late 2026.

The Committee encouraged members to follow up on the IPU's October 2025 Geneva Declaration on *Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis*, and to report back on action taken at the next Assembly in October 2026. The Committee also drew attention to the joint letter sent by the IPU Secretary General and the ICRC President to all Presidents of IPU Groups identifying key actions for follow-up.

The Committee took note of the outcome document of the "IHL and Peace" workstream of the Global Initiative, which put forward recommendations on how States can strengthen protection for affected populations throughout the conflict cycle while at the same time ensuring that the return to sustainable

peace remains a priority. It also took note of some good practices in the implementation of IHL, including the production of a voluntary report on IHL compliance, which serves to take stock of national situations and priorities.

The Committee continued its work on raising awareness on key humanitarian disarmament treaties. During this session, it focused on the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). The Committee discussed the impact of cluster munitions on civilians, and especially their long-term effects such as intergenerational trauma and contamination, which also undermine social development. Committee members also considered how parliaments could contribute to the universalization and national implementation of the Convention, including by embedding the Convention's obligations under domestic law, approving budgets for mine clearance and victim assistance activities, and holding governments accountable for their implementation obligations under the Convention.

The Committee considered parliamentary strategies to advance refugee protection and support further accession to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. In view of the 75th anniversary of the Convention in 2026, the Committee decided to pursue efforts to scale up parliamentary action to encourage States that have not yet done so to accede to the Convention and/or to withdraw reservations made under it.

The Committee reflected on the first session in the *Webinar series for parliamentarians on international humanitarian law*, which took place in March 2026 and addressed the issue of counter-terrorism and IHL. Committee members acknowledged the importance of ensuring that humanitarian exemptions were included in their counter-terrorism legislation. The Committee also invited members to join the second webinar in the series, which will focus on IHL and the natural environment.

6. Committee on Health

The Committee on Health held its second meeting on 15 April 2026, with 10 members present. In the absence of the Committee's President, Ms. O. Ataniyazova (Uzbekistan), Ms. L. Clifford-Lee (Ireland) was appointed to chair the session.

Members shared updates on relevant activities and parliamentary efforts to improve access to health, with discussions focusing on the right to health, health equity, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and adolescent health. The Committee was also briefed on recent and upcoming IPU health-related initiatives.

A briefing on the work of the Lancet Commission on 21st-Century Global Health Threats highlighted the evolving global health landscape and its implications for parliamentary preparedness.

The Commission's forward-looking analysis underscores that overlooked risks may pose the greatest threats and introduces a new framework projecting likely global health scenarios through to 2100. It emphasizes that policy choices and investment in innovation today will shape future outcomes, offering a roadmap for building resilient, "threat-ready" societies grounded in trust, governance and foresight. The full report is expected in autumn 2026.

The Committee also received an update from a World Health Organization (WHO) representative on negotiations surrounding the WHO Pandemic Agreement, and discussed its national implications, including the role of parliaments in countering misinformation and supporting informed debate.

Looking ahead, the Committee identified priorities for the next Assembly, including the impact of declining international health funding, particularly for HIV programmes, and the need for stronger parliamentary oversight to ensure preparedness and sustainable responses. Members also highlighted emerging challenges such as the regulation of new tobacco and vaping products, as well as the rise of antimicrobial resistance, and agreed to explore these issues further with technical partners.

Finally, the Committee was informed of the upcoming Global Parliamentary Forum, to be held on 20 May 2026 at the World Health Assembly in Geneva. The meeting, co-organized by the IPU and WHO, will provide a platform for parliamentarians to engage with key health issues and support national-level implementation.

7. Group of Facilitators for Cyprus

The Group of Facilitators for Cyprus did not hold a session at this Assembly owing to the upcoming elections in Cyprus, as well as the country's commitments in relation to its current presidency of the Council of the European Union, which prevented the full delegation from attending the Assembly. The three facilitators – from Armenia, Portugal and Switzerland – met in order to continue their reflection

on the priorities to be presented to the political party representatives from both sides of the island. The facilitators agreed to make efforts to arrange a meeting with the Personal Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Cyprus to explore how the Group could help advance the work of the UN Secretary-General's mission of good offices in Cyprus through parliamentary diplomacy. The facilitators also discussed how best to ensure the continuity of the Group's work between Assemblies.

The Group was also asked to brief the IPU Executive Committee under its new agenda item on the IPU's parliamentary diplomacy initiatives. Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland) made this presentation on behalf of the Group. The facilitators took note of this important initiative and thanked the members of the Executive Committee for their investment in the important work of the Group.

8. Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine

During its 16th meeting, the IPU Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine welcomed recent momentum in diplomatic efforts, including trilateral talks in Abu Dhabi and Geneva, as well as progress on humanitarian matters such as prisoner exchanges. At the same time, it expressed concern over the slowdown in negotiations and underscored the importance of their timely resumption. Task Force members highlighted the value of sustained parliamentary engagement as a complementary channel to support political dialogue and help maintain momentum towards a negotiated resolution of the conflict.

The meeting focused on key humanitarian priorities. Further information was exchanged on a new set of cases concerning children separated from their families, with both sides demonstrating a constructive willingness to continue engagement and share information that could support possible reunifications. The issue of prisoners was also addressed, with both parties indicating openness to submitting selected cases for consideration as a parallel track. In addition, participants discussed broader humanitarian concerns, including food security and the protection of cultural heritage. It was agreed to maintain dialogue and follow-up between meetings, with a view to reporting on progress at the next IPU Assembly.

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

The High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG) held its 20th meeting on 15 April 2026. The meeting was chaired by Ms. M. Guerra Castillo (Mexico).

The Group began by re-electing Ms. Guerra Castillo (Mexico) as Chairperson and confirming the mandate of the Vice-Chairperson, Ms. L. Saint-Paul (France).

The meeting focused on the evolving nature of terrorism, particularly in post-conflict contexts, where weak institutions, unresolved grievances and socio-economic challenges continue to create conditions conducive to the resurgence of extremist groups. Members highlighted that such environments remain especially vulnerable to exploitation by terrorist organizations, underscoring the need for sustained institutional rebuilding and long-term prevention efforts. They emphasized the need for comprehensive responses combining security measures with prevention, institutional strengthening and inclusive development, and highlighted the key role of parliaments in this regard.

An expert hearing on online radicalization and digital platforms underscored both the risks and opportunities associated with digital technologies. Participants stressed the importance of promoting alternative narratives, strengthening digital literacy and ensuring appropriate regulatory frameworks in line with international human rights standards. They also highlighted the increasing use of digital platforms for recruitment and for the dissemination of extremist content, particularly targeting vulnerable groups, and noted that coordinated and forward-looking responses were required.

A central outcome of the meeting was the presentation of the Secretariat's work on the definition of terrorism, developed at the request of the members of the Group. The proposed definition, which is grounded in international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights standards, was welcomed by members as a substantive and timely contribution, and as a valuable, non-binding reference tool to support parliamentary work. Members also recognized its potential, in the absence of a universally agreed definition, to enhance clarity, coherence and consistency in legislative approaches.

The Group also reviewed progress on the Call of the Sahel initiative, reiterating the need to move towards concrete action. In this context, efforts to strengthen partnerships and mobilize resources in support of development-oriented initiatives were highlighted. Reference was made to the Sudano-Sahelian Initiative as an example of an integrated approach linking environmental protection, development and security.

The Group agreed to pursue parliamentary engagement in the region, including through planned field visits to the Sahel region, expected to commence in May 2026, with a view to strengthening cooperation with national parliaments and local stakeholders.

Overall, the meeting reaffirmed the Group's commitment to advancing coordinated, comprehensive and forward-looking parliamentary responses to terrorism and violent extremism, addressing both immediate threats and their underlying causes.

10. Working Group on Science and Technology

One sitting of the Working Group was held on 17 April 2026. Eleven members attended the meeting, as well as two guest parliamentarians from France and Uruguay.

The Working Group reaffirmed the central role of parliaments in governing science and technology, particularly in areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity and digital transformation. Members agreed on the need to reinforce legislative frameworks, ethical oversight and international cooperation to address rapid technological developments and their societal impacts. They also emphasized the importance of parliamentary action to promote inclusive digital development, including equitable access to technology, and to address the digital divide affecting communities that still lacked basic digital infrastructure.

The Working Group reaffirmed the importance of science diplomacy as a tool to foster cooperation, strengthen trust and advance collective responses to global challenges.

Members also discussed AI governance approaches and highlighted the urgency of parliamentary engagement and oversight. Progress was made on the draft AI Ethics Annex to the *IPU Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology*, with updated provisions on accountability, risk management and capacity-building. Further input was invited ahead of the envisioned adoption of the Annex at the upcoming 153rd IPU Assembly.

Two invited experts contributed to the discussion on emerging technologies. Mr. A. Read (IPU consultant on AI policy) highlighted the rapid growth and widespread impact of AI, noting its promising potential alongside growing risks to security and democratic integrity. He stressed that existing safeguards were insufficient, and that urgent parliamentary action was essential to ensure balanced governance that served the public good. Mr. P. Glauner (Professor of Artificial Intelligence, Deggendorf Institute of Technology) presented an overview of quantum computing and outlined its transformative potential, particularly in enhancing AI capabilities. He cautioned about risks such as threats to encryption and stressed the need for forward-looking regulation and secure technological infrastructure.

11. Gender Partnership Group

The Gender Partnership Group held its 53rd session on 14 and 18 April 2026. In attendance were Ms. S. Mikayilova (Azerbaijan), who was elected as the Chair of the Group, Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium), Mr. M. Ali Sera (Indonesia) and Ms. N. Mutti (Zambia).

As per its mandate, the Group reviewed the state of women's participation in national parliaments, as well as in IPU bodies and Assemblies. It examined in particular the composition of delegations at the 152nd Assembly. As of 19 April 2026, 36% of the delegates at the Assembly were women (see [page 81](#)), which was below the past three Assemblies and well below the record 39% women delegates in Nusa Dua in 2022 and in Madrid in 2021. At this Assembly, 37 delegations out of 131 (28.2%) were gender-balanced, meaning that they were composed of 40–60% women or men. This was a lower percentage than at the last Assembly (see [page 81](#)). Of the 131 delegations present, 127 were composed of at least two delegates, of which 10 were all-male (7.9%). All in all, six delegations were subject to sanctions at this Assembly.

The Group took stock of the measures taken to implement the *Policy to prevent and address harassment, including sexual harassment, at IPU Assemblies and other IPU events*. The Group welcomed ongoing efforts to make the policy well-known to all. The Group further highlighted the importance of ensuring adherence to the policy through efforts by national parliaments, and encouraged them to consider introducing such a policy in their own institutions. If required, the IPU may support such national-level efforts.

As per its mandate, the Group held a dialogue session with the delegation of Samoa, led by Ms. A.L.M.V. Masame, Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. Samoa is the only Pacific country to have a legislated quota for women, with a constitutional provision introduced in 2013 that reserves 10% of seats for women in parliament. The delegation of Samoa emphasized that women parliamentarians played a critical role in inclusive governance. Progress in women's leadership has also included the election of the country's first female Prime Minister, in 2021. Despite this, women's representation in local and national governance remains low. Women make up about 20% of family chiefs based on the Matai system. Holding a family chief title is a precondition for taking part in village councils, as well as for running for a parliamentary seat. The current percentage of women MPs, following the 2025 election, remains at 9.8%, with one more seat for a woman yet to be added to meet the minimum 10% threshold required by the Constitution.

During the exchange, the delegation of Samoa identified key barriers to women's political participation, and in particular the central role of the Matai system, which continues to limit women's ability to contest elections. Also, more remains to be done to shift the public perception that women do not belong in politics, and to present women's political participation not just as a women's issue but as a societal one. Limited resources for awareness-raising programmes tailored to women family chiefs is another challenge. The delegation welcomed any support that the Group and the IPU might provide for the Legislative Assembly's efforts towards encouraging more women family chiefs to run for parliament, to raise awareness among the population so as to shift societal mindsets, and to engage male parliamentarians as gender champions.

Other activities and events

1. Joint meeting with the Chairpersons of the geopolitical groups, the Presidents of the Standing Committees and the Presidents of the other specialized bodies of the IPU

On 15 April 2026, the IPU President and Secretary General met with the Chairpersons of the geopolitical groups, the Presidents of the Standing Committees and the Presidents of the other specialized bodies of the IPU.

The IPU President welcomed participants and underlined the value of the joint meeting as an informal space for coordination among the leadership of the Organization's various bodies. Recalling that the format had been introduced following amendments to the Statutes in October 2024, she emphasized the role of the meeting in advancing a more joined-up approach to the IPU's work. She noted that, while previous discussions had been constructive, there remained the possibility to further refine the purpose and use of the meeting, in particular by clarifying its scope, functions and mandate.

The Secretary General presented an overview of the main elements of the 152nd Assembly. He also referred to ongoing consultations among geopolitical groups aimed at ensuring that an emergency item would be adopted, and reminded participants that a new Secretary General would be elected at the Assembly.

Introducing the discussion on the scope and mandate of the joint meeting, the Secretary General recalled that it was intended to serve as a consultative and coordination-focused forum. He proposed that the meeting could add greater value by fulfilling three key functions: first, anticipating emerging issues and identifying matters that could be brought onto the IPU's agenda, including, where appropriate, formulating suggestions for consideration by the Executive Committee; second, enabling early exchanges of views to help clarify positions and support consensus-building before discussions reached the plenary; and third, strengthening coordination across the IPU's various bodies by identifying synergies and promoting greater coherence in their work. He encouraged participants to move beyond the sharing of updates and to engage in more interactive and substantive exchanges.

In the discussion that followed, participants expressed broad support for the proposed orientation. Mr. J.M.R. Edwards (Chile), President of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, highlighted the transformative implications of artificial intelligence for governance and policymaking. He conveyed a proposal to develop a forward-looking, multidisciplinary platform within the IPU to address emerging challenges, suggesting that such a mechanism, akin to a "parliamentary think tank", could foster long-term, anticipatory approaches and strengthen links with academia.

Mr. H.-J. Talsma (Netherlands), President of the Committee on Middle East Questions, emphasized the importance of ensuring that the joint meeting remained practical and action-oriented. He suggested that enhanced advance coordination among Chairpersons and Presidents could help better align the key issues emerging across the different bodies and facilitate more focused, substantive exchanges.

Turning to the exchange of views on potential emergency items, the IPU President recalled that three proposals had been submitted. Participants emphasized the importance of reaching consensus in order to ensure that the Assembly could adopt an emergency item, noting that recent Assemblies had not always succeeded in doing so. It was also recalled that recent discussions within the Executive Committee had raised the possibility of introducing a supplementary emergency item.

Under the agenda item on updates relating to human rights, the IPU's priority theme for 2026, participants provided brief overviews of planned activities. Several geopolitical groups mentioned their internal deliberations on the Assembly agenda, the forthcoming election of the Secretary General and contributions to the IPU Strategy.

Ms. N. Odsuren (Mongolia), President of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, outlined a series of activities planned to mark the 50th anniversary of the Committee, including conferences, the digitalization of its archives and the launch of a campaign entitled *Bringing human rights into focus*, aimed at promoting the protection of parliamentarians and strengthening the role of parliaments in advancing human rights.

Ms. F. Belhirsch (Netherlands), Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, underscored that human rights and international humanitarian law would remain central reference points in the Committee's work, regardless of the subject selected for its next cycle. She underscored their relevance across all phases of conflict and peacebuilding, and highlighted the role of parliaments in promoting accountability and the rule of law.

Ms. L. Clifford-Lee (Ireland), member of the Committee on Health, underscored that human rights were intrinsic to the right to health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights. She noted that the Committee would continue to support parliaments in strengthening legal frameworks and addressing inequalities in access to health services, particularly in light of the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as ongoing conflicts and climate-related challenges.

In concluding the session, the IPU President reaffirmed the importance of the joint meeting as a space for early dialogue, coordination and consensus-building. She noted that the suggestions made by participants would be taken into account in further refining the format and functioning of the meeting, with a view to enhancing its contribution to the IPU's work.

2. Panel discussion on *Promoting diversity in parliament*

The panel discussion, held on 17 April 2026, was attended by 48 participants, including 28 MPs (17 women and 11 men). The session explored ways to advance the representation of women from diverse backgrounds in parliament, with a view to informing the IPU's ongoing research and planning for advocacy efforts in this area.

The panel featured Ms. F. Belhirsch (Netherlands), Ms. R. Kadak (Türkiye), Mr. I. Wamunyima (Zambia), Mr. C. Bloquet (IPU consultant on diverse representation) and Mr. D. Joshi (IPU consultant on youth representation). Ms. H. Hagrass (United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities), contributed a video message.

The moderator, Ms. T. Vardanyan (Armenia), highlighted that women, young people, persons with disabilities and members of underrepresented groups faced significant barriers to political participation and representation. Citing the new IPU report on youth participation, panellists noted that youth representation in parliament had stagnated at 2.8% since 2023, with a decline for young women (from 1.4% to 1.2%). They highlighted that diverse representation was vital for inclusive and effective decision-making but remained constrained by persistent structural and intersecting inequalities. Panellists also stressed that sexism, political hostility and male-dominated party structures continued to deter women and youth from diverse backgrounds. Participants heard that introducing quotas required strong political will and cross-party consensus, and that representation must translate into real influence in decision-making. Panellists noted that breaking harmful norms had been essential to opening up political spaces for women from diverse groups.

The panel highlighted good practices for inclusive parliaments, such as multilingual recognition, sign language accessibility and nested quotas for intersectional representation, while also noting ongoing challenges, particularly violence against women in politics.

In response to these challenges, the participants recommended strengthening legal frameworks to address violence against women in politics, ensuring fair and accessible campaign financing, and promoting more inclusive parliaments through improved work-life balance and accessibility measures.

3. Special session on *Advancing the two-State solution for Israel and Palestine: Pathways to peace in the Middle East*

This special session was held on 17 April 2026 and brought together over 50 parliamentarians and experts to examine the role of parliamentary diplomacy in advancing a just and lasting peace based on the two-State solution. The panel featured Ms. H. Fayez (Bahrain), Mr. L.-J. de Nicolaÿ (France), Ms. M. Guerra Castillo (Mexico) and Mr. C. Law (United Kingdom), and was moderated by Mr. F. Daou (Executive Director, Globethics).

For over 75 years, the Israeli–Palestinian conflict has had far-reaching implications not only for the Middle East but also for international peace and security. It is widely recognized as a global issue with consequences across regions and multilateral systems. In April 2025, the IPU reaffirmed, through a broadly supported resolution, that the two-State solution was the only viable and internationally recognized framework for peace, grounded in international law, relevant United Nations resolutions, mutual recognition and human dignity. Since then, diplomatic developments, including increased international recognition of the State of Palestine, have underscored both the urgency and the continued relevance of sustained parliamentary engagement.

The session explored forward-looking parliamentary contributions to peace and called for “positive political imagination” capable of overcoming entrenched divisions. The panellists underscored that, despite significant political and humanitarian challenges, parliaments retained a central role in advancing peace through legislation, oversight and dialogue. They reaffirmed the two-State solution as the only viable framework, while stressing that its realization required sustained and courageous action. Key obstacles identified included ongoing violence, settlement expansion and restricted humanitarian access.

The panellists also highlighted recent reforms to the IPU Committee on Middle East Questions, including a dual-track approach combining structured Israeli–Palestinian dialogue with broader regional engagement, as well as more diverse and balanced composition. These changes aim to make the Committee’s work more inclusive, representative and effective, facilitating sustained dialogue, reducing polarization and strengthening parliamentary contributions to political solutions.

Participants heard that peace remained a strategic necessity for both regional and global stability, and that the current situation represented a test of the international community’s commitment to agreed international frameworks. In this context, parliamentary diplomacy was highlighted as a key instrument for fostering dialogue, rebuilding trust and helping to overcome political deadlocks through compromise and sustained engagement.

The interactive debate that followed featured contributions from 12 participants: parliamentarians from Indonesia, Ireland, Jordan, Maldives, Malta, Morocco, Palestine, Spain, Türkiye and Uzbekistan; a representative of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA); and an international relations researcher from Egypt. The interventions reflected a wide spectrum of perspectives, combining shared concerns with divergent views. Many participants highlighted the urgency of the humanitarian situation on the ground, calling for immediate and sustained efforts to ensure the protection of civilians and unimpeded access to essential services. Participants stressed that such efforts must be pursued without losing sight of a long-term political solution. Several interventions also referred to the need to translate the commitments of the 2025 IPU resolution into concrete national and parliamentary action.

Participants underscored the importance of upholding international law and ensuring accountability, while also calling for a more nuanced understanding of the conflict, including the consideration of different narratives and security concerns. At the same time, some participants expressed scepticism regarding the feasibility of the two-State solution, pointing to current developments on the ground that risked undermining its practical implementation. This observation led to a broader reflection on how parliaments could help maintain the viability of the two-State solution as a political objective, including through sustained engagement and confidence-building measures.

Concrete actions proposed during the debate included:

- Strengthening parliamentary diplomacy and dialogue, including through structured interparliamentary exchanges and sustained engagement across divides
- Enhancing legislative and oversight functions to ensure alignment of national policies with international commitments
- Advocating for humanitarian action, including the protection of civilians, support for essential services and adequate funding for key international mechanisms
- Promoting confidence-building measures aimed at rebuilding trust and reducing tensions at both political and societal levels
- Supporting multilateral institutions and legal frameworks as essential pillars for sustainable peace

In conclusion, participants underscored that, despite the challenging and polarized environment, parliaments had a distinct and necessary role to play in advancing peace. They reaffirmed that, by combining political engagement, legislative action and dialogue, parliamentary diplomacy was a critical avenue for sustaining momentum towards the two-State solution and contributing to broader efforts for peace and stability in the Middle East.

4. Workshop on Sustainable health financing through health taxes: The role of parliamentarians (organized by the IPU and WHO)

This workshop, held on 17 April 2026, was organized jointly with the World Health Organization (WHO). It was moderated by Dr. T. Atatrah, WHO Representative in Türkiye, who emphasized the critical role parliamentarians played in advancing sustainable health financing, including through the use of health taxes. She underscored that, at a time of profound global realignment and fiscal pressure, political leadership and “fiscal courage” were essential to securing resilient health systems.

Joining remotely, Ms. O. Ataniyazova (Uzbekistan), President of the IPU Committee on Health, opened the session by presenting the IPU’s work on health taxes and highlighting the importance of parliamentary engagement in translating evidence into policy.

The workshop was intended to support parliamentarians by bringing together evidence, country experiences and practical insights, with a particular focus on taxes on tobacco, alcohol and sugar-sweetened beverages. These well-established, evidence-based measures were presented as “win-win” policies that both improved public health outcomes and generated domestic revenue.

Ms. I. Mathauer (WHO) framed the broader health financing landscape, outlining the challenges and opportunities in achieving sustainable financing for universal health coverage and stressing the leadership role of parliaments in this area. Mr. C. Visaruthvong (WHO) followed with a presentation on how health taxes can serve as effective tools for health promotion, disease prevention and revenue generation, particularly in the context of rising noncommunicable diseases and constrained public budgets.

Parliamentarians then shared national experiences and perspectives. Ms. V. Riotton (France) reflected on increasing fiscal pressures and the declining predictability of external financing, and discussed how the social security model in her country offered lessons for safeguarding health and social protection as core elements of the social contract. Ms. O. Nominchimeg (Mongolia) described tobacco control and taxation reform in her country as both a political and a policy journey. She highlighted the importance of building public and political support, navigating trade-offs and countering industry resistance, while maintaining sustained parliamentary momentum. Mr. G. Stojović (Montenegro) shared how tobacco taxation had contributed to addressing fiscal constraints and a high burden of noncommunicable diseases in his country. He emphasized the importance of strong tax administration and political leadership in overcoming resistance and noted that tobacco taxation could pave the way for similar reforms on alcohol and sugar-sweetened beverages.

The session continued with an interactive dialogue among parliamentarians and participants. Participants from Egypt, Georgia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Senegal, Sierra Leone and Zambia took the floor, along with a representative from the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health. The contributors shared their experiences and highlighted the importance of parliamentary leadership in shaping health policy, legislation and oversight. The discussion reaffirmed that parliaments were central to building resilient and equitable health systems. It also underscored that, while health taxes were practical and evidence-based tools, their success depended on sustained political commitment and strong governance.

5. Workshop on Multistakeholder approaches to peace and reconciliation: Legislative and faith-based perspectives

This workshop, held on 17 April 2026, brought together parliamentarians and other experts to exchange knowledge and share good practices in peacebuilding and reconciliation. The session was co-moderated by Ms. Ş. Pavey (Senior Adviser, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)) and Ms. S. Markiewicz (Political Affairs Officer, IPU). The panellists were Mr. L. Govender (South Africa), Mr. E. Adamakis (Metropolitan Elder of Chalcedon), Mr. F. Daou (Executive Director, Globethics) and Mr. A. Shaheed (Professor of International Law, University of Essex, and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives). The respondents were Ms. N. Abu Ghosh (President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians) and Mr. A. Nagi (Senior Analyst for Yemen, International Crisis Group).

Ms. K. Bradley (United Kingdom) offered opening remarks on the importance of multistakeholder engagement, including with MPs, for building peaceful and cohesive societies. The panellists then spoke in turn, followed by the two respondents. Interventions were then invited from the floor.

The discussion focused on the contribution of parliamentarians and other actors to building peace and fostering reconciliation in contexts of conflict. Interventions highlighted parliamentarians' legitimacy as elected representatives, their access to constituencies and political actors, and their convening power. This placed them in a unique position to bridge divides, maintain dialogue when others could not, and address the root causes of tensions early. Participants heard that religious diplomacy could counter misunderstandings by raising awareness of religions and beliefs and encouraging dialogue between religious communities as a way to build trust and strengthen social cohesion.

The post-apartheid redrafting of the Constitution and legal frameworks in South Africa – which had involved extensive consultation with different social groups, including faith actors – was mentioned as an example of the importance of inclusive approaches to drafting legislation. A multistakeholder approach, including with faith actors and parliamentarians, had also been applied to national dialogues in post-ISIS Iraq as a means of promoting unity and reconciliation. In Mozambique, meanwhile, different stakeholders had been invited to consultations on improving the electoral system, with a view to avoiding future post-election violence. The discussion also touched on how parliamentarians could use counter-speech and other methods to help combat identity-based hatred, which scapegoated communities and undermined social cohesion.

The panel heard national testimonies highlighting the role of parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, in conveying the values of coexistence in multifaith societies. Participants also highlighted the contribution of parliaments to peace through their advisory role, their involvement in shaping public discourse, their close proximity to decision-makers, and their local mediation capacities. In regions where parliaments had limited legislative power, better coordination between governments and parliaments could be impactful. Parliamentary diplomacy could help forge partnerships between MPs across countries to work for peace. Participants noted that multistakeholder engagement, including with faith actors, could help build more cohesive societies, since religious values strengthened social bonds and could be leveraged to work for peace. They also emphasized, however, that this did not replace the need for justice and accountability.

Interventions from the floor came from Mr. M. Alshowaikh (Bahrain), Mr. E. Rezaei (Iran (Islamic Republic of)), Ms. I. Soares Selemene (Mozambique) and Mr. I. Vulpescu (Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy).

6. Workshop on New global methane rules: Implications for trade and national economies

This workshop, held on 17 April 2026, brought together 25 MPs and 11 parliamentary staff from 20 countries across all regions of the world, along with representatives of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), the Global Methane Hub, and academia.

The discussion focused on how methane was becoming not only a climate issue, but also a matter of economic policy, competitiveness, trade and investment. Ms. M. Otto (Head of Secretariat, CCAC) showed that methane was increasingly central to economic strategy and market access, stressing that reducing emissions could strengthen competitiveness, resilience and growth. Ms. O. Azadegan (Global Methane Hub) highlighted opportunities for rapid, cost-effective action, particularly in the energy and waste management sectors. Ms. C. Plaza Martin (Complutense University of Madrid) presented the 2024 European Union Methane Regulation as an example of how emerging rules might shape global markets and investment.

Parliamentarians shared practical national experiences. In Norway, clear regulation – including bans on routine flaring and venting, methane taxation, and strict monitoring and repair requirements – has contributed to low methane emissions in the country's energy sector, alongside investments in agriculture and waste management. In Ghana, the approach to methane reduction includes parliamentary debate, increased budget allocations, oversight of key sectors and integration of methane into national frameworks. In Zambia, capacity-building efforts have recently been undertaken and a private members' motion has been introduced to advance a national methane abatement strategy. The parliamentarians from both Ghana and Zambia also expressed appreciation for the IPU's support in strengthening parliamentary engagement. The contribution from Greece focused on engagement with the European Union methane framework, including discussions on implementation and financial support mechanisms.

Participants emphasized the need to translate awareness into concrete action through stronger legislation, enhanced oversight, and improved monitoring, reporting and verification systems. They highlighted the importance of aligning national frameworks with emerging international rules, particularly those affecting trade and market access, and stressed the key role of parliaments in ensuring implementation.

The workshop concluded with a shared recognition that methane was becoming an increasingly strategic issue for both climate and economic policy. Participants agreed on the importance of continued cooperation through the IPU to help translate global commitments into effective national action.

7. Workshop on *The UN Convention against Cybercrime: Parliamentary perspectives on ratification and implementation*

This workshop, held on 18 April 2026, brought together parliamentarians and experts to discuss how parliaments could support the ratification and effective implementation of the 2024 United Nations Convention against Cybercrime. The session was attended by about 50 participants. The panel featured Mr. M. Dick (Speaker of the House of Representatives of Australia), Mr. Ngy Chanphal (Cambodia, Chairperson of the Senate Commission on Human Rights), Ms. A. Lakrafi (*Déléguée générale*, Parliamentary Assembly of la Francophonie), Mr. D. Jones (Executive Director, INTERPOL) and Mr. G. Prichard (Chief of Cybercrime and Technology Section, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime).

The panel segment provided an overview of key challenges and priorities for parliamentary action. Panellists stressed that cybercrime was evolving rapidly and required coordinated responses based on common legal standards. The Convention was widely seen as a key tool to address fragmentation between national legal systems and to strengthen cross-border cooperation. Speakers emphasized that parliaments played a leading role in this effort, notably by adopting appropriate legislation, overseeing implementation and ensuring that adequate resources were allocated. Particular attention was given to the need to integrate human rights safeguards from the outset, especially in relation to electronic evidence, surveillance and data protection.

The operational dimension of the Convention was also highlighted. From a law enforcement perspective, effective responses to cybercrime depend on faster and more predictable cooperation mechanisms, including real-time information-sharing and streamlined procedures. At the same time, panellists stressed the importance of balancing enforcement with prevention and victim protection, noting that cybercrime increasingly targeted vulnerable groups, including children.

The ensuing discussion featured seven interventions, from delegates from Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Maldives, Pakistan, Russian Federation and Zimbabwe. The interventions highlighted concerns, differing national realities and experiences, and a shared commitment to join the Convention. Delegates shared details of national efforts to strengthen legal frameworks, develop dedicated strategies and establish specialized units, while also pointing to persistent challenges, particularly in countries with limited technical and institutional capacities. Calls were made for increased international support, training and capacity-building to address these gaps.

Several delegates emphasized the need to ensure that ratification and implementation processes remained credible and balanced, including through safeguards against the misuse of cybercrime legislation. Data privacy, due process and the protection of human rights were consistently highlighted as essential. Participants also underscored the importance of global cooperation, noting that uneven capacities and fragmented legal approaches created vulnerabilities that could be exploited by transnational criminal networks.

A number of practical actions were identified during the discussion. These included accelerating the ratification and implementation of the Convention by aligning national legislation with its provisions, strengthening parliamentary oversight of cybercrime policies, and ensuring adequate resourcing and capacity building, particularly in countries with limited technical expertise. Participants also called for enhanced international cooperation and information sharing, as well as for stronger prevention and victim protection measures, including public awareness initiatives. In this regard, a proposal was put forward to celebrate International Ethical Hackers Day as a means of promoting ethical cybersecurity practices, raising awareness and encouraging positive engagement in the digital space.

8. Open session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, on *Parliamentary action to end statelessness*

On 18 April 2026, the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law held an open session. Panellists included Ms. C.M. Mumma (Kenya), Ms. C. Chitengu (Co-Lead, Global Movement Against Statelessness), Ms. N. Gurung (Co-Founder, Citizenship Affected People's Network) and Ms. M. Sandvik (Senior Statelessness Coordinator, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)).

The panellists shared personal experiences and noted that 4.4 million people, 44% of them children, were recorded stateless across 101 countries, but that the actual number was likely much higher. The discussion emphasized how statelessness denied people access to basic rights such as education, healthcare and employment. While law reform and legislative steps have led to over 600,000 stateless persons acquiring citizenship since 2014, millions still lack nationality, making renewed political will and parliamentary leadership essential.

The discussion covered the root causes of statelessness, including lack of birth registration, digital identity systems that could perpetuate exclusion, and gender discrimination in nationality laws, with 24 countries still denying women the right to confer citizenship on their children.

Participants from various countries, including Chile, Kenya, Poland and Sierra Leone, shared their national experiences and legislative efforts, highlighting both progress made and challenges remaining. New areas of concern were also raised, including the risks of statelessness arising from climate-induced displacement and from surrogacy.

Parliamentarians were encouraged to take the following actions:

- Check their country's adherence to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions on statelessness.
- Verify the existence of national legal frameworks and their alignment with the required provisions.
- Carry out surveys to assess the number of stateless persons, or persons at risk of becoming stateless, in their countries, as well as the challenges they face.
- Reach out to, and meet with, stateless persons, stateless-led organizations, and people with lived experience.
- Strengthen parliamentary oversight of implementation and ensure that enforcement is rights-based and not discretionary.

The discussion concluded with an emphasis on the importance of parliamentary action and international cooperation, and on the need to work with stateless-led organizations as well as partners such as UNHCR, in order to end statelessness globally, which was described as an achievable goal.

9. Workshop on Oceans and climate change: *Parliamentary leadership in protecting our blue planet*

This side event, held on 18 April 2026, aimed to strengthen parliamentary understanding of the ocean-climate nexus and to promote legislative and policy actions to support sustainable ocean management and resilience-building. The event provided an opportunity for parliamentarians to familiarize themselves with the interlinkages between oceans, climate change, biodiversity, food security and other sustainable development issues. It also provided a platform for the sharing of good practices on ocean protection and climate adaptation, and for a discussion of how parliaments could jointly advance ocean-related commitments.

The moderator, Mr. E. Evelyn (Saint Kitts and Nevis), opened the event by emphasizing the critical importance of oceans to life on Earth, stressing their role in regulating the climate, sustaining biodiversity, providing livelihoods and serving as a vital source of food across the globe. He pointed out that oceans were under growing pressure from rising temperatures, overexploitation, acidification and environmental degradation. He highlighted the important role of parliaments in advancing ocean governance, including by ensuring global commitments on ocean protection and climate change were implemented at the national level.

Ms. G. Magesa (climate activist and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) youth advocate) described the importance of oceans for young people. As a child living in a coastal area in the United Republic of Tanzania, she shared her first-hand experience of the impact of climate change and pollution on oceans, including loss of fish and an increase in plastic waste. She mentioned the power of youth in protecting the ocean, referencing her personal experience of organizing beach clean-ups by young people in her country.

Joining the session remotely, Mr. N. Gunasekera (Chief Executive Officer, World Future Council) described key international advancements on ocean protection, including 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 (the BBNJ Agreement), which had entered into force in January 2026. He emphasized the importance of implementing such agreements at the national level in order to ensure intergenerational climate justice. He also highlighted successful examples of ocean-related legislation from around the world, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. R. Feingold (Chair of the Global Steering Committee of the Campaign for Nature and former member of the Senate of the United States of America) discussed the 30x30 global conservation goal, which aims to protect at least 30% of the world’s land and sea by 2030. He stressed that the climate and biodiversity crises were deeply interrelated and must be jointly addressed, and that overexploitation was the major driver of ocean biodiversity loss. He also emphasized the instrumental role of parliaments in operationalizing biodiversity protection, including through the exercise of their legislative and budgetary functions.

Ms. C. Louise (Seychelles) shared a front-line, small-island perspective on oceans and climate change, noting that oceans could be the greatest asset, but also the greatest vulnerability given the growing climate crisis. She presented some of the key challenges that Seychelles and other small island developing States were experiencing, including the impacts of coastal fisheries. She also highlighted the advancements her country had made, including signing a marine spatial plan into law in 2025, ratifying the BBNJ Agreement, and using blue bonds to raise funds for marine protection and ocean resilience. She also noted the establishment, within the National Assembly of Seychelles, of the Committee on Environment, Fisheries and Tourism.

Parliamentarians from several countries, including Bahrain, Côte d’Ivoire, Fiji, Greece, Malawi and Seychelles, made interventions from the floor. Key issues raised included the importance of the blue economy, efforts to reduce single-use plastics and expand marine management areas, the need to also consider protecting inland water resources that feed into oceans, and the necessity of advancing ocean protection to promote tourism as an important source of revenue for many coastal countries.

Elections and appointments

1. Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The Governing Council elected Ms. Anda Filip as Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for a four-year term of office running from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2030 (see details of the vote on [page 13](#)).

2. Vice-Presidents of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee elected Mr. M. Dick (Australia) as Vice-President of the Executive Committee representing the Asia-Pacific Group.

3. Gender Partnership Group

The Executive Committee appointed Ms. N.B.K. Mutti (Zambia) and Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium) to the Gender Partnership Group, and the Group elected Ms. S. Mikayilova (Azerbaijan) as its Chair.

4. Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

The Forum of Women Parliamentarians elected the following regional representatives to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, to complete the terms of regional representatives who had lost their parliamentary seats:

African Group

- Ms. Y.A. Asseke (Côte d'Ivoire) for a term ending in March 2029

Asia-Pacific Group

- Ms. D. Wangmo (Bhutan) for a term ending in March 2027

5. Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

The Governing Council elected the following members for a five-year term ending in March 2031:

- Mr. C. Supphaiboonlerd (Thailand)
- Ms. U. Shapak (Kazakhstan)
- Mr. D. Caggiani (Uruguay)
- Mr. C. Rendón (Mexico)
- A vacancy remains on this Committee.

6. Committee on Middle East Questions

Two vacancies remain on the Committee on Middle East Questions.

Ms. A. Erdogan (Türkiye) was elected President and will serve a one-year term.

7. Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

The Governing Council elected the following members for a four-year term ending in March 2030:

African Group

- Ms. C. Mzumara (Malawi)

Asia-Pacific Group

- Mr. A.A. Bagherzadeh (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Eurasia Group

- Ms. I. Svyatenko (Russian Federation)
- A vacancy remains for this group.

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

The Governing Council elected the following members for a four-year term ending in March 2030:

African Group

- A vacancy remains for this group.

Eurasia Group

- Mr. T.T. Nabizoda (Tajikistan)
- A vacancy remains for this group.

Twelve Plus Group

- Mr. R. Fogiel (Poland)

Ms. M. Guerra Castillo (Mexico) was re-elected Chairperson, and Ms. L. Saint-Paul (France) was re-elected Vice-Chairperson. Both will serve a one-year term.

9. Working Group on Science and Technology

The Governing Council elected the following members for a four-year term ending March 2030:

Eurasia Group

- Ms. D.R. Saidi (Tajikistan)
- A vacancy remains for this group.

Group of Latin America and the Caribbean

- A vacancy remains for this group.

Ms. M. Cederfelt (Sweden) and Mr. N. In-na (Thailand) were re-elected as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively.

10. Committee on Health

The Governing Council elected the following member for a four-year term ending in March 2030:

- Mr. A.M.I. Hatem (Egypt)

11. Bureaux of the Standing Committees

The Standing Committees elected the following members to their respective Bureaux for terms ending in March 2028:

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security*African Group*

- Mr. F. Belekanyama (Malawi)
- A vacancy remains for this group.

Eurasia Group

- Mr. N. Mahmudzoda (Tajikistan)
- A vacancy remains for this group.

Group of Latin America and the Caribbean

- Ms. F. Weisse (Chile)

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development*Eurasia Group*

- A vacancy remains for this group.

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights*Eurasia Group*

- Mr. S. Ghanizoda (Tajikistan)
- A vacancy remains for this group.

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs*African Group*

- Ms. C.L. Ouédraogo (Burkina Faso)

Arab Group

- Ms. M. Aldhain (Bahrain)

Asia-Pacific Group

- A vacancy remains for this group.

Eurasia Group

- Mr. K. Shamsherzoda (Tajikistan)

Group of Latin America and the Caribbean

- Mr. M. Salinas (Paraguay) for a second term

12. Rapporteurs

On the proposal of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, the Assembly appointed Ms. L. Zaburanna (Ukraine) and Mr. M. Almheiri (United Arab Emirates) as co-Rapporteurs for the subject item *Strengthening maritime security and protecting critical infrastructure in times of conflict: The role of parliaments in safeguarding international navigation and global economic stability*.

On the proposal of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, the Assembly appointed Ms. C. Roth (Germany), Mr. D. Kyere-Duah (Ghana) and Ms. A. Shakya (Nepal) as co-Rapporteurs for the subject item *Parliamentary leadership to protect mountain and ocean ecosystems and achieve the 30% conservation goal by 2030*.

Media and communications

The 152nd IPU Assembly set new benchmarks for visibility, marked by unprecedented media presence and coverage. The Assembly also achieved significant engagement levels across social media platforms, particularly Instagram and LinkedIn.

Media

Over the 10-day period, the IPU issued six press releases and news pieces. Media coverage reached record levels, with more than 4,000 media mentions as of 20 April 2026. This compares favourably with the 2,500 media clippings at the 151st Assembly in Geneva and 3,210 during the 150th IPU Assembly in Tashkent. These figures likely underestimate overall reach, as monitoring did not include television and radio.

The significant growth in coverage can be attributed to widespread reporting by international agencies such as Reuters, AP and AFP, and Turkish media outlets including TRT, the national Turkish TV network. Additional factors included the participation of several countries currently at war (notably the Islamic Republic of Iran) and the election of a new IPU Secretary General.

National media accompanying their delegations also contributed substantially to coverage, especially from Azerbaijan, Ghana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nigeria, Russian Federation, South Africa, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

Web, livestream and video on demand (VOD)

Nearly 9,000 viewers watched the live feed of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, the Governing Council, and Assembly sessions. Although this was a decrease from the 11,400 at the previous Assembly, it remained close to recent averages of around 10,000 viewers.

Viewing figures from TRT were unavailable at the time of writing but are expected to be significantly higher.

Video extracts of plenary speeches during the General Debate continued to be popular among delegates. The communications team responded to around 15 requests for VOD, mainly related to the General Debate.

Social media platforms

On X, fewer posts were published by the IPU team as the platform is losing parliamentarians, and non-premium accounts are disadvantaged by its algorithms. Despite these challenges, Assembly posts generated over 50,000 views.

LinkedIn continued its positive trajectory, achieving nearly 20,000 impressions compared with 8,600 at the previous Assembly. The account now exceeds 14,000 followers.

The IPU Instagram account's growth was even more dramatic, with total story views reaching 214,000, up from 66,000 at the last Assembly. The account gained 423 new followers, compared with 215 at the previous Assembly. Across 321 content pieces produced (images and videos on the grid and in stories), total views reached 404,000.

A selective approach to collaborations proved effective, including partnerships with the Turkish Parliament's social media team and the Austrian Parliament's team.

On Facebook, engagement remained strong, with 43,000 views of IPU content and 737 new followers, compared with 300 at the previous Assembly.

MP interviews

A dozen MPs were interviewed during the Assembly, covering topics such as the war in the Middle East, the IPU's new *Bring human rights into focus* campaign, and artificial intelligence.

Publications

In preparation for the Assembly, the communications team produced an unparalleled volume of publications in multiple languages including: the 2025 Impact Report, *Youth participation in national parliaments: 2025* and a special edition report to mark IPU Secretary General Martin Chungong's 12-year tenure.

Photography

Photographers from the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye captured hundreds of high-quality images across approximately 70 sessions, bilateral meetings and side events.

Membership of the Inter-Parliamentary Union¹

Members (183)

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

Associate Members (15)

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

¹ As at the close of the 152nd Assembly.

* Non-participating Members or Associate Members (all rights suspended)

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

Agenda, resolutions and other texts of the 152nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. Election of the President of the 152nd Assembly
2. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
3. General Debate on the theme *Nurturing hope, securing peace and ensuring justice for future generations*
4. Special accountability segment on the implementation of IPU resolutions and other decisions
5. *The role of parliaments in establishing robust post-conflict management mechanisms and restoring a just and lasting peace*
(Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)
6. *Building a fair and sustainable global economy: The role of parliaments in combating protectionism, reducing tariffs and preventing corporate tax avoidance*
(Standing Committee on Sustainable Development)
7. Reports of the Standing Committees
8. Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and for the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development for the 154th Assembly and appointment of the co-Rapporteurs
9. Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules
10. The urgent need for concerted parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and support peacebuilding in the Middle East and other regions

Istanbul Declaration

Nurturing hope, securing peace and ensuring justice for future generations

*Endorsed by the 152nd IPU Assembly
(Istanbul, 19 April 2026)*

We, parliamentarians from around the world, gathered at the 152nd IPU Assembly in Istanbul, recall the shared commitment of the international community to prevent conflict, uphold human rights, and create the conditions for all people to live in peace and dignity, free from fear and want, in line with the founding principles of the IPU and the Charter of the United Nations.

We recognize that parliaments currently operate in a complex, turbulent and uncertain global environment, characterized by a multitude of destabilizing and often interlinked factors, including: an increase in armed conflicts and geopolitical tensions; serious violations of international law; geoeconomic competition; the persistent threat of radicalization, terrorism and violent extremism; and a series of challenges facing, and at times weakening, democratic institutions. Hard-won gains in making societies more inclusive, such as on women's rights, are facing renewed pushback.

In addition, the rapid development of emerging and disruptive technologies, including artificial intelligence, is fundamentally transforming societies, economies and the nature of global conflict. The misuse of these technologies is a particular concern, as is the rise in cybercrime and hybrid threats.

The situation is further compounded by the spread of misinformation and disinformation, which deepens social and political polarization, contributes to growing distrust in democratic institutions and undermines the rule of law. At the same time, widening socio-economic inequalities and a growing digital divide, persistent poverty and food insecurity, and unprecedented levels of forced displacement are contributing to a climate of uncertainty.

We are equally concerned about the accelerating impacts of climate change, growing environmental degradation and increasing pressures on natural resources and biodiversity, all of which constitute growing drivers of inequality, poverty, development disparities and livelihood challenges. These are contributing to instability and conflict and placing a disproportionate burden on young people and those in vulnerable situations, as well as on generations to come.

All these factors are fuelling heightened anxiety and disillusionment about the future, particularly among young people. Persistent youth underrepresentation in decision-making processes and insufficient efforts to address this gap are contributing to growing disenchantment. We particularly recognize that young people represent both present stakeholders and a vital link to future generations, and that their perspectives should be reflected in decision-making processes that shape long-term societal outcomes.

Amid the continued and rapid deterioration of peace and security, we are alarmed by the decline in dialogue and diplomacy as a means of resolving disputes, the growing tendency to frame peace as achievable by force, and widespread impunity that erodes accountability and fuels further instability. In many parts of the world, significant public resources are being invested in defence and broader military capabilities, including artificial intelligence and cyberspace technologies, as well as conventional and nuclear deterrence. These tendencies are leading to budget allocations which detract from spending on sustainable development and which, if not managed, can exacerbate military competition and undermine long-term stability.

We reaffirm the central importance of democratic institutions, representative governance and respect for human rights in sustaining peaceful and just societies. Effective, participatory, accountable and transparent governance, benefitting from the contribution of a diversity of stakeholders, is essential to ensuring stability, guaranteeing justice and safeguarding human dignity.

We reaffirm our commitment to the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, to international law and to multilateral cooperation as the essential foundations of global peace, stability, development and cooperation. These principles are enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which remains a cornerstone of the multilateral system, and encompasses the fundamental rights of both present and future generations.

Respect for the rule of law and for international norms is more important than ever for restoring peace, safeguarding the international order, and breaking cycles of violence and conflict within and between countries. We recognize that such cycles not only affect present generations but also perpetuate intergenerational trauma and risk depriving future generations of the chance to live peacefully and in dignity.

We recognize that fragile contexts are incubators of instability and conflict, and that sustainable peace is built incrementally and requires responsible and ethical governance, resilient institutions, and tailored reconciliation and post-conflict strategies to rebuild trust among and between communities and confidence in public institutions.

We also recognize the importance of protecting the diversity of our societies, including in terms of race, ethnicity, colour, culture, language, religion, beliefs and other characteristics. We pay special tribute to the wisdom and heritage of traditional and Indigenous communities, which have informed coexistence and sustainable stewardship of resources for generations. We emphasize the importance of promoting, protecting and ensuring the rights and inclusion of persons living with disabilities as well as all people in vulnerable situations.

As parliamentarians and representatives of the people, we acknowledge that the decisions we take as legislators impact the political, social, economic, technological and environmental conditions that young people and future generations will inherit. As public figures, we play an influential role in how different challenges are expressed and addressed, and we also shape public discourse and societal values.

Building on these roles and responsibilities, we commit to fostering respectful dialogue and responsible leadership, and to strengthening the contribution of parliaments to efforts to nurture hope, secure peace and ensure justice for everyone. We parliamentarians pledge to respond to these mounting global challenges with political will and concrete action, including:

Strengthening democratic, inclusive and representative governance across generations by:

- Enhancing transparency, accountability and responsiveness in our national institutions to enhance the effectiveness of decisions, as well as to deepen public trust and democratic legitimacy. We will promote inclusive governance, including open dialogue that reflects the diversity of society and meaningful participation by citizens in public decision-making, to nurture trust in national institutions and reinforce social cohesion.
- Addressing the persistent underrepresentation of youth in legislatures and political institutions, including through the introduction of youth quotas, and recognizing the importance of empowering young people to shape the societies of today and tomorrow. We will work to implement the UN's Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda to promote peace and stability.
- Advancing gender parity in parliaments and promoting women's equal influence and leadership, including by adopting appropriate measures such as quotas. We will advance measures aimed at removing structural barriers to women's political engagement, including gender-based violence and other challenges affecting their full and effective participation. We will also actively promote the UN's Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, recognizing the essential role of women in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustainable peace, as well as the importance of ensuring accountability through WPS legislation and national action plans.

Advancing long-term and intergenerational governance approaches by:

- Strengthening parliamentary practices and budget allocations for monitoring and evaluation frameworks and data collection, to support legislators in assessing the long-term implications of laws, policies and public spending.
- Reinforcing evidence-based policymaking, strategic foresight and inclusive dialogue, to ensure that public decision-making, including on budget allocations, takes into account environmental, social and economic consequences.
- Supporting the development of institutional mechanisms, such as committees for the future, that help embed long-term thinking in public governance and ensure continuity of action beyond one electoral cycle.

Addressing structural drivers of instability by:

- Supporting policies that address the root causes of poverty, inequality, social exclusion, polarization and radicalization, recognizing that these challenges are often interlinked and undermine stability, social cohesion and trust in institutions. By tackling these structural drivers of instability, such as by prioritizing access to quality education, we will strengthen the foundations of peaceful, just and resilient societies.

- Promoting people-centred and preventive responses to insecurity, guided by the human security and common security approach, including by addressing drivers of conflict and strengthening resilience at individual, community and institutional levels, recognizing that lasting peace depends on cooperation, dialogue and mutual understanding.
- Advancing sustainable development, food security and climate resilience as essential pillars of shared prosperity, environmental protection, peace and security. This particularly includes supporting the sustainable management of natural resources and strengthening environmental protections.

Promoting responsible governance of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, by:

- Strengthening parliamentary oversight and governance frameworks to better understand their implications, maximize their benefits, and anticipate potential destabilizing effects. This includes mitigating risks, particularly those arising from the misuse of these technologies in the military domain and through digital platforms, as well as those associated with cybercrime.
- Ensuring that technological innovation is subject to effective, ethical and responsible governance. Through legislation, oversight and public debate, we will promote transparency, accountability and meaningful human control in the development and deployment of emerging technologies, in full respect of democratic values and international law, for the well-being of humanity, societies and the environment.
- Promoting international cooperation and dialogue on emerging technologies. We will work to advance shared principles, foster convergence of approaches and support the development of global common standards to ensure that technological progress contributes positively to a future in which innovation serves, and does not enslave, humanity.

Strengthening parliamentary diplomacy and international cooperation by:

- Fostering dialogue, cooperation and confidence-building between parliamentarians as a means of building trust, promoting mutual understanding and supporting joint action between States, including by sharing good practices, knowledge and lessons learned. We will endeavour to ensure the full and equal participation of women and youth in such efforts.
- Strengthening inter-parliamentary action, including through the IPU, in order to contribute to conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of disputes, to help advance a spirit of cooperation and solidarity. In this regard, we will strengthen parliamentary diplomacy and mediation as important tools for addressing disputes at the national, regional and international levels.
- Supporting the consistent and effective implementation of international commitments that promote peace, sustainable development and human rights. We will make use of our oversight functions to ensure that government action upholds international humanitarian law and prioritizes the protection of civilians in armed conflict. We will advance the implementation of the UN Pact for the Future, the Declaration on Future Generations and the Sustainable Development Goals, while supporting ongoing efforts to shape the post-2030 development agenda.

As parliamentarians, we pledge to do our utmost to nurture hope in our societies and work tirelessly to secure peace and uphold justice for all. We encourage the IPU to further integrate strategic foresight into its work, in order to support parliaments in being fit for action to meet future challenges, risks, opportunities and needs, for the benefit of future generations.

We express our gratitude to the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye for hosting this Assembly in Istanbul, allowing us to reflect collectively on the essential role of parliamentarians in shaping the choices that will influence our societies for many years into the future. We commit to strengthening parliamentary cooperation in support of peaceful, just and sustainable societies for all.

We pledge to take this Declaration back to our respective parliaments, share the outcome of our deliberations with our colleagues and national authorities, translate its commitments into concrete legislative, budgetary, oversight and representative actions, and sustain this effort for the well-being of generations to come.

The role of parliaments in establishing robust post-conflict management mechanisms and restoring a just and lasting peace

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 152nd IPU Assembly
(Istanbul, 19 April 2026)*

The 152nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recognizing that respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the peaceful settlement of disputes and the obligation to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, including strict adherence to established border treaties and maps internationally recognized or deposited with the United Nations, as elaborated in UN General Assembly resolution [2625 \(XXV\)](#) (1970), and the protection of civilians in armed conflict in line with UN Security Council resolution [1674](#) (2006), are indispensable to building a just and lasting peace, and *taking into consideration* the responsibility to protect, as articulated in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document (UN General Assembly resolution [60/1](#)),

Recalling UN Security Council resolution [2282](#) (2016) and UN General Assembly resolution [70/262](#) (2016) on the UN peacebuilding architecture,

Recalling also complementary UN normative frameworks, including: the Peacebuilding Commission's founding resolutions, Security Council resolution [1645](#) (2005) and General Assembly resolution [60/180](#) (2005); Security Council resolution [2558](#) (2020) and General Assembly resolution [75/201](#) (2020), adopted in the context of the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture; Security Council Resolution [2788](#) (2025) on strengthening the mechanisms for peaceful settlement of disputes; Security Council resolution [2805](#) (2025) and General Assembly resolution [80/11](#) (2025), which reaffirm the mandate of the Peacebuilding Commission, strengthen impact-focused implementation and establish enhanced coordination, reporting and support mechanisms across the UN system; and the General Assembly's resolutions on *Basic principles and guidelines on the right to a remedy and reparation for victims of gross violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law* ([60/147](#), 2005), the *Right to the truth* ([68/165](#), 2013), *Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution* ([65/283](#), 2011), and the Pact for the Future ([79/1](#), 2024), which collectively underscore the need for nationally led, inclusive and accountable institutions to support sustainable peace,

Reaffirming previous IPU resolutions on [Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development](#) (2018), on [Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace](#) (2022), on [Peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, respecting international law, the Charter of the United Nations and territorial integrity](#) (2022) and on [Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development](#) (2025), and acknowledging the 2024 Geneva Declaration on [Parliamentary diplomacy: Building bridges for peace and understanding](#) and the 2024 IPU toolkit for parliamentarians on [Human security and common security to build peace](#), which together establish the Organization's long-standing commitment to inclusive and people-centred peacebuilding, and provide practical guidance for parliaments to strengthen prevention and dialogue and address the root causes of conflict,

Condemning acts of aggression, violations of sovereignty and territorial integrity, and other serious breaches of the Charter of the United Nations, which undermine international peace and security and create conditions incompatible with comprehensive, just and lasting peace, and *recalling* in this regard the IPU resolutions on [Non-admissibility of using mercenaries and foreign fighters as a means of undermining peace, international security and the territorial integrity of States, and violating human rights](#) (2019) and on [Condemnation of the invasion of Ukraine and of the subsequent annexation of territories, in defence of the territorial integrity of all States](#) (2022),

Expressing deep concern at the severe human, social, economic, climate and environmental consequences of conflicts in which peace agreements are inadequately implemented or monitored owing to weak enforcement mechanisms, resulting in renewed instability and violence, prolonged suffering for affected populations, and the erosion of public trust in national institutions, and *recognizing* that rebuilding public trust requires visible improvements in service delivery and institutional performance,

Concerned by deliberate or systematic attacks against civilian infrastructure, including energy, heating and water systems, which exacerbate humanitarian suffering and hinder recovery and reconstruction, and *recognizing* that efforts to restore essential services, rebuild infrastructure and strengthen resilience may need to commence even while hostilities persist, in order to protect civilian populations and sustain the functioning of affected societies,

Alarmed by the repeated inability of the international community to facilitate effective peace talks and support the enforcement of peace agreements, including through the provision of appropriate security guarantees and assistance for the establishment of justice mechanisms, and through joint monitoring and verification missions, as well as by its failure to strengthen humanitarian assistance and protection efforts and to ensure sustained backing for inclusive political dialogue and mediation processes, all of which undermines the credibility of peace processes and weakens confidence in international institutions,

Recognizing that sustainable peace cannot be achieved where territories remain under foreign occupation or unlawful control, and *reaffirming* that the restoration of the territorial integrity of States within internationally recognized borders, including territorial sea, is an essential precondition for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace,

Recognizing that sustainable peace, development and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, and that economic recovery, poverty eradication, job creation and infrastructure development are essential foundations for lasting peace in post-conflict societies,

Noting with great concern that peacebuilding, prevention and diplomacy efforts continue to receive disproportionately limited resources compared to military responses, particularly in developing countries and communities emerging from conflict, and *stressing* the need for sustained, predictable and adequate international financing for nationally led recovery and reconstruction efforts,

Recognizing the disproportionate and unique impact of conflict on women, youth and children, persons with disabilities, and vulnerable and marginalized groups, resulting in heightened risks to their safety, livelihoods, education and well-being, and *reaffirming* that they are not merely victims but essential actors in peacebuilding, recovery and reconciliation, in line with UN Security Council resolutions [1325](#) (2000), [1829](#) (2008), [1888](#) (2009), [1889](#) (2009), [1960](#) (2010), [2106](#) (2013), [2122](#) (2013), [2242](#) (2015), [2250](#) (2015), [2467](#) (2019) and [2493](#) (2019), which call for their full, equal and meaningful participation in all phases of peace processes,

Recognizing the importance of preventing and responding to sexual violence in situations of conflict and post-conflict recovery, including the need for a survivor-centred approach, for survivors of sexual violence to receive non-discriminatory access to services such as medical and psychosocial care to the fullest extent practicable, and for accountability for those responsible for such violence, in line with UN Security Council resolution [2467](#) (2019),

Deeply concerned by the unlawful deportation and forcible transfer of children during armed conflicts, including the illegal international adoption and trafficking of such children, and other serious human rights abuses, all of which constitute grave violations of international humanitarian law, *recalling* in this regard the IPU resolutions on [Parliamentary impetus to local and regional development of countries with high levels of international migration and to stopping all forms, including state-sponsored, of human trafficking and human rights abuses](#) (2022), on [Orphanage trafficking: The role of parliaments in reducing harm](#) (2023) and on [Recognizing and supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent this practice](#) (2025), which condemned the forced displacement by the Russian Federation of Ukrainian civilians, including thousands of children, from the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine, and *stressing* that the safe return of unlawfully deported and forcibly transferred children must form an integral part of efforts to restore a comprehensive, just and lasting peace,

Emphasizing the value of approaching post-conflict recovery through a holistic framework centred on five complementary and mutually reinforcing dimensions:

- (a) strengthened and resilient institutions, including professional and accountable civil services, and, where relevant, security sector reform, as well as transparent public financial management, digital governance, the restoration of essential public services, and governance of environmental restoration and sustainability,
- (b) equitable economic reconstruction, including employment generation, particularly for youth and women, support for small and medium-sized enterprises, and access to livelihoods, skills development and education,
- (c) social reconciliation and dialogue, including transitional justice, accountability for violations of international law and, where appropriate, reparations for victims,
- (d) inclusive political life, and
- (e) sustained international support,

each of which contributes to building hopeful, resilient and lasting peace,

Reaffirming that sustainable peace must be nationally owned and led, with external support facilitating and reinforcing, rather than substituting for, domestic institutions and democratic legitimacy, in line with the sustaining peace agenda, which underscores that durable recovery depends on inclusive national leadership, accountable governance, transparent and participatory processes and the meaningful participation of all sectors of society, as well as sustained efforts to address the underlying structural drivers of conflict and fragility,

Emphasizing the central role of parliaments in translating peace agreements into national legislation, ensuring effective oversight of agreed commitments, transparent and accountable parliamentary processes, and adequate budgetary allocations for the implementation of such agreements, differentiating between ad hoc and transitory needs on the one hand and regular State structural needs on the other, and facilitating broad participation so that the voices and needs of all affected communities are meaningfully represented, thereby strengthening institutional trust, enabling inclusive recovery and supporting the long-term consolidation of peace,

Underlining the importance of human security and common security as key principles for restoring a comprehensive, just, lasting and inclusive peace, by promoting people-centred and preventive approaches that address the root causes of conflict and advance trust, dignity and resilience, in line with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and in particular Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions,

Recognizing that environmental destruction is both a cause and a consequence of armed conflict, threatening water, food and energy security, displacing populations and undermining long-term peacebuilding, and that post-conflict recovery cannot be sustainable unless ecological damage is addressed alongside institutional and social reconstruction,

Affirming that lasting peace is achievable only through just peace grounded in full accountability for aggressors, punishment for violations of international law, and redress for victims, and that any settlement that sacrifices justice for expediency risks perpetuating cycles of violence and undermining the legitimacy of peace itself,

1. *Reaffirms* that the prohibition of aggression constitutes a peremptory norm of international law, and *underscores* the fact that a comprehensive, just and lasting peace requires the cessation of acts of aggression and the withdrawal of foreign forces unlawfully deployed on the territory of another sovereign State, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;
2. *Also reaffirms* that post-conflict recovery must be nationally led and owned, *encourages* parliaments to guide this work through a holistic framework built on strengthened institutions, including hybrid international and national transitory bodies if deemed necessary, as well as on accessible and equitable services such as healthcare, on equitable economic reconstruction, including access to livelihoods, skills development and education as foundations for sustainable growth, on social reconciliation and dialogue, inclusive political life and sustained international support, and on environmental restoration and sustainability, and *underscores* the fact that reconstruction strategies, legal reforms and institutional strengthening efforts are designed, debated and approved transparently and democratically through inclusive national processes, and that all external assistance aligns with nationally defined priorities, is subject to democratic oversight and reinforces

domestic governance systems, while recognizing that, in many contexts, reconstruction and recovery efforts may need to begin during ongoing hostilities in order to restore essential services, support affected communities and strengthen societal resilience;

3. *Urges* parliaments to take concrete legislative and oversight action to combat impunity for grave violations of international law and international humanitarian law, by demanding full cooperation with international accountability mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court, and ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice, recognizing that lasting peace can only be achieved through just peace, including full accountability and punishment for aggressors and redress for victims, and that peace without justice is neither durable nor legitimate;
4. *Calls upon* parliaments to recognize the role of environmental degradation as a driver of conflict and instability, and to ensure that post-conflict recovery frameworks include environmental peacebuilding measures, legal accountability for ecosystem destruction, and the application of the “polluter pays” principle in reconstruction financing;
5. *Urges* parliaments in countries affected by or emerging from conflict to ensure strong national ownership of peace and recovery processes by leading inclusive nationwide consultations, defining priorities through democratic deliberation and legislation, and ensuring that all stages of reconstruction and any external support are anchored in transparent and accountable parliamentary processes and are adapted to local needs, constitutional frameworks and international human rights obligations, in accordance with national laws and constitutional allocation of powers;
6. *Calls upon* parliaments responsible for implementing peace agreements to give full legal effect to their provisions by incorporating them into national legislation, establishing clear and time-bound implementation requirements, and creating permanent, representative, cross-party mechanisms to regularly review progress, hold hearings with relevant actors, including women and youth groups and representatives of affected communities, and coordinate parliamentary follow-up, ensuring continuity, early identification of gaps, and the upholding of commitments across political cycles, with particular attention paid to addressing the root causes of conflict;
7. *Also calls upon* parliaments, when addressing the legacies of conflict, to ensure that transitional justice measures are informed by broad consultation with victims, and to establish national transitional justice frameworks by adopting legislation that enables:
 - (a) truth-seeking processes,
 - (b) accessible and impartial victim-centred reparations,
 - (c) forgiveness and reconciliation,
 - (d) fair and transparent vetting or amnesty procedures applied in a manner consistent with international law while ensuring that any amnesty is applied prudently and does not extend to genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes or the crime of aggression, so as not to undermine the foundations of justice and equity upon which lasting peace must be built, and
 - (e) effective cooperation with national and, where appropriate and in accordance with national law, international accountability mechanisms, including through the exercise of parliamentary oversight in cooperation with other authorities,
 ensuring that justice, recognition of past harms and institutional reform, together with guarantees of non-recurrence, form an integral part of sustainable peace;
8. *Encourages* parliaments to apply the human security and common security approach in their legislative, oversight, budgetary and representation functions to strengthen prevention, address the root causes of conflict, and ensure inclusive and people-centred recovery, making use, where relevant, of available guidance and tools to support risk-mapping, dialogue and resilience-building;
9. *Emphasizes* that sustainable peacebuilding requires addressing the root causes of conflict, including, but not limited to, poverty, inequality, marginalization, unresolved disputes and foreign occupation, and that international efforts must support nationally led processes that tackle these underlying drivers rather than merely addressing symptoms of conflict;
10. *Invites* parliaments to champion multilingualism in post-conflict management processes as an enabler of peacebuilding and reconciliation;

11. *Calls upon* Member Parliaments to move from merely involving youth in the post-conflict phase to empowering them as partners in reshaping the social contract and in strengthening trust between citizens and their institutions, by involving them in long-term strategic planning processes, in evaluating recovery policies and in designing reforms of governance and public institutions, and *calls for* the enshrinement of intergenerational justice as a fundamental guiding principle of post-conflict policies, ensuring that youth are not burdened with the accumulated costs of past conflicts without being empowered to contribute to shaping the future;
12. *Urges* parliaments to rebalance national and international budgetary priorities and strengthen domestic resource mobilization in favour of peacebuilding, prevention, reconciliation and diplomacy by ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financial resources for recovery, dialogue and violence prevention initiatives, and by exercising their budgetary oversight role to promote transparent, accountable and long-term investment in sustainable peace, including by ensuring that recovery budgets explicitly allocate dedicated resources for gender equality, women's empowerment and the specific needs of displaced women and girls;
13. *Condemns* attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, including energy, heating, water and other critical systems indispensable to the survival and well-being of the civilian population, and *stresses* that such practices not only violate international humanitarian law but also undermine recovery efforts and the conditions necessary for restoring a comprehensive, just and lasting peace;
14. *Encourages* parliaments to strengthen legal and technical mechanisms to improve their capacities, and the capacities of the judiciary, to effectively oversee their country's security actors, including, but not limited to, armed forces, the police and intelligence agencies, in order to prevent those actors from abusing their power and to hold them accountable if they do so, thereby preventing violence, improving the trust of the population in those actors and strengthening social cohesion;
15. *Calls upon* parliaments to exercise their legislative and oversight roles in prioritizing the needs of populations affected by conflicts within national reconstruction policies and recovery and assistance budgets, including by:
 - (a) adopting legal frameworks and allocating the necessary financial resources,
 - (b) supporting policies aimed at restoring livelihoods and reintegration,
 - (c) advancing mechanisms and measures that facilitate compensation, restitution, rehabilitation and reparations for victims, and the reconstruction of affected communities, including through internationally coordinated mechanisms, registers of damage, and the lawful use of the frozen or immobilized assets of States responsible for acts of aggression, in accordance with national and international law,
 - (d) rebuilding essential services and infrastructure, including the restoration and protection of energy, heating, water and other critical civilian infrastructure deliberately damaged or destroyed during armed conflicts, as well as monitoring the rebuilding of such services and infrastructure, and ensuring that reconstruction programmes reflect the needs and rights of all affected communities,
 - (e) supporting comprehensive mine action programmes, including demining, the clearance of unexploded ordnance, and risk education and victim assistance, as well as environmental remediation of war-related ecological damage,
 - (f) providing capacity-building and strengthening the resilience of critical infrastructure against attacks,
 - (g) ensuring that recovery efforts integrate environmental sustainability and the restoration of conflict-damaged ecosystems,
 - (h) prioritizing in particular women, girls and displaced persons, including through healthcare, education, and psychosocial and economic support for women, girls and survivors of sexual violence, and putting gender equality at the centre of planning and budgetary allocations, and
 - (i) ensuring access to skills development, education and healthcare;
16. *Underscores* in particular the importance of parliamentary action in promoting security stabilization for more effective post-conflict management, including support for security sector reform as well as for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of formal or informal combatants, including child soldiers;

17. *Calls upon* parliaments to support efforts aimed at facilitating the safe, voluntary and dignified return of refugees, people who remain abroad as temporarily displaced persons, internally displaced persons, and civilians unlawfully transferred during armed conflicts, including the return of unlawfully deported, forcibly transferred or displaced children, and to promote the exchange and repatriation of prisoners of war in accordance with international humanitarian law, recognizing that these humanitarian measures are essential for rebuilding trust and restoring a comprehensive, just and lasting peace;
18. *Also calls upon* parliaments to support the implementation of international commitments related to the prohibition of anti-personnel landmines and cluster munitions, as well as to strengthen national measures to ensure the implementation of applicable international humanitarian law related to the use, clearance and humanitarian consequences of all forms of explosive remnants of war, by exercising legislative oversight, adopting and updating national implementing legislation, ensuring adequate budgetary allocations for clearance, risk education, stockpile destruction and victim assistance, supporting affected communities, and promoting ratification, compliance and accountability at the national level;
19. *Encourages* parliaments involved in reconstruction processes to strengthen transparency, openness, integrity and anti-corruption safeguards in the planning, allocation and oversight of reconstruction and recovery funds, including through public access to information and through cooperation with independent oversight bodies, to ensure that resources are used effectively, to reduce inequalities and to restore public confidence in economic recovery efforts essential to sustainable peace;
20. *Calls upon* parliaments to strengthen environmental and natural resource governance in post-conflict settings by adopting laws that promote sustainable, equitable management of land and resources, exercising transparent oversight of extraction and revenue practices, and ensuring meaningful community participation, thereby reducing resource-related conflict risks and supporting long-term peace and stability;
21. *Also calls upon* parliaments to advance towards national recovery from conflict by:
 - (a) enacting legislation that protects fundamental rights, including laws on gender-based violence, property rights, citizenship and equality before the law,
 - (b) supporting national and community-level reconciliation efforts through inclusive dialogue among affected communities,
 - (c) facilitating recognition of past harms and of civilian and military victims, including through appropriate memorialization and peace education initiatives,
 - (d) supporting the integration of recovery programmes and policies that take into account the psychological and social impacts of conflicts and trauma, including psychosocial support for survivors, displaced and marginalized persons, and women, youth and children, and systematically incorporating such programmes and policies into relevant national plans and policies, and
 - (e) ensuring that women-led organizations and women human rights defenders are recognized as essential agents of peace and are afforded adequate protection, resources and institutional support,
 so as to rebuild trust, repair social ties and advance national unity;
22. *Further calls upon* parliaments, particularly those seeking to re-establish social cohesion following conflict, to promote inclusive national and local dialogue processes that bring together communities, former adversaries, civil society and traditional and religious actors, and to support mediation, confidence-building and community reconciliation initiatives that help address historical grievances and prevent renewed tensions, and *urges* parliaments to exercise their representative, legislative and oversight functions to ensure that such processes are participatory, transparent and adequately resourced, and that they contribute meaningfully to long-term peace and social cohesion;
23. *Encourages* parliaments to safeguard an enabling environment in which civil society, human rights defenders, community leaders and journalists can carry out their vital work freely, openly and without fear of intimidation or reprisal, and to contribute meaningfully to reconciliation and the rebuilding of trust within post-conflict societies;

24. *Calls for* investment in building the leadership and institutional capacities of youth, thereby strengthening their role in preventing the occurrence and recurrence of conflicts, and making youth a pillar of sustainable social stability;
25. *Urges* parliaments, in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions [1325](#) (2000) and [2250](#) (2015), to institutionalize the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, youth and children across all peace, security and dialogue processes by establishing legal guarantees for their representation in national dialogues, reconciliation and truth-seeking bodies, and inclusive oversight mechanisms, and by supporting initiatives that strengthen their leadership and effective engagement at all stages of peacebuilding;
26. *Also urges* parliaments, in line with UN Security Council resolution [2469](#) (2019), to strengthen legislation to foster accountability for sexual violence, and *emphasizes* the critical role of States' domestic investigation and judicial systems in preventing and eliminating sexual violence in conflict and in ensuring accountability for those responsible;
27. *Calls upon* Member Parliaments to integrate a systematic and binding youth dimension into the establishment and implementation of post-conflict management mechanisms by ensuring the effective and organized participation of youth, both women and men, in all stages of peacebuilding, including in peace negotiations, national reconciliation, transitional justice, reconstruction, disarmament and reintegration, as well as in educational programmes on peace, recognizing the role of youth as essential partners in achieving a just and lasting peace;
28. *Calls upon* parliaments, particularly in contexts where societies are rebuilding cohesion after periods of instability, to strengthen inclusive political participation by ensuring that all affected communities are represented in legislative deliberations, public hearings and national dialogue processes, and by formalizing regular consultations with civil society, including women's groups, youth organizations, persons with disabilities, and displaced or marginalized populations, including religious, ethnic and sexual minorities and Indigenous groups, all of whom are disproportionately affected in times of conflict, as an integral part of parliamentary decision-making and oversight;
29. *Calls for* the enactment of national legislation and policies that ensure the representation of youth in post-conflict bodies and committees, for the provision of the necessary resources to support youth-led peace initiatives, for the promotion of opportunities for youth for education, decent work and political participation, and for the promotion of mental and social health, thereby contributing to addressing the root causes of conflict and preventing its recurrence;
30. *Stresses* the importance of parliaments exercising their oversight role to ensure that a youth perspective is integrated into peace and security policies and to monitor the implementation of relevant commitments, thereby consolidating a comprehensive approach based on intergenerational justice and on protecting societies from cycles of violence and instability;
31. *Urges* parliaments to foster constructive political dialogue and consensus-building by creating or reinforcing cross-party parliamentary platforms that promote cooperation across political divides, and by ensuring that political transitions, electoral reforms and inclusive political processes reflect the needs, rights and aspirations of historically underrepresented groups and communities affected by violence or instability;
32. *Calls upon* parliaments to work with their governments, regional organizations, the IPU and the UN to strengthen international support and funding for peace agreements by advocating for credible and enforceable security guarantees and for adequately mandated peacekeeping or monitoring missions where appropriate, including measures aimed at deterring renewed aggression, protecting civilian populations and critical infrastructure, and ensuring the security, territorial integrity and sovereignty of affected States, as well as for sustained diplomatic engagement, so that negotiated commitments are upheld, clear benchmarks are met and cycles of violence are not renewed;

33. *Encourages* parliaments to fulfil their budgetary and oversight responsibilities and to work with their governments to ensure that the UN Peacebuilding Commission and Peacebuilding Fund are adequately funded and supported in order to realize the objectives of sustainable peace;
34. *Calls for* strengthened parliamentary diplomacy and regional cooperation to exchange good practices, support mediation efforts and build institutional capacity in post-conflict governance and resilience-building;
35. *Encourages* parliaments to support recovery efforts in countries affected by conflict by considering, in line with international law and due process, mechanisms that can facilitate reparations for victims and mobilize resources for reconstruction, including, where lawful, the use of frozen or otherwise immobilized assets, as part of broader international efforts to strengthen accountability for internationally wrongful acts and assist post-conflict recovery;
36. *Requests* that the IPU engage in the provision of targeted technical assistance to parliaments engaged in post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding efforts, including through capacity-building and peer-learning opportunities, including for young parliamentarians, as well as through advisory missions, the facilitation of inter-parliamentary and South–South exchanges, youth inclusion, and assistance in the areas of mediation, negotiation and conflict prevention, as well as the compilation and dissemination of good practices, in order to strengthen institutional resilience and inclusive governance.

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- The **Islamic Republic of Iran** and the **Russian Federation** expressed opposition to the entire text of the resolution.
- **China** expressed a reservation on the entire text of the resolution.

Building a fair and sustainable global economy: The role of parliaments in combating protectionism, reducing tariffs and preventing corporate tax avoidance

*Resolution adopted unanimously by the 152nd IPU Assembly
(Istanbul, 19 April 2026)*

The 152nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recognizing that predictable and rules-based international trade has been an important driver of economic growth, job creation, poverty reduction, and the generation of public revenue for financing sustainable and inclusive development and for meeting sovereign debt obligations worldwide, particularly for developing countries, by fostering specialization, industrialization, innovation, and integration into global value chains,

Recognizing also the commitment to reducing inequality within and among countries, as expressed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, *recalling* the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, insofar as it reaffirms the importance of strengthening domestic tax legislation, *recalling also* the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which explicitly recognizes that each country has primary responsibility for its own development and which highlights the role of domestic public resource mobilization, and *noting* the renewed engagements arising from the Sevilla Commitment, adopted at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, to the global financing for development framework, insofar as they call for a focus on concrete actions such as catalysing sustainable development investment and addressing debt distress, as well as on structural measures such as reforming the global financial architecture and ensuring fair and effective taxation practices to close the financing gap for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

Acknowledging that good-faith tax planning that respects both the letter and spirit of democratically enacted tax legislation remains a normal and lawful aspect of economic activity,

Acknowledging also the World Trade Organization's (WTO) *Joint statement on promoting inclusive and sustainable trade through gender equality and building a gender-responsive WTO by the Co-Chairs of the Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender*, and *noting* that women are disproportionately affected by inequitable trade, economic and tax policies,

Concerned by the fact that certain multinational corporations, including digital enterprises, undertake tax avoidance practices that go beyond acceptable tax planning and intentionally bypass the spirit of domestic tax legislation in order to pay little or no tax, thereby denying States tax revenue, which is a primary, essential and sustainable source of development funding,

Emphasizing that international and regional cooperation, the exchange of information and best practice, and transparency are valuable in addressing tax avoidance practices that circumvent the spirit and purpose of the law,

Recognizing the importance of corporations adopting a law-abiding approach in fulfilment of their reciprocal obligations to the State and its citizenry, including the payment of tax and adherence to labour laws and other domestic laws, as part of their contribution to the public good in return for access to domestic markets in which to conduct business,

Noting that 148 countries and jurisdictions are working together within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting and have agreed on key elements of a package that charts a course forward for the coordinated operation of a global minimum tax rate of 15% on the profits of multinational enterprises in the context of a digitalized and globalized economy,

Noting also the ongoing negotiations towards a United Nations framework convention on international tax cooperation, which are scheduled to continue into 2027, and *recognizing* that taxation constitutes a central component of public finance systems and an important means for governments to fund public services and pursue internationally agreed development objectives, including the SDGs,

Acknowledging that all States have the sovereign right to design, implement and enforce their own trade, industrial and tax policies in accordance with democratically enacted legislation, including the appropriate use of WTO-consistent trade remedies and other legitimate national public policy measures, such as the prevention of forced labour, *affirming* that transparent and well-functioning domestic tax systems are an essential component of the citizen–State relationship and a foundation for financing public goods and services and social development, and *recognizing* that all States have a sovereign right to tax the income of multinational corporations, including digital enterprises, operating in their jurisdiction as part of a fair, equitable, progressive and transparent domestic taxation regime,

Emphasizing that the expansion of trade and global economic integration have contributed over recent decades to lifting more than one billion people out of extreme poverty, improving real incomes and living standards in many regions of the world,

Recognizing the growing role of the digital economy, innovation ecosystems, financial technology and sustainable technologies in shaping global trade, strengthening supply chains and supporting inclusive economic growth,

Noting that analysis by leading international institutions, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the WTO, demonstrates that trade openness creates the necessary environment for stronger economic growth, thereby fostering higher living standards and quality employment opportunities for millions of people,

Affirming that an open, predictable, rules-based, non-discriminatory, fair, inclusive, equitable, sustainable and transparent multilateral trading system, with the WTO at its core, together with full respect for national sovereignty and the right of each State to define its own economic, commercial, industrial and tax policies in accordance with democratically enacted legislation and with international law, constitute complementary pillars of a fair and sustainable global economy, and that such a system supports sustainable development,

Concerned by the growing resort to unilateral, coercive and retaliatory protectionist measures, including tariff and non-tariff barriers, which distort trade and competition, deepen inequalities, undermine and weaken the rules-based international trading system and multilateral cooperation, escalate tensions between States, generate uncertainty for businesses, workers and consumers, and impede sustainable development, particularly in developing countries,

Recognizing that the destruction of civilian, trade-related and other critical infrastructure, including ports, pipelines, logistics corridors and energy networks, severely disrupts international trade flows, undermines economic stability, threatens global food and supply chain security, and impedes progress towards the SDGs,

Deploing the fact that tax avoidance practices that intentionally bypass the spirit of the law limit the amount of revenue collected by States, contributing to the erosion of the rule of law, democracy and institutional capacity,

Acknowledging that free and fair trade enables countries to specialize in areas where they have a comparative and competitive advantage, thereby boosting productivity, optimizing the use of resources and allowing producers to retain more value along global value chains, while offering consumers a wider variety of goods, including food, as well as better healthcare and other services, at more affordable prices,

Recognizing women's vital role as workers, business owners and entrepreneurs, and *affirming* that trade and tax policies that promote the full participation of women at all socio-economic levels are one of the key tools for promoting gender equality and an increase in economic activity,

Alarmed by the risk that prolonged “trade wars”, the escalation of protectionist policies and rising geopolitical tensions could increase the probability of a global economic downturn, with severe consequences for growth, employment, price stability and poverty reduction efforts,

1. *Urges* parliaments to defend an open, rules-based and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system as a vital tool for prosperity, poverty reduction, value creation and sustainable development;
2. *Encourages* parliaments, in accordance with their respective constitutional mandates and national circumstances, to follow and engage with the negotiations on the OECD and UN frameworks on international tax cooperation, including through parliamentary scrutiny of government positions, dialogue with relevant ministries and experts, and other appropriate forms of parliamentary involvement, with a view to supporting informed decision-making, as well as transparency and accountability, in international cooperation on tax matters;
3. *Calls upon* national governments to combat protectionism and to facilitate global trade by progressively reducing tariffs and removing unjustified non-tariff barriers, particularly those that restrict market access for developing and least developed countries, in conformity with WTO rules;
4. *Calls for* the strengthening of international and regional cooperation, in line with existing multilateral exchange frameworks developed by the OECD and the UN, as well as with domestic legal frameworks, to limit opportunities for multinational corporations, including digital enterprises, to engage in artificial profit-shifting arrangements that deliberately seek to bypass the letter, spirit and purpose of the law to the detriment of the people of the country in which the profit is acquired;
5. *Calls upon* the parliaments of States that have not yet signed the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters to urge their governments to do so;
6. *Encourages* parliaments to support measures that facilitate trade, including the simplification and digitalization of customs procedures, the improvement of infrastructure and logistics, and the reduction of unnecessary administrative obstacles to cross-border trade;
7. *Also encourages* parliaments to promote fair trade as an essential means of strengthening supply chain resilience and reducing vulnerabilities arising from concentrated dependencies;
8. *Requests* States to strengthen capacity, increase resources and modernize frameworks to address artificial and abusive arrangements and practices such as transfer mispricing, artificial risk transfers, abusive debt shifting through intracompany financing, and the deliberate avoidance of permanent establishment status, while reaffirming the legitimacy of lawful tax planning and investment structuring, as well as the sovereign right of each State to design its own tax system and engage in fair and transparent tax competition;
9. *Calls upon* parliaments to ensure that anti-tax-avoidance measures are supported by establishing proportionate and effective penalties that serve as credible deterrents, by reinforcing corporate accountability mechanisms, by safeguarding access to independent judicial review, and by providing strong and comprehensive protections for whistle-blowers;
10. *Also calls upon* parliaments to assess the effects of digitalization, including the use of artificial intelligence technologies and algorithms, on tax avoidance practices, to address the challenges of ensuring fair taxation of digital services and the digital economy, and to strengthen legislative and oversight arrangements to prevent abusive behaviours;
11. *Urges* States to preserve and improve access to essential goods, including food, medicines, vaccines and strategic inputs, at affordable prices, and to refrain from trade measures that disproportionately restrict availability, increase costs or exacerbate food and health insecurity, and *calls upon* parliaments to safeguard international trade routes and commercial infrastructure against disruption, obstructions or blockades;
12. *Calls upon* parliaments to identify the legislative, administrative and regulatory gaps that allow for aggressive tax avoidance practices that intentionally bypass the spirit of the law in their respective economies and to take appropriate steps to close such gaps;

13. *Calls upon* parliaments and national governments to ensure that domestic laws promote gender equality, that international trade agreements include gender-related provisions, and that national budgets as well as trade and tax policies are gender-responsive;
14. *Calls for* the provision of skills development, entrepreneurship and leadership opportunities for women in trade;
15. *Encourages* parliaments to systematically assess the impact of trade measures and tax policies on poverty, gender equality, energy security, and economic and sustainable development, on the situation of vulnerable groups, including through sex-disaggregated data, and on employment, employability and access to education for youth, and *also encourages* parliaments to promote complementary domestic policies and social protection measures to ensure that the benefits of trade lead to growth-led, inclusive outcomes for the population, especially for emerging generations;
16. *Urges* States to support WTO reform, with a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system accessible to all members, and *reaffirms* the centrality of the development dimension of the WTO in facilitating trade and investment liberalization, particularly in the interests of developing countries;
17. *Encourages* developed countries and international financial institutions to provide, on mutually agreed terms, adequate and sustained technical assistance, capacity-building and technology transfer to support developing and least developed countries in implementing modern tax and trade rules, in strengthening enforcement mechanisms, and in building the institutional infrastructure needed to fully participate in, and benefit from, the global economic system;
18. *Invites* the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its Member Parliaments to intensify inter-parliamentary dialogue on trade, taxation and development, to share best practices and to reinforce the role of parliaments as guarantors of the balance between economic openness, national sovereignty, and tax fairness and effectiveness.

Condemnation of the attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran against the Gulf Cooperation Council States and Jordan

Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates for the inclusion of an emergency item

Results

Affirmative votes203 Total of affirmative and negative votes ..618
 Negative votes415 Two-thirds majority412
 Abstentions752

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Albania		Absent		Greece	6	7		Poland		15	
Algeria		16		Guyana		Absent		Portugal			13
Angola		15		Hungary			12	Qatar			11
Armenia			11	Iceland	5		5	Republic of Korea		Absent	
Australia			14	Indonesia		10		Republic of Moldova		Absent	
Austria			12	Iran (Islamic Republic of)		19		Romania		9	4
Azerbaijan			13	Iraq		10	6	Russian Federation			20
Bahrain	11			Ireland			12	Rwanda			13
Bangladesh		Absent		Italy			17	Samoa		Absent	
Belarus		Absent		Japan			20	San Marino		Absent	
Belgium		7	6	Jordan	4		9	Saudi Arabia	15		
Belize		Absent		Kazakhstan		Absent		Senegal		Absent	
Bhutan	2		8	Kenya			17	Serbia			12
Bosnia and Herzegovina		Absent		Kyrgyzstan		Absent		Seychelles			10
Botswana			11	Lao People's Dem. Republic			12	Singapore	12		
Brazil			20	Latvia		11		Slovenia			10
Brunei Darussalam			10	Lesotho			11	Somalia		13	
Burkina Faso		14		Libya		12		South Africa		18	
Cambodia			13	Liechtenstein			10	South Sudan		13	
Cameroon			14	Lithuania			11	Spain		16	
Canada	16			Luxembourg	5		5	Suriname			10
Chad			13	Malawi			14	Sweden			13
Chile		5	8	Maldives	10			Switzerland		12	
China		8	15	Mali		12		Tajikistan		Absent	
Côte d'Ivoire			15	Malta		Absent		Thailand		Absent	
Croatia		Absent		Mauritania			12	Timor-Leste			11
Cyprus			11	Mexico			20	Togo		Absent	
Czechia	13			Monaco		Absent		Tunisia			13
DR of the Congo		20		Mongolia		Absent		Türkiye		19	
Denmark		12		Montenegro			10	Turkmenistan		Absent	
Djibouti			11	Morocco	15			Uganda		Absent	
Dominican Rep.			13	Mozambique			15	Ukraine	15		
Ecuador			13	Namibia		11		United Arab Emirates	13		
Egypt	20			Nepal			14	United Kingdom	18		
Equatorial Guinea		Absent		Netherlands			13	United Republic of Tanzania			18
Estonia		11		Niger		Absent		Uruguay	1		10
Eswatini			11	Nigeria			22	Uzbekistan		Absent	
Fiji		Absent		North Macedonia			11	Viet Nam			20
Finland			12	Norway	12			Yemen			13
France	10		8	Oman			12	Zambia		14	
Gabon		Absent		Pakistan		Absent		Zimbabwe		13	
Gambia (The)		11		Palestine			12				
Georgia		Absent		Paraguay		Absent					
Germany		19		Peru		15					
Ghana		15									

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Articles 5.2 and 5.3 of the Statutes. Parliaments participating in the IPU in a non-voting observer capacity in accordance with the decision of the 209th session of the Governing Council in Nusa Dua do not appear on this list.

The urgent need for concerted parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and support peacebuilding in the Middle East and other regions

Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of Qatar, Australia, Türkiye, France, Brazil, Zambia, Poland, Portugal, Italy and Ireland, with the support of the Arab Group, the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean and the African Group for the inclusion of an emergency item

Results

Affirmative votes..... 1,316 Total of affirmative and negative votes .. 1,319
 Negative votes 3 Two-thirds majority..... 879
 Abstentions 51

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Albania		Absent		Greece	13			Poland	15		
Algeria	16			Guyana		Absent		Portugal	13		
Angola	15			Hungary	12			Qatar	11		
Armenia	11			Iceland	10			Republic of Korea		Absent	
Australia	14			Indonesia	10			Republic of Moldova		Absent	
Austria	12			Iran (Islamic Republic of)	19			Romania	13		
Azerbaijan	13			Iraq	16			Russian Federation			20
Bahrain			11	Ireland	12			Rwanda	13		
Bangladesh		Absent		Italy	17			Samoa		Absent	
Belarus		Absent		Japan	20			San Marino		Absent	
Belgium	13			Jordan	13			Saudi Arabia	15		
Belize		Absent		Kazakhstan		Absent		Senegal		Absent	
Bhutan	10			Kenya	17			Serbia	12		
Bosnia and Herzegovina		Absent		Kyrgyzstan		Absent		Seychelles	10		
Botswana	11			Lao People's Dem. Republic	12			Singapore			12
Brazil	20			Latvia	11			Slovenia	10		
Brunei Darussalam	10			Lesotho	11			Somalia	13		
Burkina Faso	14			Libya	12			South Africa	18		
Cambodia	13			Liechtenstein	10			South Sudan	13		
Cameroon	14			Lithuania	11			Spain	16		
Canada	16			Luxembourg	10			Suriname	10		
Chad	13			Malawi	14			Sweden	13		
Chile	13			Maldives	10			Switzerland	12		
China	15		8	Mali	9	3		Tajikistan		Absent	
Côte d'Ivoire	15			Malta		Absent		Thailand		Absent	
Croatia		Absent		Mauritania	12			Timor-Leste	11		
Cyprus	11			Mexico	20			Togo		Absent	
Czechia	13			Monaco		Absent		Tunisia	13		
DR of the Congo	20			Mongolia		Absent		Türkiye	19		
Denmark	12			Montenegro	10			Turkmenistan		Absent	
Djibouti	11			Morocco	15			Uganda		Absent	
Dominican Rep.	13			Mozambique	15			Ukraine	15		
Ecuador	13			Namibia	11			United Arab Emirates	13		
Egypt	20			Nepal	14			United Kingdom	18		
Equatorial Guinea		Absent		Netherlands	13			United Republic of Tanzania	18		
Estonia	11			Niger		Absent		Uruguay	11		
Eswatini	11			Nigeria	22			Uzbekistan		Absent	
Fiji		Absent		North Macedonia	11			Viet Nam	20		
Finland	12			Norway	12			Yemen	13		
France	18			Oman	12			Zambia	14		
Gabon		Absent		Pakistan		Absent		Zimbabwe	13		
Gambia (The)	11			Palestine	12						
Georgia		Absent		Paraguay		Absent					
Germany	19			Peru	15						
Ghana	15										

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Articles 5.2 and 5.3 of the Statutes. Parliaments participating in the IPU in a non-voting observer capacity in accordance with the decision of the 209th session of the Governing Council in Nusa Dua do not appear on this list.

The urgent need for concerted parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and support peacebuilding in the Middle East and other regions

*Resolution adopted unanimously by the 152nd IPU Assembly
(Istanbul, 19 April 2026)*

The 152nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling the purposes of the United Nations, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations, which include the maintenance of international peace and security and the achievement of international cooperation in addressing humanitarian issues, and *recalling also* the principles of international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Reaffirming its firm commitment to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which constitute the cornerstone of international humanitarian law and are binding on all parties to armed conflicts,

Emphasizing the interrelationship between international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and the necessity of respecting both under all circumstances, particularly with regard to the protection of civilians, civilian objects, vital infrastructure and essential services,

Affirming the importance of ensuring accountability and preventing and combating impunity for all violations, in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, in a manner that ensures justice for victims and reinforces the rule of law,

Bearing in mind previous IPU resolutions underscoring the vital role of parliaments in strengthening peace, security and the rule of law,

Deeply concerned about non-compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 2286 (2016), which strongly condemns attacks on medical facilities and humanitarian personnel,

Deeply alarmed by credible reports of serious and systematic violations of international humanitarian law in ongoing conflicts in the Middle East and elsewhere, including indiscriminate attacks on civilians, the destruction of hospitals and schools, the denial of humanitarian aid and the use of starvation as a method of warfare,

Emphasizing that impunity fuels cycles of violence and undermines prospects for just and lasting peace, and that accountability is essential for genuine reconciliation,

Stressing the importance of mechanisms for effective redress and compensation for victims, in accordance with international law and through competent UN agencies,

Recognizing that national parliaments have broad legislative and oversight powers over executive authorities, including in the areas of military and foreign policy, and play a key role in translating international commitments into tangible national action,

1. *Affirms* that respect for international humanitarian law in all conflicts, particularly in the Middle East, is a matter of priority, particularly with regard to the protection of civilians, civilian objects, vital infrastructure and essential services, as well as to ensuring rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access, without discrimination, and *also affirms* that ensuring such respect is a fundamental part of the role of parliaments in supporting international peace and security;

2. *Urges* Member Parliaments to take urgent steps to move from condemnation to concrete action, to review the extent to which their governments' policies and military practices comply with international humanitarian law, and to use all constitutional tools at their disposal to ensure accountability for violations and to promote effective mechanisms for their documentation;
3. *Encourages* Member Parliaments to intensify parliamentary diplomacy and strengthen coordinated engagement through IPU mechanisms and geopolitical groups in order to build international consensus on de-escalation, civilian protection, infrastructure preservation and peaceful solutions, especially in the Middle East;
4. *Calls for* the immediate reconvening of talks among the parties concerned in contexts where ceasefires are in place, with the aim of achieving the permanent cessation of attacks, and *urges* such parties to engage in such talks with renewed seriousness, political will and a clear commitment to preventing any further escalation of conflict;
5. *Stresses* that any renewed diplomatic process should be sufficiently serious, sustained and inclusive to address all major issues of divergence contributing to the crisis concerned, including, where relevant, matters relating to maritime security and freedom of navigation, the situation in the region, and other related political, security and humanitarian concerns;
6. *Calls upon* all parties, during any period of ceasefire and any subsequent negotiations, to refrain from military action, unilateral measures or any other steps liable to jeopardize prospects for dialogue or provoke further regional escalation;
7. *Instructions* the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, within its mandate: to monitor ongoing developments in the Middle East; to submit a report, at the 153rd Assembly, on parties' responses to calls for civilian protection, humanitarian access and de-escalation; and to propose immediate parliamentary measures to address any further deterioration;
8. *Requests* the President and Secretary General of the IPU, within their respective mandates, to use the IPU's good offices to support de-escalation efforts and facilitate urgent parliamentary dialogue focused on protecting civilians, preserving vital infrastructure, ensuring freedom of navigation where relevant, and creating conditions conducive to negotiated settlements between parties;
9. *Affirms* the readiness of the world's parliaments, acting through the IPU and other appropriate parliamentary channels, to support all genuine efforts aimed at reducing tensions, rebuilding confidence, and advancing peaceful and lasting resolutions of armed conflicts;
10. *Invites* national parliaments to engage actively, within their respective constitutional responsibilities, in support of diplomatic efforts, respect for international law, the protection of civilians and the prevention of any further widening of conflict, as well as in support of post-conflict recovery and reconstruction, including compensation for victims;
11. *Requests* the Secretary General of the IPU to circulate this resolution to all IPU Member Parliaments, to the Secretary-General of the UN, to the President of the UN Security Council, to the International Committee of the Red Cross and to the President of the International Criminal Court, with a view to mobilizing international support for parliamentary accountability and peacebuilding as essential pillars of just peace.

Report of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

*Noted by the 152nd IPU Assembly
(Istanbul, 19 April 2026)*

The Committee held two sittings, on 17 and 18 April 2026.

Persons with disabilities

At its first sitting, held on 17 April 2026 with Vice-President Ms. F. Ilimi Haddouche (Algeria) as the Chair, the Committee held a debate on its next resolution, *Inclusive social development for all: Parliamentary strategies to promote the rights and empowerment of people living with disabilities*. The three co-Rapporteurs were present: Ms. C.M. Mumma (Kenya), Mr. C. Lohr (Switzerland) and Ms. F. Öncü (Türkiye).

In her intervention, Ms. H. Hagrass (United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities) highlighted the role of parliaments in advancing inclusive democracy and implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), emphasizing the need to move away from paternalistic approaches towards rights-based frameworks. Parliaments should promote policies that support family carers, most of whom are women, and strengthen community-based support systems. Ms. Hagrass further emphasized the importance of removing legal and practical barriers to the political representation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities. Measures include improving the accessibility of parliamentary venues and proceedings, providing reasonable accommodation, and introducing legislated quotas.

Mr. N. Kabbara (President, International Disability Alliance) stressed the importance of advancing disability inclusion through lawmaking, advocacy and budgetary processes. Budget allocations reflect political priorities and determine in practice whether persons with disabilities are able to access inclusive education, justice, independent living and other fundamental rights. Implementation of the CRPD also requires meaningful consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations. Mr. Kabbara called on parliaments to strengthen oversight, ensure disability inclusion across all policy areas and promote the active participation of persons with disabilities in political life, in line with the principle of “nothing about us without us”.

The Committee heard from the co-Rapporteurs of its next resolution. Ms. F. Öncü (Türkiye) emphasized that disability rights were central to human dignity, equal citizenship and democratic legitimacy, recalling that, although there were 1.3 billion persons with disabilities globally, they remained largely underrepresented in decision-making. Ms. C. Mumma (Kenya) stressed that disability-related issues must be systematically reflected in legislation and oversight. She emphasized the importance of dedicated structures, such as disability caucuses in parliament, that could mainstream consideration of the rights of persons with disabilities in parliamentary work. Mr. C. Lohr (Switzerland) stressed that inclusion required the engagement of families, society, parliaments and governments, as well as greater awareness of what it meant to live with a disability. He called for improved access to education, employment and political participation, including opportunities to be elected.

A total of 31 delegates contributed to the debate. Participants emphasized the need to strengthen legal frameworks and ensure effective implementation of the CRPD. They also called for standardized national systems for data collection and analysis, as the basis for evidence-informed parliamentary decision-making. Key areas of focus include taking into account the needs of persons with disabilities in disaster preparedness, and the role of digital tools in enhancing disability inclusion. The session concluded with a call for strengthened political commitment, adequate budgets and collective action to ensure the full and effective inclusion of persons with disabilities in all areas of public life.

Artificial intelligence

At its second sitting, held on 18 April 2026 with Vice-President Ms. F. Ilimi Haddouche (Algeria) as the Chair, the Committee held a debate on implementation of the parliamentary mandate on artificial intelligence (AI), following the adoption of the October 2024 IPU resolution *The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law*.

Opening the debate, Ms. M. Rempel Garner (Canada), co-Rapporteur of the 2024 resolution, noted that frontier AI models could now reason, self-correct and operate as semi-autonomous agents. While these advances offer major benefits in scientific discovery, health and education, they also accelerate risks to human rights, including through military applications, cybersecurity threats to critical infrastructure, the disruption of entry-level and youth employment, AI-generated non-consensual intimate imagery, and threats to electoral integrity. She stressed that the regulatory conversation remained concentrated in the hands of industry, and that parliaments had a responsibility to keep pace, both domestically and in global processes.

Ms. M. Cederfelt (Sweden), Chairperson of the IPU Working Group on Science and Technology, presented the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on *Parliaments and responsible AI*. The text was adopted in November 2025 at the first international parliamentary conference dedicated to AI, convened jointly by the IPU, the Parliament of Malaysia, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the United Nations Development Programme. Its 13 recommendations cover parliamentary readiness, substantive lawmaking and oversight, and engagement in international AI governance. The declaration calls upon all parliaments to submit a progress update by 1 June 2026 ahead of a consolidated global status report in August 2026.

Ms. S. Kiladze (Chairperson, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child) presented the *Joint Statement on Artificial Intelligence and the Rights of the Child*, adopted in January 2026 and co-signed by 14 international organizations including the IPU. She highlighted the heightened risks children faced from cyberbullying, online sexual exploitation, and synthetic content that misused their images, noting that children could not be meaningfully protected in the AI era without effective legal frameworks.

Mr. R. Goñi (Uruguay) reported on the regional parliamentary dialogue on AI held in Montevideo in March 2026, noting that parliaments now occupied a central place in the Internet Governance Forum process. He underscored the importance of anticipatory governance and called for continued parliamentary follow-up on the enabling conditions for citizens, particularly children and adolescents, to benefit safely from AI.

Delegates from Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Guyana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Jordan, Oman, Republic of Korea and South Africa provided brief updates on national legislative and oversight action. Examples included: national AI strategies and data protection frameworks; the Hiroshima AI Process Friends Group, which now covers 66 countries and regions; the Protection of Personal Information Act and the draft National AI Policy Framework in South Africa; and the Criminal Code Amendment (Deepfake Sexual Material) Act in Australia. Several delegates drew attention to the use of AI in armed conflict and the targeting of civilians. The delegate from Australia raised the matter of documented gender and racial bias in hiring, facial recognition, healthcare diagnostics and conversational AI algorithms.

The Committee then turned to AI-generated non-consensual intimate imagery as a case study of targeted parliamentary action on a rapidly evolving AI-related harm.

Ms. M. Disoski (Austria) shared her personal experience of receiving AI-generated deepfake images of herself following a public television appearance. She outlined the legislative response in Austria, including current work to criminalize the creation and distribution of non-consensual deepfakes, and stressed that a clear legal definition was the essential first step towards enforcement.

Ms. M. Guerra Castillo (Mexico) presented the Olympia Law (*Ley Olimpia*), which recognizes digital violence as a crime and was extended in 2024 to cover AI-generated deepfake sexual content, on the principle that the harm to dignity is the same whether the image is authentic or fabricated.

Ms. M. Rempel Garner (Canada) described Bill C-16, the Protecting Victims Act, which aimed to close a gap in Canadian law that had left AI-generated intimate imagery outside existing non-consensual distribution offences. She stressed that criminalization alone was insufficient without rapid content removal and trauma-informed support for victims.

Delegates from South Africa, Türkiye and the United Kingdom described the legislative gaps they were navigating, including the difficulty of addressing the non-consensual filming of women in public spaces under existing voyeurism or harassment frameworks. They also mentioned ongoing court cases involving AI-generated fabricated political imagery. Ms. S. Kiladze (UN Committee on the Rights of the Child) noted that legislative responses must pay specific attention to the vulnerability of children, among whom AI-enabled sextortion was rising sharply.

The Committee received a presentation from Mr. A. Read (IPU Secretariat) on the IPU's 2026 programme of work on AI policy. The programme is organized around three objectives: strengthening parliamentary capacity to take action on AI; expanding parliamentary engagement across the substantive policy areas where AI is having an impact; and supporting active parliamentary involvement in international AI governance.

The Committee concluded its debate by adopting, by acclamation, the motion *Advancing parliamentary action on artificial intelligence*, prepared by the Bureau with input from the representatives of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians. The motion urges parliaments to implement the Kuala Lumpur Declaration's recommendations, to designate parliamentarians and staff for inter-parliamentary exchanges on AI, to engage actively in global AI governance forums, and to build internal capacity for sustained parliamentary action on AI.

Special guests

The following special guests participated in the work of the Committee:

Persons with disabilities

- Ms. Heba Hagrass, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities
- Mr. Newaf Kabbara, President, International Disability Alliance (remotely)

Artificial intelligence

- Ms. Sophie Kiladze, Chairperson, United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child

Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

*Noted by the 152nd IPU Assembly
(Istanbul, 19 April 2026)*

The Committee held two sittings, on 17 and 18 April 2026, with Vice-President Mr. F. Al-Nouiri (Libya) presiding as Chair. After opening the session, Mr. Al-Nouiri invited all present to adopt the agenda of the session and approve the summary record of the previous session, held at the 151st IPU Assembly in Geneva in October 2025.

The UN field presence in Türkiye: A test case of greater UN engagement with parliaments

Presenters: Mr. B.A. Ahonsi (United Nations Resident Coordinator, Türkiye), Ms. D.C. Cicchella (Deputy Representative, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Türkiye), Ms. M. Guimond (Country Director, UN Women, Türkiye) and Ms. M. Gandhi (Deputy Representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Türkiye)

During its first sitting, which was attended by 30 delegations, the Committee held a discussion on the role of the UN Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team (UNCT) vis-à-vis the Government and the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, and in the context of the current UN80 reform initiative, which seeks to streamline the work of the UN, including at the country level. It was part of a series of discussions held with UN Resident Coordinators in recent years with a view to illustrating the importance of cooperation between the UN and parliaments at the country level, which is seen as key to the implementation of global commitments.

After some preliminary remarks on the role of parliaments in translating global commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals into national action through laws, budgets and oversight, Mr. Ahonsi noted that the UN Development System field presence in Türkiye had evolved over time and was becoming more integrated, as well as more responsive to the country's needs, in line with recent UN reforms. After highlighting key areas of cooperation between the UNCT and the Government of Türkiye on matters such as human rights, gender equality, migration and child protection, Mr. Ahonsi introduced the three team members whose agencies' work he said best illustrated the impact of the UN field presence in the country.

The three presenters, from UNHCR, UN Women and UNICEF, provided several practical illustrations of active cooperation with the national parliament. They emphasized that cooperation between the UNCT and the parliament must aim at building institutional capacities that went well beyond ad hoc interventions such as support to individual MPs. They noted the need to strengthen national ownership of development processes, observing that parliamentarians were uniquely placed in this regard, as representatives of the people and as community leaders.

The overarching goals of the UNCT's work with the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye include:

- Institutionalizing evidence-based policymaking, particularly at the committee level, where the most substantive debates are held.
- Building capacities for gender-based analysis, including gender-sensitive budgets.
- Creating new spaces for dialogue between women MPs across party lines.
- Working closely with the IPU group in parliament, as a well-established conduit for technical assistance, including through joint UN–IPU publications (such as the UNHCR–IPU handbook on refugee law) as well as workshops on refugee law.
- Creating specialized research commissions to inform legislation (such as a commission on children in conflict).
- Supporting peer-to-peer learning between MPs from across the region with regard to shared policy concerns.

Overall, the lesson from the UNCT in Türkiye was that working successfully with the Parliament required time and patience, as well as institution-wide commitment. The Parliament needed to drive the agenda with the aim of making a real impact on the ground through legislative reforms and strong oversight.

The ensuing debate featured seven interventions from the floor, with speakers highlighting the following points:

- Cooperation between UNCTs and national parliaments is becoming stronger in other countries as well, although not always at the same speed or along the same lines, with the situation depending on each country's unique situation. Parliaments are no longer seen as mere observers of the UN's work in their countries, but increasingly as active participants in that work.
- The active involvement of parliament does more than merely serve the national interest: it also helps the UN advance its own global agenda. Both sides, the UN and parliament, stand to gain from closer cooperation.
- Cooperation between the UN and parliaments at the country level requires regular, transparent communication in addition to capacity-building.

Towards a more effective and representative United Nations: The need for a Charter review

Presenters: Ms. R. French (Director of Policy and Diplomatic Engagement, Article 109 Coalition) and Mr. S. Prokhorov (Programme Manager, UN Funding and Effectiveness, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation (DHF))

During its second sitting, which was attended by 28 delegations, the Committee held a discussion on a proposal to amend the Charter of the United Nations. This proposal is being promoted around the world by the Article 109 Coalition, a new coalition of civil society groups. The Committee was briefed on the coalition's call for a Charter review conference and its hope to engage parliaments in a supportive capacity. The discussion also addressed the question of how to make the UN more fit for purpose in challenging times and in light of recent cuts to the UN budget, which were severely hampering the work of the organization. The results of a joint IPU–DHF survey of MPs on the UN budget were presented.

Speaking for the Article 109 Coalition, Ms. French made the case for a Charter review conference to be held in 2031 or 2032, at the end of a years-long preparatory process. She explained the genesis of the year-old coalition, which had been born out of a deep concern that the UN risked extinction unless it was able to renew itself at its core. She explained that the recent UN80 reform initiative, which aimed to simplify procedures, consolidate work and implement cost-saving measures, was worthwhile but could only address the symptoms, and not the root causes, of the current institutional malaise.

The Committee heard that the Charter of the United Nations was outdated and not fit for the times. The Charter was originally signed by just 50 countries, the founding members of the UN, meaning that it does not necessarily reflect the expectations of today's much larger group of 193 UN Member States, including many from the Global South. Moreover, the issues that the UN was meant to address at its inception have grown much more intractable and potentially devastating. Issues such as climate change, AI and nuclear proliferation pose an almost unprecedented existential threat to the world and its people. In addition, with the Security Council and other key UN bodies struggling to uphold the Charter, global public support for the UN has fallen to an all-time low.

With these considerations in mind, leading global figures, including prominent Heads of Government such as President Lula of Brazil, President Modi of India and President Ramaphosa of South Africa, have become increasingly outspoken about the need for a Charter review conference. The 2023 report of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism provided high-level endorsement of this proposal. On the civil society side, well-known advocates of multilateralism such as the Kofi Annan Foundation and the Club de Madrid have also expressed support. As Ms. French noted, a Charter review conference was envisioned by the founders of the UN in Article 109, which called for a review conference to be held by 1955. With no such conference ever being convened, and with the UN now in deep crisis, the time has come for a new "San Francisco moment" to reconstitute the organization on a stronger footing.

For a Charter review conference to be convened, a supermajority of two thirds of the General Assembly would be needed, along with the backing of nine members of the Security Council, with no distinction between permanent and non-permanent members and with no veto allowed. Under most national constitutions, parliamentary ratification would be required for the new Charter to come into force. This is why the Article 109 Coalition is increasingly focusing on parliaments as a key constituency to be engaged alongside governments and civil society organizations. Ms. French stated that it was critically important for parliaments to engage early in this discussion, to help set the terms of the process ahead and to begin reflecting on a "wish list" of reform proposals, all of which should be on the table, with an open mind as to the final outcome of the conference.

The ensuing debate featured 13 interventions from the floor. All speakers, without exception, expressed broad support for a Charter review conference as a legitimate legal instrument to reform the UN at its core. In their interventions, they highlighted the following points:

- Parliaments need to become more aware of this proposal and must be prepared to discuss it with their respective governments at this early, momentum-building stage.
- At its next session, to be held in the United Republic of Tanzania in October 2026, the Committee should consider adopting a motion officially endorsing the call for a Charter review conference and providing guidance to parliaments on concrete actions going forward.
- While all reform proposals need to be considered, the new Charter must respect the fundamental values that were clearly embedded in the original document of 1945, all of which must remain the bedrock of multilateralism for generations to come.
- The process leading up to the Charter review conference must be most inclusive and transparent, with all UN Member States fully engaged on an equal footing.
- A key outcome of the Charter review process should be a UN that is more democratic and accountable and that can deliver effectively on peace and security, humanitarian issues, and justice.
- The new Charter should strengthen the legal obligations of countries that have waged war on others in violation of the Charter.

Providing adequate and stable funding to the UN is an indispensable part of the UN reform process, alongside the proposed Charter review conference. Building on previous Committee debates on the UN budget, Mr. S. Prokhorov discussed the current situation at the UN, where the majority of funding comes from earmarked, unstable, project- or issue-specific sources. He noted that the UN had a total budget of US\$ 67 billion, emphasizing that its cost to the global community was minuscule when compared to, for instance, global military spending (US\$ 2.4 trillion) or the revenue of Google's parent company (US\$ 310 billion).

Mr. Prokhorov presented the findings of a recent IPU–DHF survey of MPs, in which respondents had expressed general support for increasing funding for the UN budget. More specifically, out of the 120 MPs who responded to the survey:

- 91% believed that the UN was relevant to their country as well as globally.
- 53% wanted to increase UN funding (only 14% supported budget cuts).
- 60% said they needed better access to information on UN funding.
- 64% believed stricter penalties should be enforced against countries that failed to pay their contributions.
- 77% believed parliaments should have more say on their countries' contributions to the UN budget.
- 52% supported taxing international financial transactions as an additional funding stream, with 20% calling for a tax on international air travel for the same purpose.
- 72% believed that the UN system needed to be consolidated to save money and achieve better results.

At the end of the session, a representative of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) took the floor to draw attention to the funding crisis that was severely impacting the agency's ability to deliver essential items and services, including healthcare, education and food, to Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

The representative indicated that UNRWA had faced drastic budget cuts and was operating at 2012 budget levels, and that, to save programmes, staff had taken a 20% salary cut. Parliamentary support is urgently needed to help restore long-term, stable funding for the agency.

Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee

Elections were also held to fill vacant seats on the Bureau of the Committee (see [page 39](#)).

In his report to the Assembly, the Chair noted with sadness the very recent death of Bureau member Mr. J. Uerikua (Namibia).

Other business

Under this final agenda item, a delegate from Ukraine proposed that, at its next session, the Committee session should consider a motion to encourage the establishment of Parliamentary Committees for the Future, in keeping with commitments made in the 2024 Pact for the Future. A draft text will be submitted to the Secretariat in due course.

Advancing parliamentary action on artificial intelligence

*Motion adopted by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights
(Istanbul, 18 April 2026)*

The IPU Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights recognizes that the development and deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) is advancing rapidly, with profound implications for democracy, human rights and the rule of law. AI brings significant opportunities for nations and societies, but also poses risks that require urgent, informed and sustained parliamentary engagement across substantive policy areas in which AI is having an impact.

The Committee recalls the resolution on *The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law*, adopted unanimously by the 149th IPU Assembly in Geneva in October 2024, which established a comprehensive mandate for parliaments and the IPU to act across all dimensions of AI governance.

The Committee welcomes the adoption, in November 2025, of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on *Parliaments and responsible AI*, which sets out 13 concrete recommendations for parliamentary action to implement the IPU resolution. It further welcomes the *Joint Statement on Artificial Intelligence and the Rights of the Child* adopted in January 2026 by more than 50 international organizations.

The Committee also recognizes that technology-facilitated gender-based violence must be treated as a core AI governance issue, and that the perspectives of all sections of society, particularly women and young people, must be included in AI governance processes.

The Committee notes with encouragement that, as of early 2026, more than 60 parliaments worldwide have taken significant action on AI, including through legislation, the establishment of specialized committees and inquiry processes, and engagement in public consultations. It equally recognizes that many parliaments face significant capacity challenges in keeping pace with technological change, and that international cooperation, peer exchange and the regular sharing of information on actions taken across different parliaments are essential to ensuring that all parliaments can fully exercise their functions in relation to AI.

Reflecting the urgency of immediate and sustained parliamentary action on AI, the Committee calls upon IPU Member Parliaments to:

1. Take steps to implement the recommendations of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration, in support of the IPU's 2024 resolution on AI, including identifying urgent areas for action in line with national priorities;
2. Identify parliamentarians and staff to actively participate in inter-parliamentary exchanges on AI policy issues, maintaining regular contact with the IPU Secretariat to support mutual learning and facilitate sharing of parliamentary experience, lessons learned and emerging good practices;
3. Engage actively in regional, international and multilateral processes on AI governance, including through the United Nations and other relevant forums, ensuring that parliamentary perspectives are represented in the development of international norms and standards on AI;
4. Strengthen the capacity of parliaments to engage on AI, including by giving members of parliament and staff access to independent expertise and continuous learning on the impact of AI across society, and to adopt and use AI tools responsibly within their institutions.

Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

Rules of the Assembly

*Amendments adopted by the 152nd IPU Assembly
(Istanbul, 19 April 2026)*

Rule 11 (cf. Statutes, Art. 14.2)

1. Any Member Parliament may request the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda. Such a request must be accompanied by a brief explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution, which clearly define the scope of the subject covered by the request, and indicate how it is in line with the principles and values of the IPU and its Strategy. **Requests must be submitted to the IPU Secretariat at least 48 hours in advance of the vote on the emergency item.** The IPU Secretariat shall communicate the request and ~~any such~~ **accompanying** documents immediately to all Member Parliaments.
2. Consideration and acceptance by the Assembly of a request for the inclusion of an emergency item in its agenda shall be subject to the following provisions:
 - (a) A request for the inclusion of an emergency item must relate to a recent major situation of international concern on which urgent action by the international community is required and on which it is appropriate for the IPU to express its opinion and mobilize a parliamentary response. Such a request must receive a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in order to be accepted.
 - (b) The Assembly may place only one emergency item on its agenda. Should several requests obtain the requisite majority, the one having received the largest number of positive votes shall be accepted.
 - (c) The authors of two or more requests for the inclusion of an emergency item may combine their proposals to present a joint one, **including after the 48-hour deadline for submission**, provided that each of the original proposals relates to the same subject **and the combined proposal maintains the overall scope of the original proposals.**
 - (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the request and title of the subject adopted by the Assembly.
3. The Steering Committee shall give its opinion on the admissibility of proposals and propose an ad hoc procedure for the overall emergency item process, for approval by the Assembly. **On the advice of the Steering Committee, the authors of proposals may make adjustments to, but not change the overall scope of, their proposals after the 48-hour deadline for submission.**

Report of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 217th session
(Istanbul, 19 April 2026)*

1. The 41st session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was held on 15 April 2026. It brought together 307 participants, including 156 parliamentarians (92 women and 64 men) from 62 countries, along with representatives from various international organizations.
2. Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, opened the Forum and welcomed Mr. N. Kurtulmuş, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye and President of the 152nd IPU Assembly, Dr. T. Ackson, President of the IPU, and Mr. M. Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU and Chair of the International Gender Champions Global Board. Ms. F. Aksal, member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, presided over the session. Vice-Presidents and members of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians acted as Chairs or Rapporteurs for the debates. The Forum paid tribute to the outgoing IPU Secretary General as a steadfast champion of gender equality.

Initiatives to promote gender equality

3. Ms. M. Rempel Garner (Canada), member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, reported on the meeting held by the Bureau in Geneva in October 2025, and on the first sitting of the 55th session of the Bureau, held immediately prior to the 41st session of the Forum. She informed the Forum of the Bureau's focus on women and girls in conflict. She updated the Forum on IPU research on sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in the Americas and the Caribbean, urging colleagues from the region to participate through confidential interviews.

4. Ms. S. Mikayilova (Azerbaijan) reported on the work of the Gender Partnership Group, including the monitoring of women's participation in delegations to the 152nd Assembly, noting that the Group welcomed the record turnout of women at the Assembly and the decline in all-male delegations. On behalf of the Group, she reported on the implementation of the IPU's anti-harassment policy, welcoming growing awareness of the policy, and on an increase in the reporting of incidents. She noted the Group's call for increased vigilance regarding the state of women's participation in parliaments globally, expressing concern over the slowdown in progress observed worldwide.

5. Participants were briefed on the IPU's activities to promote gender equality. Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, reported on the proceedings and outcomes of the IPU–UN Women Parliamentary Meeting, held in New York on the occasion of the 70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Ms. S. Gafarova (Azerbaijan), Speaker of the Milli Majlis, presented the report of the 15th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament held in Geneva in July 2025. Ms. I. Stamatović (Serbia) invited participants to attend the upcoming IPU Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians, to be held in Belgrade, Serbia, from 2 to 4 June 2026.

Contributions to the work of the 152nd Assembly from a gender perspective

6. As a contribution to the work of the Assembly, the Forum held group discussions, from a gender perspective, on the draft resolution before the Standing Committee on International Peace and Security, entitled *The role of parliaments in establishing robust post-conflict management mechanisms and restoring a just and lasting peace* (group 1), and on the draft resolution before 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 avoidance* (group 2). Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, acted as Chair of group 1, with Ms. R. Maachaoui (Tunisia) serving as Rapporteur. Ms. R. Abunayan (Saudi Arabia) acted as Chair of group 2, with Ms. S. Claydon (Australia) serving as Rapporteur.

7. In the group 1 debate, participants affirmed that gender equality is essential to sustainable peace and called for gender-responsive recovery frameworks with dedicated financing for essential services, including healthcare, education, psychosocial support and economic empowerment for women, girls and displaced persons. The group underscored the need to ensure access to justice, accountability and comprehensive support for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, to address risks such as human trafficking and structural inequalities exacerbated by conflict, and to explicitly allocate recovery budgets to gender equality, while recognizing and strengthening women-led organizations and women human rights defenders as key actors in peacebuilding.

8. In the group 2 debate, participants agreed that current trade and taxation models are exacerbating inequalities, with women disproportionately affected by tax avoidance, protectionism and unfair trade through the erosion of essential public services. The group underlined six priorities for parliamentary action: integrating gender targets and impact assessments into trade agreements and procurement policies; domesticating the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; advancing gender-responsive budgeting and taxation; improving women's access to trade and skills programmes; promoting women's leadership in economic decision-making and corporate governance; and strengthening the collection of sex-disaggregated data to support parliamentary oversight of gender commitments in trade and tax frameworks.

9. The debate conducted in the two groups resulted in the formulation of four amendments to each of the draft resolutions. Subsequently, all amendments proposed by the Forum were integrated into the draft resolutions. The inclusion of the Forum's amendments enhanced the gender perspective of the draft texts.

Panel discussion: *Conflicts on the rise, women's and girls' rights on the decline*

10. The Forum expressed solidarity with women in conflict settings. The panel discussion opened with presentations from Ms. M. Göka (Türkiye), Ms. P. Bayr (President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe), Ms. B. Sanz Luque (Regional Director, UN Women Europe and Central Asia) and Ms. E.M. Richard (Legal Adviser, International Committee of the Red Cross).

11. Discussions focused on the rising incidence and escalation of conflicts and their disproportionate impact on women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings. Participants examined the gap between existing international commitments and realities on the ground, including in relation to protection from violence, to access to health, education and justice, and to women's participation and leadership in diplomacy, peacebuilding and political decision-making. The discussion also considered the legislative, oversight and budgetary measures needed to strengthen accountability, close implementation gaps, and translate the Women, Peace and Security agenda into effective operational and long-term responses.

12. Participants stressed that women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace processes, conflict prevention, recovery and peace treaties is a non-negotiable condition for sustainable peace. They emphasized that women and girls must receive greater recognition as leaders, peacebuilders and agents of peace. Participants underlined that the existing international normative framework provides a solid basis for action, and that the priority is to close implementation gaps through political will, ensuring accountability and sustained investment. They expressed concern about the sharp increase in violence against women and girls in conflict, and in conflict-related sexual violence in particular, drawing attention to the loss of livelihoods, the disruption of health, education and justice systems, and the heightened vulnerability of displaced women and girls. Participants called for stronger prevention, protection and accountability measures, including the unrestricted investigation and prosecution of human rights violations, and sustained support for civil society organizations and survivor support centres. They reaffirmed the importance of robust and disaggregated data collection to inform laws, policies and budgets that respond effectively to the realities and needs of women and girls in all their diversity in conflict and post-conflict settings.

Elections to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

13. The Forum elected Ms. Y.A. Asséké (Côte d'Ivoire) to fill the vacant seat of the African Group, and Ms. D. Wangmo (Bhutan) to fill the vacant seat of the Asia-Pacific Group, for terms running until March 2029 and March 2027 respectively.

Hearing of the candidates for the position of IPU Secretary General

14. The Forum heard presentations from the four candidates, Ms. D.-T. Avgerinopoulou (Greece), Ms. A. Filip (Romania), Ms. F.D. Thiam (Senegal) and Ms. C. Widegren (Sweden), and invited them to present their vision and strategy and respond to questions from participants.

Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

15. The Bureau met on 15 and 18 April 2026. At its sitting on 15 April, the Bureau paid tribute to the IPU Secretary General, and reviewed the agenda of the Forum, participation in the 152nd Assembly, and activities to support diverse women's participation in parliament occurring during the 152nd Assembly. At its sitting on 18 April, the Bureau held a panel discussion on disinformation, misinformation and violence against women online, took stock of the results of the 152nd Assembly from a gender perspective, and reviewed preparations for the Forum's next session and future work. On 16 April, the Host Parliament organized a field visit for the Bureau to the Bakirköy Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centre, where participants learned about the Centre's work and activities addressing violence against women.

Report of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 217th session
(Istanbul, 19 April 2026)*

The Forum of Young Parliamentarians was held on 16 April 2026. It brought together almost 100 participants, including 61 young parliamentarians (21 women and 40 men) from 41 countries. It was presided over by Ms. N. Abu Ghosh, President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Abu Ghosh underscored that young people and future generations disproportionately bore the burden of ongoing conflicts worldwide, including in the Middle East region, despite not being responsible for their onsets. She expressed support to young people in situations of conflict and emphasized the responsibility of young MPs to serve as a bridge across the generations for peace.

The Forum examined recent developments in youth participation. New data from the 2025 IPU report on *Youth participation in national parliaments* was presented, showing alarming stagnation in youth representation in parliament, and even regression in the global proportion of young women MPs. Recommendations that young MPs had made in the report were presented, including: encouraging youth participation through political parties, adopting laws making it easier to form new parties, instituting term limits and eliminating violence against women. Young MPs also updated the Forum on the situation in their countries. Ms. Z. Yıldız (Türkiye) highlighted progress made in her country and argued that youth underrepresentation was not only about numbers but also about a lack of real influence. Delegations also shared their experiences in advancing youth participation, highlighting the importance of lowering the age of eligibility to run for office, of youth caucuses, and of training programmes for young MPs to be more influential in parliament.

The Forum received warm invitations from Ms. T. Narbaeva, Chairperson of the Senate of Uzbekistan, to the Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, to be held in Samarkand from 4 to 6 September 2026, and from Ms. I. Stamatović (Serbia), to the Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians, to be held in Belgrade from 2 to 4 June 2026.

Contributing to the work of the 152nd Assembly, young MPs examined the theme of the General Debate, *Nurturing hope, securing peace and ensuring justice for future generations*, from a youth perspective. They underlined that hope, peace and justice are increasingly undermined by conflict, inequality and a weakening multilateral system. They stressed the need for stronger youth inclusion in peacebuilding and governance, not only as beneficiaries but as agents involved in the design, implementation and oversight of laws and policies.

Providing a youth perspective to the draft resolution on *The role of parliaments in establishing robust post-conflict management mechanisms and restoring a just and lasting peace*, young MPs emphasized the importance of recognizing young people as not only those affected by conflict through disruptions in education, unemployment and displacement, but also as essential actors in reconciliation, social cohesion and community building. They called for meaningful youth participation in dialogues for peace, and the consideration of their needs in recovery processes and psychological support.

Providing a youth perspective to the draft resolution on *Building a fair and sustainable global economy: The role of parliaments in combating protectionism, reducing tariffs and preventing corporate tax avoidance*, young MPs emphasized that current global economic systems disproportionately disadvantaged youth. They called for fairer trade, stronger action against corporate tax avoidance and more inclusive economic governance. They also called on parliaments to systematically assess the impacts of trade policies on youth.

In preparation for the 153rd IPU Assembly, the Forum appointed Mr. A. Koko Abdelgader (Chad) to serve as youth rapporteur for the proposed draft resolution on *Inclusive social development for all: Parliamentary strategies to promote the rights and empowerment of people living with disabilities*. Following a presentation of the topic of the draft resolution by Ms. F. Öncü (Türkiye), young MPs emphasized that young persons with disabilities face compounded barriers – particularly in access to education, employment and political participation. They highlighted rising mental health-related disabilities among youth and the need for better data for evidence-based policies. They called for greater involvement of young persons with disabilities in policymaking processes, improvements to inclusive education and employment pathways, and investment in youth-responsive initiatives.

The President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians and the IPU President then paid tribute to the outgoing Secretary General. Video messages from past and present IPU youth leaders, as well as from the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, highlighting the Secretary General's legacy, were also presented.

The Forum then held a hearing with candidates for the post of Secretary General of the IPU. The candidates celebrated the importance of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians and the richness of young MPs' contributions to the IPU, and committed to advancing the youth empowerment agenda. Responding to questions from young MPs, the candidates also highlighted the importance of addressing sexual harassment in politics.

Earlier in the day, the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians took stock of youth participation at the 152nd Assembly. The members urged parliaments to redouble efforts to ensure greater participation of young MPs at Assemblies, including by encouraging participation of MPs under 30 years of age. The Bureau also met with Mr. B. Salih, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In light of the situation in the Middle East, the members committed to work more closely together with the High Commissioner to promote and protect the rights and dignity of refugees, not only as a moral and humanitarian issue, but as a legal requirement.

Report of the Committee on Middle East Questions

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 217th session
(Istanbul, 19 April 2026)*

One informal meeting of the Committee on Middle East Questions was held virtually on 4 February 2026 to discuss the proposed amendments to the Committee's Rules and Practices.

The Committee held two sittings, on 16 and 18 April 2026.

In his opening remarks, Mr. H.-J. Talsma (Netherlands), President of the Committee on Middle East Questions, welcomed the reform of the Committee, which would bring geopolitical and gender balance, a more structured framework, and closer exchange with other IPU bodies. He emphasized that the region was in profound turmoil and that the Committee's work was needed more than ever.

The Committee heard a briefing from the Secretariat on recent developments in the wider Middle East region, including critical flashpoints in the Gulf and unjustified aggression against Gulf Cooperation Council States. Members expressed particular concern about the humanitarian impact of attacks on civilian populations and infrastructure in the Gulf region. They underlined that resolving the Israeli–Palestinian conflict and achieving a two-State solution was essential to regional stability. Members condemned attacks on civilians in all contexts, including in Lebanon, and noted that the use of famine as a weapon by Israel violated international humanitarian law (IHL). Members recalled United Nations Security Council resolution 2803 (2025) and expressed concern that belligerent countries were no longer listening to international appeals. They stressed that parliamentary diplomacy had a vital role to play in ensuring UN resolutions were implemented at the international level and in national parliaments. Members reaffirmed their support for the work of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. They also welcomed the role played by Pakistan in the ceasefire negotiations.

The Committee heard a briefing on IHL from Ms. Ö. Irmakkesen, Legal Adviser at the Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre, who emphasized the obligation on all States to ensure respect for IHL. She outlined the IHL framework applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, noting that annexation was unlawful under international law and that recent measures in the West Bank created permanent changes beyond those permitted under IHL. Ms. Irmakkesen drew attention to settler violence, military incursions, house demolitions, forced displacement and the lack of accountability. She referenced the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024, which found that the continued presence of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory was unlawful and must be ended as rapidly as possible, that all settlement activities must cease, and that all settlers must be evacuated.

In relation to recent legislation enacted by the Knesset establishing the death penalty for acts of terrorism, Ms. Irmakkesen noted that there were serious concerns regarding its discriminatory design and its incompatibility with the obligations of Israel under international law. She emphasized that, under Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions, all States have a duty to ensure respect for IHL, and that when peremptory norms such as the prohibition of annexation, the prohibition of torture and the right to self-determination are violated, third States must not recognize as lawful any situation created by such violations. She outlined parliamentary actions, including speaking out about violations, engaging in inter-parliamentary diplomacy, using oversight mechanisms to ensure government policies are consistent with international law, adopting legislation enabling domestic courts to prosecute war crimes under universal jurisdiction, and ensuring arms transfers did not contribute to IHL violations by reviewing military export control regimes. Members welcomed the briefing and agreed to build on its recommendations in their future work, including by amplifying its key messages within the global parliamentary community.

The Committee expressed concern about the lack of accountability for IHL violations and emphasized the need to work with the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court. Members called for greater visibility for victims, as well as for a field visit to the West Bank to witness the situation on the ground first-hand. They stressed that civilian security on all sides was interconnected. It was noted that, as a parliamentary democracy and Member of the IPU, Israel remained accountable for its policies under international law. Members proposed that the Committee take concrete steps, including calling for the reversal of the Knesset legislation establishing the death penalty for acts of terrorism, noting concerns as to its discriminatory application. Members emphasized the need to use the platform provided by the IPU and to coordinate with other parliamentary assemblies worldwide. Some members suggested the publication of a communiqué outlining the Committee's recommendations.

During the second sitting, Mr. M. Chungong, the IPU Secretary General, addressed the Committee to bid farewell, as this marked his final meeting serving as Secretary of the Committee before the end of his mandate. Reflecting on his 12 years as Secretary General, he noted that he had always remained hopeful for the Committee and stressed his belief in its unique capacity to foster dialogue in the most difficult of circumstances. Drawing on his personal experience of field visits to the region, he underlined the vital importance of engagement on the ground, recalling that people living in conflict-affected areas counted on the international community to bear witness and to stand with them. Mr. Chungong stressed that the IPU had a particular responsibility to uphold this commitment and to amplify the voices of those most affected by conflict. He expressed his deep appreciation for the Committee's work and encouraged members to carry this responsibility forward under the reformed framework.

The Committee discussed the practical implementation of the reform. The Secretariat outlined the dual-focus framework under new Rule 1.2, whereby the Committee would address the Israeli–Palestinian conflict as its standing priority at every session, and would select, at each Assembly, a rotating regional focus covering another situation in the region through a thematic lens. Members expressed optimism regarding the reform and emphasized the importance of meeting more regularly between Assemblies, including through virtual meetings, in order to respond to the rapidly evolving situation in the region. They stressed the importance of field work and of being more action-oriented. The Committee selected the role of parliamentary and inter-parliamentary mediation in the Middle East in ensuring the implementation of UN resolutions as its rotating regional focus until the 153rd Assembly. For the standing priority, the Committee decided to focus on the issue of settlements in the West Bank through the lens of IHL.

In accordance with new Rule 7.2, the Committee adopted concise outcomes and conclusions capturing key observations and committed follow-up actions. On the rotating priority, two follow-up actions were agreed: first, to hold a hearing with the Pakistani delegation to discuss the role of Pakistan as a mediator at the parliamentary level in the context of the tensions between the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel and the United States of America; and second, to coordinate with the IPU Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs. On the standing priority, two follow-up actions were agreed: first, to coordinate with the Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre on parliamentary actions regarding settlements; and second, to organize a field visit to the West Bank to assess the situation on the ground and liaise with relevant UN offices.

At its sitting on 18 April 2026, the Committee elected Ms. A. Erdoğan (Türkiye) as President of the Committee for a renewable one-year term.

Report of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 217th session
(Istanbul, 19 April 2026)*

The Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law met on 17 April 2026.

Review of specific situations of humanitarian concern

The Committee received an update on recent developments related to situations of humanitarian concern. It paid particular attention to Lebanon and was briefed by representatives from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The Committee took note that, since the beginning of March 2026, the humanitarian situation in Lebanon had deteriorated sharply following the intensification of the hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel. These hostilities came on top of years of compounded crises, where essential services were already stretched to the breaking point, the economic situation was dire and countless families were struggling to cope. As of mid-2025, Lebanon hosted approximately 1.3 million Syrian refugees, alongside smaller populations of Iraqi and Sudanese refugees and those of other nationalities. Since the latest escalation of hostilities, over 1 million people have been internally displaced within the country. Lebanese authorities have also reported 1,461 people killed and 4,430 injured, including 129 children and 97 women. Airstrikes and missile exchanges have caused widespread damage to civilian infrastructure including residential buildings, schools, healthcare facilities and essential services.

The Committee expressed serious concern about the escalating hostilities in Lebanon and their devastating humanitarian impact on communities across the country. It noted that women, children and the elderly had been disproportionately affected by the ongoing armed conflict. The Committee also brought attention to the need to protect the rights of those forcibly displaced as a result of the intensification of hostilities. Finally, the Committee drew attention to the urgent need to prioritize de-escalation of violence to prevent further loss of life, and for parties to the conflict to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law (IHL), including taking constant care to spare civilians and civilian objects.

The Committee called on IPU Member Parliaments to raise awareness, within their parliaments and geopolitical groups, about the humanitarian situation in Lebanon and in other countries affected by the conflict in the Middle East, and on all parties to respect and to ensure respect for IHL and to ensure the protection of civilians.

International humanitarian law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts

The Committee heard from the ICRC on recent developments regarding the [Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law](#). The Committee discussed parliamentary strategies to contribute to the outcome documents of the Global Initiative, namely the political declaration and the outcome documents of the workstreams. It also discussed how the parliamentary community could contribute to the High-Level Conference on Humanity in War, which will mark the conclusion of the Global Initiative and will be held in Jordan in late 2026. The Committee also encouraged members to follow up on the IPU's October 2025 Geneva Declaration on *Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis*, and to report back on action taken at the next Assembly in October 2026. The Committee also drew attention to the joint letter sent by the IPU Secretary General and the ICRC President to all Presidents of IPU Groups identifying key actions for follow-up.

The Committee continued its consideration of the findings of the ICRC report entitled [International Humanitarian Law and the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts](#). During this session, Committee members exchanged on the issue of IHL and peace. The Committee acknowledged that respect for IHL can be a first step towards building trust and facilitating the path to peace. In concrete terms, IHL compliance may reduce barriers to peace negotiations by preventing wanton cruelty, atrocities and unresolved grievances. IHL provides the legal framework that enables, facilitates and protects humanitarian activities, which can be a bridge to peace. With that in mind, the Committee took note of the outcome document of the "IHL and Peace" workstream of the Global Initiative, which put forward recommendations on how States can strengthen protection for affected populations throughout the conflict cycle while at the same time ensuring that the return to sustainable peace remains a priority.

The Committee also took note of some good practices in the implementation of IHL, including the production of a voluntary report on IHL compliance, which serves to take stock of national situations and priorities.

Humanitarian disarmament treaties

The Committee continued its work on raising awareness on key humanitarian disarmament treaties. During this session, the Committee focused its discussions on the [Convention on Cluster Munitions \(CCM\)](#). A briefing on the CCM was provided by the Implementation Support Unit of the CCM. The Committee discussed the impact of cluster munitions on civilians, and especially their long-term effects such as intergenerational trauma and contamination, which also undermine social development. Committee members also considered how parliaments could contribute to the universalization and national implementation of the Convention, including by embedding the Convention's obligations under domestic law, approving budgets for mine clearance and victim assistance activities, and holding governments accountable for their implementation obligations under the Convention.

Parliamentary commitments to advancing refugee protection

The Committee considered parliamentary strategies to advance refugee protection and support further accession to the [1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees](#). The 1951 Convention is the cornerstone of refugee protection. It provides the internationally recognized definition of a refugee and outlines the legal protection, rights and assistance a refugee is entitled to receive. It has served as a framework for international cooperation, responsibility-sharing, and the upholding of the rights of those forcibly displaced.

In view of the 75th anniversary of the Convention in 2026, the Committee decided to pursue efforts to scale up parliamentary action to encourage States that have not yet done so to accede to the 1951 Convention and/or to withdraw reservations made under it.

Future activities of the Committee

The Committee reflected on the first session in the *Webinar series for parliamentarians on international humanitarian law*, which took place in March 2026 and addressed the issue of counter-terrorism and IHL. Committee members acknowledged the importance of ensuring that humanitarian exemptions were included in their counter-terrorism legislation. The Committee also invited members to join the second webinar in the series, which will focus on IHL and the natural environment.

Report of the Committee on Health

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 217th session
(Istanbul, 19 April 2026)*

The Committee on Health met for its second meeting on 15 April, with 10 members in attendance, at a time when global health challenges are not only evolving but intensifying. The clear message that emerged from the outset of the discussions was that health is not merely a policy issue: it is a fundamental human right, and one that remains unevenly realized across societies.

Members shared national experiences, highlighting both progress and persistent gaps. The Committee examined critical issues such as health equity, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the urgent needs of adolescents – a group too often left at the margins of policy attention. These discussions made clear that political will remains the decisive factor in transforming commitments into reality.

The Committee was briefed on the work of the Lancet Commission on 21st-Century Global Health Threats, which underscored that the global health landscape is becoming more complex, more interconnected and more fragile, and that the threats facing societies – from pandemics to climate-related health risks – do not respect borders. The Committee considered whether parliaments are prepared for these developments, concluding that while they are not yet, they can be.

The Committee also engaged in a critical discussion with a representative from the World Health Organization (WHO) on the ongoing negotiations surrounding the WHO Pandemic Agreement. The discussion emphasized that this is not just a technical process, but also a political one, and that parliaments have a decisive role to play in combating misinformation, fostering informed public debate and ensuring that international commitments translate into national action. It was stressed that these are not abstract responsibilities, but tools for saving lives.

The Committee turned its attention to the future and the significant challenges that lie ahead. Members raised concerns about declining international health funding, particularly for HIV programmes, which threatens to reverse years of progress, and discussed the growing need for stronger parliamentary oversight to ensure preparedness and long-term resilience. The discussion also touched on emerging public health threats, namely the rapid spread of new tobacco and vaping products, and the silent but deadly rise of antimicrobial resistance affecting both humans and animals. It was emphasized that these are not distant risks; rather, they are present dangers requiring immediate legislative attention. The key principle to emerge from these discussions was that multilateral cooperation is not optional: it is essential, and no country can tackle these challenges alone.

The Committee discussed the upcoming Global Parliamentary Forum, to be held on 20 May 2026 at the World Health Assembly in Geneva. Members noted that the event, which will be co-organized by the IPU and WHO, will be a critical opportunity for parliamentarians to engage directly with global health priorities, exchange expertise and strengthen their collective response.

Committee members also participated in other events at the 152nd IPU Assembly, including a high-level symposium on accelerating action for the health of women, children and adolescents in times of crisis, convened by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, as well as a workshop with WHO on sustainable health financing, including the role of health taxes, in an increasingly uncertain economic environment. During a visit to a refugee centre, Committee members witnessed first-hand individuals and families relying on mental health support, basic services and community outreach to rebuild their lives. The visit served as a reminder that health systems must be inclusive, resilient and, above all, humane.

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

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 217th session
(Istanbul, 19 April 2026)*

The High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG) held its 20th meeting on 15 April 2026. The meeting was chaired by Ms. M. Guerra Castillo (Mexico).

The Group began with the renewal of its Bureau: Ms. M. Guerra Castillo (Mexico) was re-elected as Chairperson for an additional one-year term, and the mandate of the Vice-Chairperson, Ms. L. Saint Paul (France), was also renewed.

In his opening remarks, the IPU Secretary General, Mr. M. Chungong, addressed the Group with a message of reflection and forward-looking guidance. He recalled that the HLAG had been established as a key innovation to strengthen parliamentary engagement in counter-terrorism and violent extremism, and expressed his satisfaction with the progress achieved by the Group through partnerships, dialogue and concrete initiatives. He underscored the current global context of multiple conflicts, increasing instability and rising geopolitical tensions, all of which create conditions conducive to terrorism.

He emphasized the importance of maintaining the relevance and agility of the IPU, strengthening a human-centred approach that considers the plight of victims, and advancing the Group's work on the definition of terrorism to support a common understanding. He also called for efforts to move from concepts to concrete action, particularly in relation to the Call of the Sahel initiative.

The Group then discussed post-conflict environments, which remain highly vulnerable to the resurgence of terrorist activity. Experts noted that the end of armed conflict does not necessarily equate to sustainable peace, as weakened institutions, lack of political legitimacy, unresolved grievances and economic marginalization continue to create opportunities for extremist groups to reorganize and expand their activities.

Participants also emphasized the adaptability of extremist organizations, including their ability to reshape narratives and exploit governance gaps. Transnational dynamics, such as arms trafficking, foreign fighters and migration flows, were identified as contributing factors to instability. The growing role of digital platforms in sustaining extremist narratives and facilitating recruitment, particularly among young people, was also underlined.

Members stressed that effective responses require comprehensive and integrated approaches that combine security measures with institutional reconstruction, socio-economic inclusion and prevention strategies.

During the interactive exchange, members highlighted the central role of parliaments in addressing these challenges through the adoption of legislative frameworks, oversight of government action and the promotion of inclusive policies. The importance of balancing security measures with the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms was emphasized, as well as the need to strengthen international cooperation, including through parliamentary diplomacy.

The Group then held an expert hearing on online radicalization and digital platforms. Discussions focused on the role of digital technologies in facilitating the spread of extremist ideologies. Experts noted that online platforms and communities, and the algorithms behind them, can amplify radical narratives and accelerate recruitment processes, particularly among vulnerable groups.

At the same time, participants recognized that digital platforms can also play a positive role in preventing radicalization. In particular, they can be used to promote alternative narratives, strengthen digital literacy and support the early identification of extremist content. The importance of developing appropriate regulatory frameworks, in line with international human rights standards, was also emphasized, as well as ensuring transparency, accountability and human oversight in the use of digital technologies and artificial intelligence.

The Secretariat presented its work on the definition of terrorism, undertaken at the request of the HLAG members, in the form of a comparative analysis of existing international approaches and a legally grounded proposed definition based on international law and human rights standards.

During the presentation, it was emphasized that, while the proposal is non-binding, it seeks to establish a basis for a common definition. As such, it represents an important step forward by offering a reference framework that can guide parliamentary reflection and legislative work. In this regard, the proposal may be examined, adapted and further developed by parliaments in accordance with their national contexts, thereby contributing to greater clarity, coherence and effectiveness in counter-terrorism efforts.

The proposal was well received by members, who expressed their appreciation for the work undertaken and noted the usefulness of the document as a practical reference tool. There were no objections raised, and members agreed that it provides a valuable basis for advancing discussions and legislative efforts in the absence of a universally agreed definition of terrorism.

The Group reiterated the need to move from conceptual discussions to concrete action in the implementation of the Call of the Sahel. Members emphasized the importance of strengthening partnerships and mobilizing resources in support of development-oriented approaches in the region and underlined the urgency of translating the initiative into concrete actions capable of delivering tangible impact on the ground.

The Chairperson informed the Group of ongoing engagement with international forums working on development and environmental initiatives, which have access to funding mechanisms relevant to the Sahel. In this context, reference was made to the Sudano-Sahelian Initiative, which promotes an integrated approach linking environmental protection, sustainable development and security.

Members were also informed of plans to organize parliamentary visits to the Sahel region, with initial missions expected to take place in May 2026, with a view to enhancing engagement with national parliaments and local stakeholders, and strengthening cooperation on the ground.

Throughout the meeting, participants highlighted the view that contemporary terrorism is shaped by a complex interplay of factors, including conflict, governance deficits, socio-economic exclusion and technological change. The discussions reaffirmed the need for coordinated, comprehensive and forward-looking responses that address both immediate security concerns and the underlying drivers of violent extremism.

In conclusion, the Chairperson emphasized the importance of sustained parliamentary engagement, including through legislative action, oversight and international cooperation. She reaffirmed the role of the HLAG as a key platform for dialogue, exchange of good practices and collective action in strengthening the global parliamentary response to terrorism and violent extremism.

Report of the Working Group on Science and Technology

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 217th session
(Istanbul, 19 April 2026)*

One sitting of the Working Group was held on 17 April 2026. Eleven members attended the meeting, as well as two guest parliamentarians from France and Uruguay.

Working Group members held a tour de table on parliamentary engagement with science and technology. The discussion highlighted a broad range of approaches to integrating science and technology into parliamentary work, including through advisory bodies, dedicated or cross-cutting committees, expert hearings, and partnerships with academic and research institutions to support evidence-based policymaking. Participants underscored that science and technology, particularly in areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity and digital transformation, are now central to governance and require robust legislative frameworks, ethical oversight and enhanced international cooperation. At the same time, members noted common challenges, including the pace of technological change, the need to address misinformation and the importance of ensuring inclusive access, with particular concerns raised about the digital divide and the fact that some communities still lack access to basic technological infrastructure, highlighting the need for parliaments to promote equitable digital development alongside innovation.

Members also discussed the role of science and science diplomacy in a fragmented world, emphasizing that science can act as a universal language and a powerful tool for fostering cooperation, trust and evidence-based policymaking across political divides, particularly in addressing shared global challenges such as climate change and technological transformation. At the same time, it was acknowledged that, despite the inherent neutral nature of science, its application can be shaped by human interests and geopolitical tensions and may be used both for the benefit of humanity and to

cause harm, including in conflict settings. Members underscored the importance of science diplomacy as a practical means of building bridges and maintaining dialogue, while highlighting the responsibility of parliaments to support it through legislation, oversight and funding, and to ensure that scientific progress is guided by ethical principles, human rights and inclusivity. Concerns were also raised about unequal access to technological knowledge and the concentration of control among a limited number of actors, reinforcing the need for greater transparency, international dialogue and cooperation, to ensure that science contributes to peace, security and sustainable development.

The Chairperson briefed members on the conference on *The Role of Parliament in Shaping the Future of Responsible AI*, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 28 to 30 November 2025, with the participation of the Working Group's members from Algeria, Cameroon, Sweden, Thailand and Türkiye. She highlighted that AI is no longer a distant or abstract concept but a rapidly evolving force already shaping societies, governance systems, human rights and daily life, presenting both significant opportunities and serious risks. The conference resulted in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on *Parliaments and responsible AI*, which reflects the growing consensus among parliamentarians that AI governance requires deliberate political choices and that parliaments have a central role in shaping these through legislation, oversight and accountability mechanisms.

Two invited experts contributed to the discussion on AI and quantum computing. Mr. A. Read, IPU Consultant on AI Policy, emphasized the rapid acceleration and expanding reach of AI, noting that AI systems are already matching or exceeding human performance in certain tasks and are being applied across a wide range of domains, from institutional applications such as legislative drafting, to malicious uses such as cyber operations and fraud, each raising distinct concerns for democratic integrity, accountability and security. He highlighted that current safeguards and testing mechanisms are insufficient to reliably predict real-world AI behaviour, making governance an urgent and inherently political responsibility for parliaments, which must balance innovation with safety, equity and the public good.

Mr. P. Glauner, Professor of Artificial Intelligence at the Deggendorf Institute of Technology in Germany, explained that quantum computing could enhance machine learning by enabling faster training of models, improved optimization and the ability to work effectively with less data, potentially unlocking new capabilities in areas such as logistics, scientific research and advanced simulations. However, he stressed that these benefits remain largely prospective, as current quantum systems are still limited in scale and practical application. At the same time, he underscored important risks, particularly the potential for quantum computing to undermine existing encryption systems, requiring a transition to quantum-safe cryptography. He also emphasized that the convergence of AI and quantum computing raises strategic and security considerations, and that policymakers should focus on regulating applications, fostering innovation, and preparing for future impacts through forward-looking governance and investment in secure technological infrastructure.

As Rapporteur for the AI Ethics Annex to the IPU Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology, the Vice-Chairperson presented the updated draft Annex, after incorporating inputs from members and recent informal Working Group coordination meetings held online on 18 November 2025 and 25 February 2026. The Annex is grounded in key principles, including human rights and fundamental freedoms; inclusivity, equality and non-discrimination; transparency and explainability; and accountability and oversight. Key updates included provisions on public financial governance, strengthened safeguards in democratic processes, a lifecycle approach to risk management, expanded capacity-building for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff, and new mechanisms for monitoring and peer learning. Members were invited to provide further written feedback ahead of the planned adoption of the Annex at the forthcoming 153rd IPU Assembly.

Members discussed efforts to raise awareness of the Charter and operationalize its principles, noting its ongoing dissemination and use in parliamentary work, particularly in relation to AI, while highlighting the need for practical guidance and the challenge of translating the Charter into concrete legislation.

Members were invited to participate in upcoming activities, including the eleventh UN Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, to be held in New York from 6 to 7 May 2026, alongside a Working Group side event to be held virtually on 5 May 2026 on the theme *From policy to impact: The role of parliaments in advancing science, technology and innovation for equitable progress*, focusing on SDG 6 and SDG 17. Members were also invited to attend the parliamentary Science for Peace Schools session entitled *Regulating for responsible innovation: AI ethics and the IPU Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology*, scheduled for 9 to 11 September 2026 in Viet Nam.

Finally, the Working Group expressed appreciation for the constructive discussions and the quality of the expert contributions, re-elected Ms. M. Cederfelt (Sweden) as its Chairperson and Mr. N. In-na (Thailand) as its Vice-Chairperson, and agreed on its work plan for 2026.

Report of the Gender Partnership Group

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 217th session
(Istanbul, 19 April 2026)*

The Gender Partnership Group held its 53rd session on 14 and 18 April 2026. In attendance were Ms. S. Mikayilova (Azerbaijan), who was elected as the Chair of the Group, Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium), Mr. M. Ali Sera (Indonesia) and Ms. N. Mutti (Zambia).

As per its mandate, the Group reviewed the state of women's participation in national parliaments, as well as in IPU bodies and Assemblies. It examined in particular the composition of delegations at the 152nd Assembly. As of 19 April 2026, 36% of the delegates at the Assembly were women (see [below](#)), which is below the past three Assemblies and well below the record 39% women delegates in Nusa Dua in 2022 and in Madrid in 2021. At this Assembly, 37 delegations out of 131 (28.2%) were gender-balanced, meaning that they were composed of 40–60% women or men. This is a lower percentage than at the last Assembly, where 29.5% of delegations (39 out of 132) were gender-balanced. The aforementioned 37 gender-balanced delegations attending the 152nd Assembly are listed [below](#).

Of the 131 delegations present, 127 were composed of at least two delegates, of which 10 were all-male (7.9%). The ten all-male delegations of two or more members were from the parliaments of Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Croatia, Mali, Malta, South Sudan, Uruguay and Yemen. In addition, there were four single-member delegations attending the Assembly. All in all, six delegations are subject to sanctions at this Assembly.

The Group took stock of the measures taken to implement the *Policy to prevent and address harassment, including sexual harassment, at IPU Assemblies and other IPU events*. The Group welcomed ongoing efforts to make the policy well-known to all. The Group further highlighted the importance of ensuring adherence to the policy through efforts by national parliaments, and encouraged them to consider introducing such a policy in their own institutions. If required, the IPU may support such national-level efforts.

The Group reviewed the state of women's participation in national parliaments, with a focus on those that had few or no women members. It noted that overall progress had slowed down, with women accounting for 27.5% of MPs in the world today – a gain of 0.3 percentage points in one year. The Group further noted that there had been a decrease in the number of women Speakers of Parliament. The Group highlighted the importance of remaining vigilant, as progress made could be reversed.

As per its mandate, the Group held a dialogue session with the delegation of Samoa, led by Ms. A.L.M.V. Masame, Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, to discuss how to improve women's representation in parliament.

Samoa is the only Pacific country to have a legislated quota for women, with a constitutional provision introduced in 2013 that reserves 10% of seats for women in parliament. The delegation of Samoa emphasized that women parliamentarians play a critical role in inclusive governance. Progress in women's leadership has also included the election of the country's first female Prime Minister, in 2021. Initiatives such as the Women in Leadership programme, which is supported by international partners, have been implemented to encourage more women family chiefs to run for parliament, and village-level empowerment efforts continue to support women's integration into traditional governance structures.

Despite this, women's representation in local and national governance remains low. Women make up about 20% of family chiefs based on the Matai system. Holding a family chief title is a precondition for taking part in village councils, as well as for running for a parliamentary seat. The current percentage of women MPs, following the 2025 election, remains at 9.8%, with one more seat for a woman yet to be added to meet the minimum 10% threshold required by the Constitution.

During the exchange, the delegation of Samoa identified key barriers to women's political participation, and in particular the central role of the Matai system, which continues to limit women's ability to contest elections. Also, more remains to be done to shift the public perception that women do not belong in politics, and to present women's political participation not just as a women's issue but as a societal one. Limited resources for awareness-raising programmes tailored to women family chiefs is another challenge.

The delegation welcomed any support that the Group and the IPU might provide for the Legislative Assembly's efforts towards encouraging more women family chiefs to run for parliament, to raise awareness among the population so as to shift societal mindsets, and to engage male parliamentarians as gender champions.

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Statistics of the Gender Partnership Group

Composition of delegations of IPU members attending the last eight IPU statutory meetings (Kigali 2022 - present)

Meeting	Total delegates	Total/percentage of women delegates		Total delegations	Total/percentage of all-male delegations (2 or more)		Total all-female delegations (2 or more)	Total single-sex delegations (2 or more)	Total single-member delegations (male and female)
Istanbul (19/04/2026)	678	244	36	131	10	7.9	1	11	4
Geneva (10/25)	593	219	36.9	132	9	7.4	2	11	11
Tashkent (04/25)	682	254	37.2	127	10	8.1	4	14	4
Geneva (10/24)	615	224	36.4	129	7	5.8	2	9	9
Geneva (03/24)	703	252	35.8	142	15	11.4	2	17	10
Luanda (10/23)	600	217	36.2	128	10	8.3	3	13	8
Manama (03/23)	661	228	34.5	136	21	16	3	24	5
Kigali (10/22)	553	196	35.4	120	14	12.6	4	18	9

Single-sex, multi-member delegations of IPU members present in Istanbul (status on 19 April 2026)

N°	Country	Istanbul Apr26			Geneva Oct25			Tashkent Apr25			Geneva Oct24			Geneva Mar24			Luanda Oct23			Manama Mar23			Kigali Oct22		
		Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total
1	Belarus*	0	2	2	0	2	2	3	3	6	0	2	2	absent			1	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	1
2	Bosnia and Herzegovina*	0	2	2	0	1	1	2	1	3	1	2	3	0	1	1	absent			absent			absent		
3	Botswana	0	2	2	2	1	3	1	7	8	0	1	1	1	4	5	1	5	6	1	3	4	1	4	5
4	Brazil*	0	4	4	0	6	6	1	7	8	0	4	4	0	7	7	2	3	5	0	6	6	0	1	1
5	Croatia*	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	1	2	3	absent			1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	3
6	Mali*	0	4	4	absent			absent			absent			0	4	4	1	2	3	0	2	2	1	3	4
7	Malta	0	3	3	1	2	3	0	2	2	1	1	2	0	3	3	0	3	3	0	3	3	0	2	2
8	Mongolia	2	0	2	absent			3	1	4	2	1	3	1	1	2	0			0	3	3	absent		
9	South Sudan	0	2	2	1	2	3	5	4	9	0	1	1	3	6	9	3	5	8	4	9	13	3	7	10
10	Uruguay	0	4	4	2	2	4	1	1	2	absent			4	1	5	0	2	2	3	5	8	0	3	3
11	Yemen*	0	5	5	0	4	4	absent			0	6	6	0	4	4	0	4	4	0	4	4	0	6	6

Single-member delegations of IPU members present in Istanbul (status on 19 April 2026)

N°	Country	Istanbul Apr26			Geneva Oct25			Tashkent Apr25			Geneva Oct24			Geneva Mar24			Luanda Oct23			Manama Mar23			Kigali Oct22		
		Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total
1	Belize	0	1	1	absent																				
2	Samoa	1	0	1	absent			absent			absent			absent			absent			absent			absent		
3	Slovenia	0	1	1	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	0	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	1
4	Togo	0	1	1	absent			absent			absent			absent			absent			absent			1	2	3

* Delegations subjected to sanctions at the 152nd Assembly, pursuant to Articles 10.4 and 15.2c of the IPU Statutes, for being composed exclusively of representatives of the same sex for two consecutive Assemblies.

53rd session of the Gender Partnership Group

Istanbul, Türkiye, 19 April 2026

Delegations with 40 to 60% women parliamentarians

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

The countries below are ordered according to the percentage of women parliamentarians in their delegations at the 152nd IPU Assembly.

There are a total of 37 gender-balanced delegations out of 131 delegations (28.2%) of IPU Member Parliaments attending the 152nd IPU Assembly (as of 19 April 2026) compared to a total of 39 gender-balanced delegations out of 132 delegations (29.5%) who attended the 151st IPU Assembly.

Delegations with 40 to 49.9% women parliamentarians (10):

Albania	40%	Luxembourg	40%
Finland	40%	Egypt	43%
Gabon	40%	Germany	43%
Ghana	40%	Paraguay	43%
Iraq	40%	Zimbabwe	44%

Delegations with 50% women parliamentarians (14):

Armenia	Monaco
Australia	Montenegro
Cyprus	Mozambique
Denmark	Rwanda
Italy	San Marino
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Tunisia
Liechtenstein	Türkiye

Delegations with 50.1 to 60% women parliamentarians (13):

Mexico	55%	Eswatini	60%
South Africa	56%	Libya	60%
Azerbaijan	57%	Netherlands	60%
France	57%	Norway	60%
Angola	60%	Republic of Korea	60%
Cameroon	60%	Serbia	60%
Estonia	60%		

Calendar of future meetings and other activities

*Approved by the IPU Governing Council at its 217th session
(Istanbul, 19 April 2026)*

Parliamentary event at the 11th UN Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (UN STI Forum)	NEW YORK (USA) 6 – 7 May 2026
Second Conference for Transitional Parliaments	LIBREVILLE (Gabon) 11 – 13 May 2026
Parliamentary dialogue at the World Health Assembly (18 – 23 May)	GENEVA (Switzerland) 20 May 2026
Regional seminar on the SDGs for the parliaments of the Eurasia Group	Tajikistan 22 – 23 May 2026
Regional seminar for African parliaments on climate change and reducing methane emissions	NAIROBI (Kenya) May 2026 (Dates to be confirmed)
Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians 2026	BELGRADE (Serbia) 2 – 4 June 2026
Regional Seminar for the Twelve Plus Group on human rights in the digital age – <i>AI and social media: Opportunities and threats for youth</i>	WARSAW (Poland) 8 – 10 June 2026
Information seminar on the structure and functioning of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for French-speaking participants	GENEVA (Switzerland) 16 – 19 June 2026
Meeting of the IPU Executive Committee	GENEVA (Switzerland) 29 – 30 June 2026
Regional Seminar for Parliaments of Latin America and the Caribbean on Climate Change	QUITO (Ecuador) June 2026 (Dates to be confirmed)
Parliamentary Forum at the UN High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development	NEW YORK (USA) 14 July 2026
Wroxton Workshop of Parliamentary Scholars and Parliamentarians	WROXTON (United Kingdom) 25 – 26 July 2026
12th Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians	SAMARKAND (Uzbekistan) 4 – 6 September 2026
Science for Peace Parliamentary session on <i>Regulating for responsible innovation: AI ethics and the IPU Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology</i>	QUY NHON (Viet Nam) 9 – 11 September 2026
Parliamentary event at the High-Level Week of the UN General Assembly	NEW YORK (USA) 23 September 2026
153rd Assembly and related meetings	ARUSHA (United Republic of Tanzania) 5 – 9 October 2026
Parliamentary meeting at the Reykjavik Global Forum	REYKJAVIK (Iceland) 15 – 17 November 2026 (Dates to be confirmed)
World e-Parliament Conference	BRUSSELS (Belgium) 16 – 18 November 2026

Parliamentary Meeting at COP31 (9 – 20 November)	ANTALYA (Türkiye) November 2026 (Dates to be confirmed)
Parliamentary Meeting to be held in conjunction with the UN Water Conference	United Arab Emirates December 2026 (Venue and dates to be confirmed)
Interregional Seminar on the Achievement of the SDGs for Parliaments of Developing Countries	BEIJING (China) 2026 (Dates to be confirmed)
Global Parliamentary Conference on Human Rights	GENEVA (Switzerland) 2026 (Dates to be confirmed)
Regional seminar for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from Gulf and African Countries, co-organized with the WTO	United Arab Emirates 2026 (Venue and dates to be confirmed)
Regional seminar for the Twelve Plus Group: <i>Workshop on artificial intelligence (AI), terrorism and transnational organized crime: Risks, responses and regulation</i>	2026 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Fourth World Summit of Committees of the Future	2026 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Third Global Parliamentary Summit on Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism	2026 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Parliamentary Track at the 21st Internet Governance Forum	2026 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Seminar on the promotion of humanitarian disarmament instruments	2026 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Seminar on the promotion of nuclear security and non-proliferation instruments	2026 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional seminar to promote implementation of the legal framework on counter-terrorism for the African Group	2026 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional seminar on SDGs and climate change for Asia-Pacific parliaments	2026 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Working together to advance women's political participation and decision-making: Series of in-person and online meetings between parliamentarians and partners in the Generation Equality Forum and/or WYDE Women's Leadership project	2026 Quarterly (Venue to be confirmed)
Webinar to mark the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	Virtual 21 August 2026
Information Seminar on the structure and functioning of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for Spanish-speaking participants	Virtual 2026 (Dates to be confirmed)

Empowerment series for young parliamentarians	Virtual 2026 (Series dates to be announced)
Regional seminar on the implementation of the universal legal instruments against terrorism	Virtual 2026 (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series on enhanced cooperation between parliaments and supreme audit institutions	Virtual 2026 (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series on AI and digital policy	Virtual 2026 (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series on gender equality and women's empowerment	Virtual 2026 (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series on the digital transformation of parliaments and the use of AI in parliament	Virtual 2026 (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series to promote the use of human security and common security	Virtual 2026 (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation	Virtual 2026 (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series on parliamentary action on human rights issues	Virtual 2026 (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series on parliamentary training institutes	Virtual 2026 (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series on promoting the Model Legislative Provisions to support the victims of terrorism	Virtual 2026 (Series dates to be announced)
Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations	NEW YORK (USA) February 2027 (Dates to be confirmed)
154th Assembly and related meetings	GENEVA (Switzerland) 17 – 21 May 2027
Science for Peace School for parliamentary staff on <i>Green economy, energy and the Sustainable Development Goals</i> (third edition)	ALLAN (Jordan) May 2027 May (Dates to be confirmed)

Parliamentary Forum at the UN High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development	NEW YORK (USA) July 2027 (Dates to be confirmed)
Science for Peace Parliamentary Meeting on <i>Energy and climate change</i> (third edition)	QUY NHON (Viet Nam) September 2027 (Dates to be confirmed)
Session of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO	2027 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional conference for European parliaments on global health security	2027 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Third Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue	2027 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Webinar to mark the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	Virtual 20 August 2027
16th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament	ASHGABAT (Turkmenistan) First half of the year 2027 (Venue and dates to be confirmed)

Agenda of the 153rd Assembly

(Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 5 – 9 October 2026)

1. Election of the President of the 153rd Assembly
2. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
3. General Debate on the theme *Enhancing good governance and empowering communities through inclusivity, trust and opportunities for all*
4. Special accountability segment on the implementation of IPU resolutions and other decisions
5. *Inclusive social development for all: Parliamentary strategies to promote the rights and empowerment of people living with disabilities*
(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 155th IPU Assembly and appointment of the co-Rapporteurs