



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Summary Records of the Proceedings of the 138th IPU Assembly

Geneva

24-28 March 2018

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Introduction

Delegations from 148 Member Parliaments took part in the work of the Assembly:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The following eight Associate Members also took part in the Assembly: the Arab Parliament, the Central American Parliament, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO), the Parliament of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

Other observers comprised representatives of: (i) the United Nations system: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Health Organization (WHO), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); (ii) the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the World Trade Organization (WTO); (iii) the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA), the African Parliamentary Union (APU), the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie, the Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR), the Maghreb Consultative Council, the Pan-African Parliament, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking countries (TURKPA), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia, the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member States (PUIC); (iv) the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; (v) Centrist Democrat International, Socialist International; (vi) the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the International Institute for Democracy and the Electoral Assistance (International IDEA).

Of the 1,526 delegates who attended the Assembly, 744 were members of parliament. Those parliamentarians included 59 Presiding Officers, 39 Deputy Presiding Officers and 227 women (30.5%).

Opening of the 138th Assembly

SITTING OF SUNDAY 25 MARCH 2018

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 11.10 a.m., with Ms. G. Cuevas Barron (Mexico), President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in the Chair.

Opening remarks by the President of the IPU

The PRESIDENT, in her opening remarks, said that she was honoured to address the Assembly for the first time in her capacity as IPU President and especially delighted to preside over an Assembly that had chosen the pressing topic of migration as the theme of its General Debate. The topic was close to her heart as a Mexican having witnessed at first hand family tragedies and dramas unfold as people fled both her country and neighbouring Central American nations to reach the land of opportunity further north in pursuit of their dreams and a better life, if not for themselves, then for their children.

In the current year, two global compacts—one on migration and the other on refugees—were to be adopted by the international community. It was therefore only natural and appropriate that migration would continue to be a cross-cutting and recurrent theme throughout 2018 for the IPU. The Parliamentary Hearing held in February at United Nations Headquarters in New York had set the tone by identifying the burning issues that needed to be addressed in a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

A human rights-based approach to the governance of international migration was among the most demanding tests of global cooperation at the current time. With an estimated figure of some 260 million migrants worldwide—almost double the figure in 2000—the world was becoming one of migrants. Although most people migrated in orderly and legal fashion, millions still resorted to migration out of necessity or through forced displacement. An estimated 50 million persons, or 20 per cent of the international migrant population, were irregular migrants.

While those working as unauthorized migrants were forced to do so mainly through lack of economic opportunity in their home countries, many were forced out of their countries by political turmoil and armed conflict. The millions compelled to migrate under perilous conditions were at constant risk of joining the toll of missing migrants. In 2016, the number of recorded migrant deaths had reached a historical peak of almost 1,500. Progress in building an inclusive international framework of cooperation to curb such trends was therefore of the utmost urgency.

The migration strands of the Hearing and the current Assembly tied in with a draft resolution entitled *Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*, to be considered for adoption at the next IPU Assembly in October 2018. The draft resolution intended to be forward-looking in terms of how parliaments and other stakeholders would implement the global compacts. Taken together, that neat bundle of strands would inform and shape the IPU's future work.

More specifically, the General Debate during the current Assembly would identify ways to strengthen the global regime for migrants and refugees through evidence-based policy solutions. As policymakers, parliamentarians were duty-bound to devise laws and policies based on evidence and not on political party affiliation or political persuasion. The evidence to date had shown that the challenge of migration could also be a great opportunity for both receiving and sending countries.

Worldwide, the 22.5 million refugees and the 65.6 million forcibly displaced persons not only needed assistance but were agents of change in both their home and receiving countries. She therefore urged Members to engage in fruitful discussions and take away concrete recommendations from the resulting outcome document and from the workshop organized in the context of the Assembly on refugee protection and State asylum systems.

Drawing attention to the large tent pitched in the reception area of the Conference Centre, she said that it was a real refugee tent brought in as part of the IPU's efforts to make its Assemblies more alive and dynamic and bring reality closer to where issues were being debated. She invited participants to visit the tent and imagine what it must be like to live there for months or even years, with little or no privacy and lacking basic amenities and activities other than waiting and hoping for the best. Some eventually reached their "promised land", only to be turned back at the border or exploited by unscrupulous employers in search of sex slaves or cheap labour. Treated with scorn and disdain and generally stigmatized, they soon despaired.

Parliamentarians had the power to turn the tide. The starting point was to stop considering migration as a "problem" but rather as both a challenge and an opportunity for all parties involved. It was essential to identify the drivers of migration, look back at historical trends and see how the phenomenon could be "managed" in a fairer and more humane manner; to try and make crossings safer and protect the most vulnerable of migrants, namely women and children; and to try and make the most of the enormous potential and pool of talent migrants brought and place them to the benefit of society.

Much depended on the ability to change mentalities so that constituents regarded migrants as fellow human beings and not as foreigners coming to steal their jobs and live off welfare. It was high time to debunk the myths and dispel the misconceptions surrounding migrants and refugees. Only then would it be possible to formulate sound and balanced national migration policies or adapt existing policies. The use of populist slogans verging on hate speech was a cheap trick used by some politicians to garner votes. No one should give in to such tactics. Everyone had a moral compass and she called on Members to follow theirs.

She hoped for fruitful deliberations and concrete outcomes that Members could take back home and leave behind as a tangible legacy for the next generations. She was confident that the discussions would nurture a process of translation from the global commitments with respect to migrants and refugees to their national and local application through legislation and best practices. She was also confident that the Assembly would trigger new ideas and projects in order to strengthen the international response to large movements of migrants and refugees through a parliamentary perspective.

The world was currently witnessing the highest levels of international displacement and migration movements in contemporary history, leaving no further alternative but to take immediate action, especially in relation to cross-cutting issues. Declaring open the 138th Assembly, she said that she looked forward to hearing the views expressed on the important matters covered by the rich and varied agenda.

**High-level interactive session on the theme of the General Debate:
Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees:
The need for evidence-based policy solutions**

The PRESIDENT introduced the special guest speakers at the high-level interactive session: Mr. W. Lacy Swing, Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM); Mr. Z.R. Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); and Mr. F. Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). She also introduced the moderator of the session, Ms. C. Doole, a former BBC journalist.

The MODERATOR said that she was extremely honoured to be moderating the discussion with such distinguished guest speakers on the major issue of how to address migration and refugee flows. The topic was clearly one that impassioned the IPU President, whose opening remarks had also manifested the importance she attached to the IPU's involvement in the debate on that issue.

The PRESIDENT said that the IPU had indeed been involved in the debate for some time by way of its Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law. As already mentioned, it had also addressed the topic at its recent annual Parliamentary Hearing in New York. In continuing to do its utmost to make the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration a reality, it now looked forward to the input of the special guest speakers.

The MODERATOR asked the Director General of the IOM to identify what he saw as the current challenges in the area of migration management.

Mr. W. LACY SWING (IOM), *special guest speaker*, said that there were currently more migrants than ever before. In the majority of cases, their journeys were smooth and straightforward. Unfortunately, however, forced migration was increasingly poised to become a mega-trend. Its many drivers were set to continue and included armed conflict, climate change and the demographic divide between a youthful South in search of employment and an ageing North in need of labour and skills.

Parliamentarians had the power to be a positive force in the development of a comprehensive approach to migration and refugees. First, they had the power of policy by virtue of their legislative authority to enact appropriate laws with a view to creating legal pathways for migration and ensuring the success of integration measures. In so doing, they might wish to

consider measures to combat human trafficking, decriminalize irregular migrants, and ensure access for migrants to health care, education and other public services. It thus went without saying that parliamentarians had the power to be involved in and support the global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration.

Secondly, parliamentarians had the power of parlance in that their public comments could effectively either encourage or counter anti-migrant and xenophobic sentiment. Most countries had been built on the backs of migrants whose ongoing contribution to global wealth was borne out by the evidence, albeit that they comprised but three to five per cent of the global population. Thirdly, parliamentarians had the power of the purse by way of determining the budgetary allocations for migration policy implementation and the delivery of services for migrants. Migration was not a problem to be solved but a reality as old as humankind which had a responsibility to learn to manage it.

In the light of those challenges, he said that the global compact should cater to the large numbers of those on the move who did not qualify for formal protection under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951 Refugee Convention). They included a great many women who, overall, accounted for one half of all migrants, as well as others similarly innocent of any wrongdoing, such as trafficked victims and unaccompanied minors. All such individuals were merely seeking a better life and needed assistance and protection.

The MODERATOR asked the UN High Commissioner for Refugees why it was important to have a global compact on refugees in addition to the 1951 Refugee Convention.

Mr. F. GRANDI (UNHCR), *special guest speaker*, said that both of the global compacts in preparation were extremely timely and useful insofar as migratory flows were becoming increasingly mixed and more complex to handle. Of the unprecedented numbers of people on the move, a sizeable proportion were refugees who had no other choice. Having lost the protection of their States, they were unable to return to their home countries without placing their lives at risk. Refugees now stayed in exile for longer periods of typically up to two decades. The notion that only high-income countries were affected by migratory flows must be dispelled; most refugees and displaced persons were located in low- and middle-income countries, which generated challenges, as did the growing number of those living in urban communities.

There were many positive examples of host countries with limited resources that openly welcomed refugees, whereas elsewhere physical expulsion was rising, including in the global North, along with confinement in closed camps, legislative restrictions and refoulement. The global compact on refugees was therefore an opportunity to share in practice the international responsibility for protecting refugees in accordance with the principles enshrined in the 1951 Refugee Convention and indeed in many regional instruments relating to refugees. It was also an opportunity to reflect on the worrying politicization of refugees and migrants often accused of stealing jobs, bringing insecurity or threatening values when they were simply fleeing life-threatening situations. In the case of parliamentarians, it was an opportunity to redress such matters, in particular through their political discourse, by stressing the responsibility to save lives, offer protection to those deprived of it and find solutions to displacement in a determined and principled manner.

Regarding the links between the two global compacts, he said that refugees and migrants were two distinct groups, which was the reason for having two separate global compacts. Each of the two furthermore had a different legal foundation, as the body of international law was greater on refugees than on migrants. The links between the two global compacts were nonetheless numerous, as refugees and migrants faced many of the same risks. Synergies and cross-references were therefore being explored in the interest of achieving coherence and consistency in the global compacts, as well as mutual reinforcement.

Mr. W. LACY SWING (IOM) said that his team was working closely with Mr. F. Grandi's team for precisely that reason, as the issue of migration was indeed new territory; in fact, it had first been discussed by the United Nations only in 2016. The aim was to ensure that the global compacts worked in the interest of migrants and refugees.

The MODERATOR asked the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights about the challenges involved in protecting the human rights of those on the move, given their particular vulnerability.

Mr. Z.R. AL HUSSEIN (OHCHR), *special guest speaker*, said that all people on the move were entitled to rights, irrespective of nationality or place of origin. Chauvinistic nationalism was rising, as was the preoccupation with border control on the part of those with increasingly sealed

minds who tended to see migrants as potential extremists. The mean-spiritedness creeping into the narrative was unsustainable. It was therefore a matter of deciding whether to continue along that trajectory or to improve everyone's lot by protecting the most vulnerable, preventing such abuses as the criminalization and detention of migrants, especially children, and refoulement to unsafe countries, and developing further avenues for legal migration. He referred to an important set of principles and guidelines on the protection of the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations, contained in the addendum to his recent report on that subject to the Human Rights Council ([A/HRC/37/34/Add.1](#)), and urged them to join the social media campaign #standupformigrants.

The MODERATOR asked the speakers what they saw as the biggest challenge in the current consultations on both compacts.

Mr. W. LACY SWING (IOM) said that the biggest challenge lay in deciding how to carry forward the commitments under the global compacts, which would necessitate a periodic review at three- or four-year intervals; capacity-building for implementation; and a continuing dialogue on unresolved issues, such as that of reconciling the European aim of returning more migrants to their countries of origin with the African aim of creating more legal pathways for migration to Europe.

Mr. F. GRANDI (UNHCR), agreeing with that assessment, said that another challenge was that of overcoming the dichotomy between host and donor countries so as to bring together their different agendas and build a sense of shared responsibility and commitment around migration and refugees as issues of global concern. It was also essential to encourage other forms of cooperation on matters such as resettlement programmes and legal pathways for migration, including scholarships, training schemes and humanitarian visas.

Mr. Z.R. AL HUSSEIN (OHCHR) said that the most obvious challenge was to change the view advocated by some that diversity posed a threat and that migration was not to be encouraged. Such thinking would end in catastrophe if left unchecked. Countries seeking to protect their citizens must seek protection for all members of the global community. It was for governments and parliaments to prevent the proliferation of intolerance by responding more robustly to suggestions that diversity was to be eschewed.

Asked whether innovative solutions would emerge from the consultations, he said that the extreme reaction to people on the move in some regions amounted to mass hysteria and paranoia, yet those people formed such a very small percentage of the world's population. Opening up legal pathways for migration would bring the scale of the challenge into perspective. Many politicians were unfortunately engaged in fuelling hatred and poisoning minds, which was not an appropriate way to do business. Such reactions were a peril to all and must be controlled.

On whether working with communities and the private sector had brought any innovative solutions or cause for optimism,

Mr. F. GRANDI (UNHCR) said that innovative solutions were key to the development of instruments in support of countries with few resources, which were the ones most touched by migration and refugee issues. He was encouraged by the investment of institutions and bilateral cooperation bodies never before involved in refugee responses, which had always been considered humanitarian issues. In the long term, refugees needed education and livelihoods, while host communities needed support in providing the resources. Development organizations were therefore engaging in the global compact on refugees which was also attracting keen interest from the private sector, civil society, academia and cities. The interest and participation of parliamentarians in such a whole-of-society compact was vital to its success.

The MODERATOR asked Mr. W. Lacy Swing whether he drew encouragement from the consultations.

Mr. W. LACY SWING (IOM) said he drew inspiration from the fact that Heads of State had committed to negotiating a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. The ongoing support of parliamentarians was needed to change the toxic public narrative endangering the lives of migrants and depriving countries of destination and origin of their contributions. Diversity must be embraced. Some countries, however, were ironically engaged in trying to protect something that no longer existed, as all societies were already multicultural, multi-ethnic and multilingual and would only become more so in future. A comprehensive long-term policy was crucial and indeed called for creativity and innovation.

The MODERATOR, noting that Mr. Z.R. Al Hussein's four-year term of office was nearing its end, asked him what message he wished to convey concerning the protection of human rights.

Mr. Z.R. AL HUSSEIN (OHCHR) said that his main concerns on that score were the gradual disintegration of world order, disregard of international laws regulating behaviour, and an absence of common sense in public discourse for the sake of short-term profit, all of which was tantamount to renegeing on one's duty towards future generations. Another concern was how to rebuild what was being destroyed without creating a cataclysm. A cornerstone of international law would be destroyed if the most vulnerable sectors of society, such as irregular migrants, continued to be attacked with few defending them. Laws were needed because humans were untrustworthy, did not listen and failed to comply with their obligations. All parliaments therefore played a critical role in ensuring that States acceded to human rights instruments binding on the judiciary, the executive and indeed the legislature, which had a duty to protect citizens.

The MODERATOR asked the IPU President about the role of parliaments in the global compacts.

The PRESIDENT said that parliaments must be part of the global compact processes and that the IPU had been actively involved in the different stages of those processes. Parliaments also had the responsibility, however, to continue engaging by improving the relevant legislation and ensuring that the necessary priorities were reflected in budgets. Xenophobia and hate speech were not responsible answers to any crisis or difficulty. Politicians must set examples and make evidence-based decisions to ensure that national processes would deliver results at the international level in achieving the inclusion without which nothing would change.

The MODERATOR invited questions from the floor after drawing attention to two IPU handbooks for parliamentarians: *A guide to international refugee protection and building state asylum systems*, co-published with UNHCR; and *Migration, human rights and governance*, co-published with OHCHR and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

A delegate from ITALY asked how to ensure that responsibility for migration management was shared in the light of her country's experience of having been left virtually single-handed to cope with the migrants arriving on its shores.

Mr. F. GRANDI (UNHCR) said that the European system for sharing responsibility had apparently collapsed in 2015 with the arrival of migrants in greater numbers. UNHCR had since insisted on the establishment of responsibility-sharing mechanisms in political unions which included, in the case of the European Union, an approved relocation system, but the response had been low. One aim of the global compact on refugees was to offer practical suggestions for sharing responsibility in which context Europe was expected to lead the debate in a positive manner rather than set unfortunate examples that countries with far fewer resources could point to when requested to share responsibilities.

A delegate from KENYA asked how UNHCR could help countries with limited resources such as Kenya, the location of one of the world's oldest and biggest refugee camps, to cope with the increasing burden entailed in hosting large numbers of refugees. Furthermore, given that refugee camps were sometimes breeding grounds for terrorism, what could be done to ensure that countries could continue to host refugees without compromising their national security?

Mr. F. GRANDI (UNHCR) said that the approach embodied in the comprehensive refugee response framework being developed by UNHCR in the context of the global compact on refugees would apply to such countries. UNHCR was encouraging the more well-resourced development organizations to support the framework as a way of complementing the humanitarian response, which was relatively limited, and to invest in the areas affected by the presence of refugees, such as environment, infrastructure and public services. If institutionalized, the framework promised to be a real game changer for countries hosting large numbers of refugees in locations deprived of resources and often exposed to climatic hardship.

A delegate from AFGHANISTAN asked what approach would be taken in cases where refugees were deported en masse for reasons of political expediency and also what plans were envisaged for addressing the problem of stateless refugees, especially unaccompanied minors and women.

A delegate from GERMANY asked about the status of persons who lost their homes and livelihoods through climate change effects, whose numbers were predicted to rise fast.

A delegate from the BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA appealed to the international agencies represented by the special guest speakers for support and assistance to Venezuelans fighting to open a humanitarian corridor to alleviate the suffering that continued to force thousands to migrate to neighbouring countries.

A delegate from CANADA said that, for Canada, migrants had always provided the lifeblood of its economy. Diversity was the foundation of its success. He asked how the private sector—the largest source of employment for all migrants—would be engaged in the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and how it could be encouraged to embrace the idea that profiling diversity was a prerequisite for the success of its domestic and transnational operations.

A delegate from the SUDAN asked about political pressures on decision-makers in countries of origin and destination.

A delegate from BANGLADESH asked how the Myanmar authorities could be encouraged to stop their persecution of the Rohingya and to repatriate Rohingya refugees in safety and dignity. Bangladesh was doing its utmost to care for those refugees on its soil but needed continuing international support to do so.

Mr. F. GRANDI (UNHCR) said that the many diverse and important issues raised by delegates underscored the need for their discussion by national parliaments. In response to some of those issues, he said that the practices of forced returns and refoulement were contrary to the spirit and letter of the 1951 Refugee Convention and other instruments of international law and must be discouraged and condemned. It was necessary in that context, however, to ensure that countries hosting refugees for many years continued to receive appropriate support.

Concerning political pressures, it was the function of multilateral organizations such as UNHCR to serve as a buffer against the inevitable political responses to refugee situations by suggesting principled and effective measures for dealing with those situations. As to the Rohingya refugees, they had the right to a voluntary, safe and dignified return to Myanmar. However, they must first be assured of their rights in Myanmar where reconstruction and development must also take place. UNHCR was engaged in complex discussions with the Myanmar authorities over their situation but the conditions for their return were still to be explored. UNHCR had also recently appealed for resources to assist the many countries hosting increasing numbers of Venezuelan migrants. It was in discussions with the Venezuelan authorities concerning protection and assistance for those migrants and hoped for a resolution of the political and economic situation that would halt the worrying exodus from the country.

Mr. W. LACY SWING (IOM) said with respect to issues raised by delegates that it was important to support the conflict prevention approach advocated by the United Nations Secretary-General by pre-empting conflict and staying the course where preventive action was taken. Second, a degree of perspective must be maintained. Countries neighbouring conflict areas did not receive due credit for keeping their borders open to migrants at great economic and political cost to themselves. Likewise, the migrants who had fled towards Europe in recent years accounted for less than 0.5 per cent of the European population, yet few countries had been willing to cooperate in the matter and some flatly refused to do so, all thanks to the absence of a comprehensive migration policy. The fact that many countries were hosting refugees over long periods also tended to be forgotten. Third, there was strong competition for the scarce but generous donor funding made available for dealing with the consequences of conflict, the situation of the Rohingya refugees being a case in point. Lastly, the issue of climate migrants and refugees was a growing challenge and one that called for adaptation measures. Some Pacific island States, for instance, were purchasing land elsewhere to which their populations could be moved when sea levels rose.

Mr. Z.R. AL HUSSEIN (OHCHR) replying to the question about national security concerns, said that every State was obliged to protect its people from terrorist activities but that perspective was again important. While terrorism had the potential to cause enormous damage, it rarely broke States, whereas States could quite easily break themselves through their approach to dealing with terrorist threats and with migratory flows. That fact must therefore be repeatedly stressed as a matter of cardinal importance. He paid tribute to all countries that hosted and opened their borders to those fleeing catastrophe, including climate change effects. In all cases, the centrality of human rights must also be repeatedly emphasized. He thus appealed to parliamentarians to ensure that the executive in their respective countries implemented the recommendations emanating from the universal periodic review process under which the human rights record of all States was examined.

The MODERATOR asked the special guest speakers each to provide one key take-home message for their august audience.

Mr. F. GRANDI (UNHCR) said that parliamentarians must resist the easy temptation to address the very serious concerns of their constituents by shifting the responsibility onto those who had no hand in creating the insecurity and unemployment and the decline in values that exemplified those concerns. To do so in a bid to win votes would simply exacerbate the current situation and diminish humanity, the fundamental value that brought people together.

Mr. W. LACY SWING (IOM) said that large-scale human mobility was inevitable and would continue, which entailed a responsibility on the part of elected officials to manage it. Second, that mobility was also necessary in order to fill jobs, provide skills and allow economies to flourish, especially in the light of the demographic divide between the global North and South. Thirdly, mobility was highly desirable and public education and information programmes must be established to promote effective integration of migrants into society. There should be no collective denial or amnesia about the history of migration dating back to World War II. Migration was an issue to be managed and not one to run away from.

Mr. Z.R. AL HUSSEIN (OHCHR) said that there was nothing courageous or heroic about exploiting or preying on the weakest. The world must be humane and generous and seek kinder politics in place of division. It must heed the calls of victims and migrants under pressure by focusing attention on them first and foremost.

The PRESIDENT added that the IPU's relevance and strength stemmed from its Members, the parliaments of the world representing the voices of millions who had faith in their ability to change painful realities. Parliamentarians thus had a responsibility to follow up on the global compacts by giving their perspectives and opinions and harnessing their legislative and budgetary functions in order to protect the human rights of migrants and refugees, who were among the most vulnerable in need of their help.

The MODERATOR thanked the special guest speakers and all those who had asked questions for their input to the lively interactive session.

As a token of gratitude to the special guest speakers, the President presented each with a commemorative plate on which an image of the IPU Headquarters, the House of Parliaments, was depicted.

Ms. M.N. Mensah-Williams (Namibia), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on the theme *Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees: The need for evidence-based policy solutions* (A/138/3-Inf.1)

The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with usual practice, the General Debate would be prefaced by statements providing women's and youth perspectives on its theme.

Ms. M.N. MENSAH-WILLIAMS (Namibia), speaking in her capacity as President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, stated that women migrated as much as men but that women migrants were at greater risk of exploitation and abuse, including trafficking. Urgent change was needed in the global migration regime, which currently offered insufficient protection for women migrants and refugees, whose unique needs and contribution must be acknowledged. Parliamentarians must ensure the systematic integration of a gender dimension into laws and migration policies, as well as identify discrimination against migrant women and girls. Indeed, the efficient protection of migrant, refugee or stateless women was a duty, as was the achievement of results. To that end, work should be guided by binding international and regional treaties, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Women migrants and refugees must no longer be seen primarily as victims, especially as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development commanded the empowerment of all women. More than ever, migrant and refugee women's access to decision-making was crucial in their homes and communities and, in cases of forced displacement, in the organization and management of refugee camps. Parliamentarians had the power to create an enabling environment to those ends by ensuring that migrant and refugee women were aware of their rights and able to claim them, by

creating forums for women to voice their own concerns and needs, and by ensuring that women of all origins, including migrant women, were represented in political institutions. Women migrants and refugees were key vectors towards making societies inclusive, which was the only path to peaceful and resilient democracies.

Ms. R.B. ITAMARI CHOQUE (Plurinational State of Bolivia), a member of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, giving the youth perspective on the theme of the General Debate, said that youth represented a very large proportion of those on the move. The socio-economic inclusion of young migrants and refugees had an immeasurable impact on their future and indeed that of the host country. In focusing on that subject at the Fourth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, held in November 2017 in Canada, young parliamentarians had recognized the paradox of walls, travel bans, hate speech and xenophobia in a globalized and interconnected world. Migration was an opportunity to be harnessed through global action to create a regime ensuring orderly and fair migration and upholding the human rights of migrants.

The first element needed to achieve progress in that direction was a human rights approach which called for the ratification of instruments protecting the human rights of migrants and the holding of governments to account for their implementation. Secondly, evidence-based policy—and hence disaggregated data—on young migrants and refugees was a must. Thirdly, the provision of health care and quality education should be prioritized for young people, together with access to good job opportunities and entrepreneurship programmes. Fourthly, laws and policies must be adopted to protect young women migrants and refugees from discrimination and abuse, including sexual and gender-based violence. She challenged parliamentarians to follow the approach of some of the indigenous leaders in Canada who customarily based their decision-making on the impact it would have on the seventh generation to come. To do so, using youth as a guide, would bring the promise of a brighter future.

The PRESIDENT, after drawing attention to a note of the Executive Committee on the management of abusive language in IPU meetings (EX/278/16-Inf.1), invited delegates to address the Assembly on the theme of the General Debate. She opened the high-level segment of the General Debate reserved for Presiding Officers of Parliament.

Mr. R.A. ONOVIET (Gabon) said that people had always moved across borders in search of better lives. Without legal pathways to migration, however, their journeys had become often fraught with danger, a situation that politicians must seek to end. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants had triggered the process of filling gaps in the existing international system by seeking to establish shared responsibility for the protection of migrants and a systematic approach thereto through the development of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and the global compact on refugees.

Gabon was a party to the core international and regional instruments relating to refugees and had enacted legislation in line with those instruments. It was working to promote the integration of migrants in the interest of their socio-economic well-being and indeed the country's development, and to further build the inclusive, transparent, fair and sustainable mechanisms needed to assist individuals in crisis on the basis of humanitarian principles. Gabon marked World Refugee Day and had a refugee commission that dealt with such issues as voluntary repatriation and permanent residence applications, notably on behalf of Congolese refugees. Having long been targeted by child traffickers, it had established a law to combat child trafficking in particular, ran public awareness campaigns and provided shelter and psychosocial support for victims. It was committed to the international efforts to achieve sustainable solutions to migration and refugee issues, including in cooperation with countries of origin and third countries, and to address the root causes of migration.

Mr. P. KATJAVIVI (Namibia) said that many of those involved in liberation struggles had experienced first-hand the impact of conflict on a nation, its people and property. In the current era, the pockets of conflict in various corners of the world created much wanton suffering that led to migration, in turn creating many challenges. Namibia attached great importance to the peace and stability cherished and maintained under its Constitution, which also upheld equality, strengthened human rights and rule of law, and looked to sustainable development as a means of ensuring fair and equal treatment for all. The theme under debate was thus a powerful reminder of the need to work towards the achievement of lasting peace so as to create an enabling environment for such development.

That theme indeed addressed what was a complex and challenging matter for all governments and parliaments worldwide. On one hand were people forced to migrate by circumstances beyond their control, whether relating to personal safety or socio-economic

conditions. On the other, however, were criminal tendencies linked to human trafficking, terrorism and other crimes. There was often a thin line between the two, which made it difficult to determine with accuracy which migrants needed protection and which should be denied refuge. All such facets should be part of the migration discussion with a view to arriving at conclusions that all IPU Members could support.

Mr. A. ALTARAWNEH (Jordan) said that Jordan was reputed as a peaceful and stable country ready to share its limited resources with all those who sought refuge in its territory. Strongly committed to the values underpinning the nation and to the principles of international law, it perceived double standards at play, with State terrorism ignored in some and criticized in others. In his region, the Israeli Knesset had enacted dozens of racist laws while the Israeli occupier continued its repressive and intimidating practices against Palestinians in the occupied territories, in violation of their human rights, as well as its desecration of holy sites. The international community, however, was without conscience as it failed to respond to such practices, to which further insult was added by the decisions of the United States to move its embassy to Jerusalem and cut its assistance to Palestinians. Force alone prevailed and the endeavours for lasting peace solutions had thus come to nought.

Jordan was host to over a million Syrian refugees fleeing from their conflict-torn country, stretching its resources to cater for their needs and ever vigilant in securing its borders against terrorist infiltration. The Syrian conflict would be resolved only through dialogue among all parties, whereas long-term international cooperation was needed to extinguish forever the terrorism that had destroyed Iraq, another country to which Jordan had always extended support. Iraqi reunification and reconstruction was proceeding now that the terrorist forces purporting to act in the name of Islam, the religion of peace, tolerance and moderation, had been driven out.

Establishment of a quorum

Ms. A. FILIP (Director of the Division for Member Parliaments and External Relations of the IPU) announced that, in accordance with Rule 33.2 of the Rules of the Assembly, the quorum of 59 was established for the current Assembly on the basis of the participation of 116 delegations in the first plenary sitting.

The sitting rose at 1.30 p.m.

Sitting of Sunday, 25 March

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.45 p.m. with Mr. A.M. Oquaye (Ghana), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on *Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees: The need for evidence-based policy solutions*

Resumption of the debate

Mr. A. BENSALAH (Algeria) said that a comprehensive approach must be taken to migration that would take account of security, human rights, the causes of instability and armed conflict, social inequity and unemployment, among others. Legal migration constituted a legitimate source of wealth for countries of origin and host countries alike, with positive effects on development. When addressing large-scale migration for asylum, however, the legitimate interests of countries of origin, transit and destination must all be given equal attention. Large flows of illegal migration had resulted in significant loss of life and humanitarian disasters. Algeria was a country of origin, transit and destination. The Government was therefore doing its utmost to ensure that it upheld all relevant international commitments and cooperated with partner countries and organizations. The root causes of mass migration could be addressed by ensuring sustainable development, combating terrorism and settling disputes. With that in mind, he called on the international community to seek a solution to the conflict in the Western Sahara, in line with international law. Algeria refuted any attempt to change the legal status of the city of Jerusalem and called for the acknowledgement of a Palestinian State, with Jerusalem as its capital. Lastly, he called on the international community to make every effort to seek political solutions to the situations in Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.

Mr. I. KOBAKHIDZE (Georgia) said that for more than 25 years, over 280,000 Georgians had been internally displaced, having fled the conflict-ravaged regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali. Georgians and citizens of other ethnicities had been expelled in an attempt at ethnic cleansing after those territories had been illegally and forcefully occupied by the Russian Federation in the 1990s. The Russian Federation continued to occupy up to 20 per cent of Georgia's territory, and persistently committed grave violations of human rights, restricting freedom of movement and separating communities and families, and creating insurmountable impediments for the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees to their homes.

The Parliament of Georgia had played a key role in creating effective legislative mechanisms to ensure the protection of the human rights, safety and health of migrants and refugees. Despite the daunting numbers of IDPs, Georgia admitted international migrants and refugees. After two decades of being predominantly a country of origin, Georgia was now also a country of destination. Given the strong awareness in Georgia of the challenges faced by migrants, several important steps had been taken to support the integration of refugees and asylum seekers. Institutional, normative and practical requirements had been met to establish a visa-free travel regime between Georgia and the European Union. A national commission had been established to coordinate all national policies relating to refugees and migrants, which was well-equipped to deal with all challenges that arose in that regard.

Ms. G. Cuevas Barron (Mexico), President of the IPU, took the Chair.

Mr. M. ALGHANIM (Kuwait) said that millions of people around the world were being forced to leave their homes, fleeing situations of conflict, occupation and aggression. Large swathes of migrants placed a considerable burden on host States. The effects of forced migration must be addressed. Until the mass influx of refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic into Europe, many States had failed to understand the gravity of the situation which now constituted a major humanitarian crisis. The authorities in Kuwait focused their assistance on humanitarian, rather than political issues, and urged all stakeholders, in particular the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to uphold their responsibilities. Seventy years since the Palestinian territory had been usurped and massacres had begun, the people of Palestine continued to suffer from the most significant forcible removal ever seen. Despite numerous United Nations resolutions, the arrogance of the occupying power was increasing. There were now some 5.5 million Palestinian refugees around the world. The lessons of history must prevail and the plight of the Palestinian people would not be forgotten. The free world would rise against such injustice.

Mr. S.A. SADIQ (Pakistan) said that at a time when the public discourse on migrants and refugees was often marked by increasing hatred, discrimination and xenophobia, some 258 million people had left their countries of origin. Those included migrants who had willingly gone in search of a better future, and those who had been victims of terror, persecution and fear. Five months after the 137th IPU Assembly had discussed the grave humanitarian crisis, persecution and violent attacks against the Rohingya people, the plight of the Rohingya remained unchanged. In the Middle East, crises were raging in Syria and Yemen, and the fourth generation of Palestinians was growing up in refugee camps.

Pakistan had always been open to those seeking refuge. Despite its own political and economic challenges, it had never fallen prey to anti-foreigner sentiment or violence. Being a host country carried a heavy burden; more than 80 per cent of the world's refugees were hosted in developing countries. Meeting migration challenges should be the responsibility of the whole international community, yet the burden was not shared equitably. While concerted cooperation was required to close protection gaps, every effort must also be made to seek sustainable solutions to the root causes of forced displacement, enabling refugees to return in safety and dignity. Migration was a driver of growth, bringing new opportunities and experiences for communities in countries of origin and destination alike. Parliaments had a responsibility to set a positive migration narrative and promote dialogue and understanding to improve migration governance frameworks.

Mr. A.M. Oquaye (Ghana), Vice-President of the Assembly, resumed the Chair.

Mr. T. XHAFERI (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that in recent years, Europe had faced a massive refugee and migrant crisis. Hundreds of thousands of migrants and refugees had transited through Macedonia, which was part of the Balkans route. Despite Macedonia's limited resources, every effort had been made to uphold its responsibilities under international law and provide all those in transit with the basic necessities for life. Yet the crisis was not over. Migrants should not be reduced to numbers; they were human beings and each had his or her own story. Women and children migrants faced double vulnerability and were often exposed to the worst forms of violence and exploitation. The global community was bound by obligations enshrined in numerous international documents. His Government supported the draft global compacts on refugees and for safe, orderly and regular migration, and was fully committed to their implementation. A lasting solution to the global migration crisis could only come by ending all conflict and securing sustainable economic growth. Parliaments could be agents for change, facilitating public debate and cooperation with civil society to overcome prejudices and stereotypes relating to migrants. They could ensure that governments upheld their obligations towards migrants and could promote cooperation between States. Helping those in need was a basic value of civilization that must be upheld by every individual, society, State and international organization.

Ms. T.K.N. NGUYEN (Viet Nam) said that a comprehensive approach must be taken to protecting the dignity, rights and freedoms of migrants, and to optimizing their contribution to development. The IPU Member Parliaments should work together to mitigate the risks and challenges related to migration and actively encourage their respective governments to resolve disputes and conflicts through peaceful means, in full compliance with international law. In Viet Nam, all citizens were considered equal before the law. Migration and labour mobility were encouraged with a view to enhancing socioeconomic development. While encouraging legal labour migration, the Vietnamese authorities took a strong stance against illegal migration and in particular the trafficking in persons and transnational organized crime. Illegal migration had a severe impact on the most vulnerable, in particular women and children. International cooperation must be strengthened to resolve the migration crisis; the forthcoming Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration would have a key role in that regard. Every effort must be made to maintain peace and stability for sustainable development and to address the root causes of conflict. Parliaments could legislate, oversee the implementation of government policies, and ensure equal treatment for all, including with regard to access to health care, education and employment. National action plans for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development would ensure that no-one was left behind. Dialogue and cooperation would be the key to combating terrorism and violence, and to seeking sustainable solutions to illegal migration.

Mr. P. NYABENDA (Burundi) said that in response to numerous international texts and in particular the anticipated adoption of the global compacts on refugees and for safe, orderly and regular migration, the Government of Burundi had drawn up a comprehensive national migration policy framework for managing migration in the short, medium and long term. The policy was intended to ensure that Burundi would be a safe, attractive and welcoming country, in the pursuit of sustainable social and economic development. Burundi had a history both of welcoming refugees

and as a country of origin. In 2015, demonstrations had led to an aborted military coup following which many Burundian citizens had fled to neighbouring countries. The gradual return to peace and security had since facilitated the voluntary return of some 200,000 refugees and had enabled Burundi to contribute to peacebuilding efforts elsewhere in Africa. Preparations were currently under way for elections which were due to be held in 2020. False and inaccurate reports had been circulated about the situation in Burundi, which ran the risk of undermining peace and stability. He hoped that those responsible would engage with parliamentarians to understand better the reality of the situation.

Mr. J. GANDINI (Uruguay) said that the anticipated adoption of the two global compacts signified a renewed commitment to protect the dignity and rights of millions of displaced persons, refugees and migrants. Those compacts must, however, be implemented effectively. Uruguay was party to numerous international treaties relating to migration, refugees and human rights, and had a robust and committed foreign policy that upheld the principles enshrined in those documents. Legislation had been adopted to protect migrants and grant them access to education, health care and other rights and guarantees as enjoyed by Uruguayan citizens, with the intention of ensuring their comprehensive integration into the host society. All of Uruguay's national policies were underpinned by the values of equal treatment, enjoyment of rights for all, respect for diversity, cultural identity, gender equality, and support for the most vulnerable.

The rights to migrate, return or voluntarily remain in countries of destination must be recognized, and xenophobia, racism, discrimination and stigmatization must be denounced. The authorities in Uruguay were seeking to implement sustainable solutions for the rehabilitation and resettlement of refugees. Intergovernmental cooperation must be enhanced, however, to find more effective responses. Particular attention should be paid to the situation of victims of transnational organized crime, trafficking in persons, exploitation and gender-based violence, as well as the situation of unaccompanied minors. Every person must have the right to a nationality. Parliaments should cooperate to advocate for the implementation of the global compacts and ensure that adequate measures were taken to guarantee the dignity of all migrants.

Mr. B.A. SAKANDE (Burkina Faso) said that migration must be addressed with a realistic, pragmatic and understanding approach, not the fearful, xenophobic attitude based on identity politics that currently prevailed. In Africa, attitudes towards migration were often associated with slavery and colonization. Colonization had been presented as legal, humanitarian, and bringing civilization, and had been justified by rival European powers driven by economic interests. The first Africans had arrived in Europe by force and had fought for and built European countries. Those countries should bear the whole history of migration in mind in their treatment of migrants nowadays. Issues of borders and national sovereignty were complex in Africa, and the free movement of goods was being obstructed by corrupt officials. When considering the causes of illegal migration to the West, little attention was paid to the stereotypes perpetuated by the media: the portrayal of a utopian West was resulting in the rejection of Africa and pessimism about remaining. It was not sufficient to address the symptoms of irregular migration; efforts must be made to deal with the causes by having the courage to adopt a holistic approach built on cooperation and international solidarity. Burkina Faso therefore welcomed the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and encouraged the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration which must be built on real evidence, rather than fear.

Mr. M. ALSULAMI (Arab Parliament) said that the people with the longest history of displacement and asylum seeking in the world was the people of Palestine, who had been suffering one of the worst forms of forced migration for decades. Being deprived of their homeland was tantamount to a slow death sentence. It was high time that the international community recognised a Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital. The ongoing occupation, supported by the United States of America, was in violation of United Nations resolutions, and undermined efforts to secure peace. His delegation called for a discussion on the status of Jerusalem as an emergency item to be added to the Assembly's agenda. Over recent years, serious migration challenges had arisen, many of which had their origins in the Arab region. The interference of other States meant that the challenges of displacement, asylum and migration were amplified. Terrorism was increasing in the region, which was further undermining security and exacerbating displacement. The Arab Parliament called for an end to terrorism and extremism and would host a conference on migration and displacement, jointly organized with UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to discuss a comprehensive solution and a set of recommendations for addressing the situation of Arab migrants and refugees. The Arab Parliament was also planning parliamentary hearings on the situation of Syrian refugees.

Mr. F. DOS SANTOS (Angola) said that fratricidal war in Angola had caused the internal displacement of some 3.8 million people, and had led around 420,000 Angolans to seek refuge in neighbouring countries, 148,000 of whom had not returned. Since returning to peace, Angola had become a country of destination for some 46,000 refugees from the Great Lakes region, in particular the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Angola was party to several international instruments relevant to the protection of refugees and had established the necessary domestic legal framework to ensure protection of the rights of persons in situations of vulnerability. The Government had concluded memoranda of understanding with UNHCR on cessation of refugee status, voluntary return, and reintegration. Every day, around the world, hundreds of families were forced to leave their homes in search of peace and stability, not only as a result of conflict but also of climate change and economic disparities that continued to widen the poverty gap. It was therefore crucial to seek solutions in a comprehensive and long-term manner, through joint action and cooperation, and through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The adoption of the two global compacts would be a particularly significant step forward, and parliamentarians had an important role in overseeing their implementation. They must legislate and budget for the protection of migrants and refugees and foster dialogue, nationally and internationally, to promote peace, security and stability.

Mr. N. ISMOILOV (Uzbekistan) said that the challenges of migration could not be met by any one country alone. International cooperation was key. Parliamentarians must exercise their oversight function to ensure that their governments met their international commitments and implemented domestic legislation. Particular attention should be paid to addressing the challenges posed by transnational organized crime, in particular trafficking in persons. In Uzbekistan, several parliamentary committees had been established to strengthen efforts to protect vulnerable groups. A roadmap for national development had been drawn up to guide efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which included aspects on the promotion of labour rights, in particular for Uzbek migrant workers. Domestic legislation on migration was being drafted, and consideration was being given to the ratification of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. His Parliament was committed to constructive dialogue on all aspects related to migration.

Mr. I. AHMED OMER (Sudan) said that migration was one of the most complex contemporary social trends which could not only bring economic and social development, but could also engender grave violations of human rights. Parliamentarians were uniquely positioned to be able to raise awareness of the risks involved in migration. Freedom of movement should be guaranteed to all. Migration did not only take place from developing to developed countries but also between developing countries. Sustainable economic development was the key to reducing the poverty gap and addressing the major root causes of migration. In that regard, developed countries had a responsibility to bear in supporting developing economies and should cease to make the provision of assistance contingent on political issues.

Mass flows of illegal migration could result in the sale of people who were treated as material goods. Trafficking in persons was a gross violation of human rights and dignity, and should be condemned in the strongest terms. It could only be overcome through close international cooperation. In that regard, the Sudanese Government and European partners had launched the EU-Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative (Khartoum Process) to prevent and counter migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons. Sudan was host to two million refugees and, as such, respected all international agreements in that regard. Lastly, he wished to draw attention to the situation of Palestine which was facing the longest-running and gravest situation of displacement in the world. A solution must be found as a matter of the utmost urgency.

Mr. A. ALMULLA (Bahrain) said that human challenges and suffering must be confronted with credibility and objectivity, without political, religious or ethnic bias. The international community must cooperate to build a future based on humanity and equality for all. Innocent people took enormous risks to flee conflict and war, suffering gross violations of their human rights, inhumane treatment and loss of dignity along the way. Their right to live in dignity and security, in hope and without fear, should not be contingent on politics or religion. The credibility of the world's parliamentarians was being tested by their response to the migration crisis. In Bahrain, every effort was made to protect migrants and refugees through legislation and action, which had made Bahrain a safe haven for all. The duty to do good and act with empathy was a common duty for all of humankind. With that in mind, the Government of Bahrain had established several development projects to house and educate refugees, in particular those from the Syrian Arab Republic. Bahrain was proud of its record in upholding the human rights of refugees and migrants and called on all

international partners to provide safe havens for those in need. Parliaments should adopt conscious policies to address the root causes of mass migration, including the eradication of terrorism and the promotion of cultural pluralism and peace.

Mr. J.F. MUDENDA (Zimbabwe) said that of the 258 million migrants in the world, some 21 million were refugees, many of whom were stateless. The key drivers of migration were economic, social, political and environmental, and they must all be addressed through evidence-based policy solutions. Many migrants and refugees experienced untold suffering through discrimination, xenophobia and exploitation which were perpetuated by the unjustified belief that they posed a threat to the security, sovereignty and social cohesion of host countries. Migrants lives must be protected; if forced to flee their homes, they should not be denied a safe haven or rescue. Parliamentarians had a key role to play in facilitating orderly, safe and responsible migration in order to meet SDG 10.7 and implement the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants. Migration solutions must be evidence-based and, to that end, participatory research must be strengthened. Parliaments must legislate and budget appropriately. The IPU should lead the way in that regard, perhaps by appointing a high-level working group to provide comprehensive, timely and applicable evidence-based solutions that could be taken up by Member Parliaments.

Mr. I. KAHRAMAN (Turkey) said that Turkey was currently hosting more than 3.5 million Syrian refugees. Health care and education were provided, work permits had been granted to some 30,000 Syrians, and thus far more than 300,000 Syrian children had been born in Turkey. Turkey's resources were under considerable strain, having spent more than US\$ 30 billion on services and support for Syrian refugees. Greater assistance was needed from the international community. Commitments in that regard had not been upheld. Migration was a key area of Turkey's engagement with the European Union. Turkey was strategically positioned to prevent irregular migration into the European Union, and had cooperated with European partners to dismantle trafficking networks. Turkey had launched an anti-terror operation in the Syrian Arab Republic and, in so doing, had liberated the city of Afrin, thereby facilitating the return of several thousand displaced people. The military operation had been conducted with utmost care to avoid civilian casualties and a continuous flow of humanitarian assistance to the area had been guaranteed. The fight against terrorism would continue within the framework of the law. Every State must assume its responsibility to cooperate for the benefit of all humanity.

Mr. B. SOESATYO (Indonesia) said that Indonesia hosted some 74,000 foreign workers and had more than 9 million citizens working abroad. It was party to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, which had been domesticated through the adoption of the Migrant Workers Protection Act. Indonesia also hosted thousands of refugees and asylum seekers. As a transit country, it worked with UNHCR and IOM to provide facilities for refugees waiting to be repatriated or resettled in a third country. The Indonesian authorities were also committed to assisting refugees in neighbouring countries, and were working with the Government of Bangladesh to address the situation of the Rohingya. Violence against the Rohingya constituted a serious threat to global peace and security. Indonesia had provided humanitarian aid and contributed to the building of health and education facilities, as well as temporary shelters for Rohingya refugees.

Parliaments had a key role to play in formulating comprehensive national policies for the protection of migrants' rights, and should therefore support the two forthcoming global compacts, and strive to ensure their implementation which could in turn contribute to the attainment of the SDGs. The IPU should serve as a platform to promote the two compacts, which would ensure a balanced approach to addressing the interests of sending and receiving countries and migrants themselves. Indonesia would host the second World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development in September 2018, and all IPU Member Parliaments were encouraged to attend.

Mr. K. JAYASURIYA (Sri Lanka) said that economic migrants and refugees who were fleeing conflict, persecution or natural disaster comprised a significant proportion of the world's population. Mechanisms to respond to large movements of people should therefore be strengthened, through political will and a human rights-based approach. The New York Declaration and the two ensuing global compacts constituted a significant statement of commitment on the part of the international community. The parliamentary contribution to the negotiation of the compacts was essential. The IPU had taken the lead in that regard, keeping the issue of migration high on its agenda. Particular attention should be paid to preventing abuse or exploitation of migrants through comprehensive policies and responsibility-sharing. Anti-migrant extreme right wing political parties were riding high on the wave of racism, Islamophobia and xenophobia. Parliamentarians had a key role to play in countering those attitudes.

Sri Lanka was a country of origin for 1.7 million migrant workers who made a substantial contribution to the Sri Lankan economy. Sri Lanka was party to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and was taking measures through its domestic legal framework to provide education opportunities for the children of migrant workers and to ensure that any migrant workers wishing to return were able to do so. Efforts were being made to collect disaggregated data to ensure a clear view of the situation of migrant workers.

Mr. A. HOUNGBEDJI (Benin) said that all migrants deserved to be treated with dignity, and to have their rights upheld and protected, wherever they were in the world. Migration was a social trend that had long existed and which was proven to contribute significantly to development if organized in an orderly, secure, regular and dignified manner. The political will must be in place to make the positive contribution of migration a reality. Local, national, regional and global perspectives must all be taken into account when developing public policies on migration that promote active and proactive cooperation. Managing large-scale migration flows required effective responses and mechanisms for responsibility and burden-sharing. The human rights of migrants must be upheld and promoted at all times, in countries of origin, transit and destination alike.

In recent years, attitudes and actions towards migrants had stripped them of their dignity. Any such actions should be identified and sanctioned in the strongest possible terms to ensure that they were not repeated. The international community must act in a coordinated manner to seek sustainable solutions to the complex situations in which migrants often found themselves. The forthcoming global compacts should embody a global commitment to humanitarian duty and international solidarity with regard to the plight of refugees and migrants to ensure that they received the humanitarian response they needed and were guaranteed security, dignity and well-being. Benin was therefore taking measures, in close cooperation with UNHCR and countries of origin, to grant regular migrants permanent residence and work permits.

Mr. I. BRAJOVIĆ (Montenegro) said that the efforts to address migration must be undertaken both globally and locally. National migration policies should be comprehensive, meaningful and flexible, with a focus on strengthening the rule of law, regulating border management, and providing social and health care services. Montenegro had faced conflict and had borne the influx of a large number of refugees from neighbouring countries, which had placed a great burden on the State's resources. Despite the challenges associated with hosting large numbers of migrants, every effort had been made to preserve stability and provide a safe haven for many refugees. European Union accession was a priority goal for Montenegro, and to that end substantial efforts were being made to establish an adequate domestic legislative framework on migration and asylum, upholding the standards of international human rights and humanitarian law. There were many reasons for migration, and migrants had been recognized as drivers of social and economic development. Given the noticeable growth in populism and nationalism, parliamentarians had an additional responsibility to insist on respect for international laws on human rights and the principles of democracy. Member Parliaments of the IPU must take the opportunity afforded by the present Assembly to reaffirm their commitment to face common challenges in a spirit of cooperation.

Mr. G. MOHABA MESSU (Equatorial Guinea) said that the challenges of migration must be addressed in a holistic manner rather than from the perspective of States' individual sovereign interests. While all States had the legitimate right to set their own border controls, all migrants must be treated humanely and fairly. Striking a balance in that regard constituted a significant challenge for many States. Equatorial Guinea was a receiving country, in which every effort was made to ensure that those who came in search of a better life were not reproached for having done so. Attempts had recently been made by mercenaries and terrorists to assassinate the President of Equatorial Guinea and thereby destabilize the country, undermining its peace and development efforts. Parliament had met in an extraordinary session to condemn those events and adopt a declaration on the consolidation of peace and democracy. The declaration had condemned the acts of terrorism, and had urged all political stakeholders to respect the legal order in Equatorial Guinea. The declaration had also urged the relevant courts to prosecute the perpetrators and accomplices involved in those terrorist acts, and had called for international solidarity when facing the issue of international terrorism. Parliament had reaffirmed its support and solidarity for the President, who had rigorously defended the dignity of the people of Equatorial Guinea.

Ms. G. Cuevas Barron (Mexico), President of the IPU, resumed the Chair.

Mr. A. BABLOYAN (Armenia) said that the causes of migration were many, the worst of which was when policies of xenophobia were propagated by States, and the seeds of hatred and intolerance were sown among people. Millions of Armenians had been forced to flee genocide under the Ottoman Empire; now thousands had been forced to leave their homes in the Middle East owing to conflict and persecution. Armenia had become a host country for thousands of Syrian refugees. Migration was not limited to any one region of the world; people were being forced to cross entire continents and mass migration flows were turning into a humanitarian tragedy on a global scale. The rights of vulnerable people, in particular children, to live in dignity and safety must be guaranteed. The root causes of forced migration must be addressed. The international community must be united in fighting against terrorism and seeking political solutions to conflict. Long-term solutions should be sought to promote development in vulnerable regions and coherent policies should be designed to promote the integration of migrants into their host communities, thereby enabling them to contribute actively to their host society. Armenia was committed to promoting universal values and ensuring security and stability in the world.

Mr. N. FEDEROV (Russian Federation) said that the world was witnessing a migration crisis caused by war, conflict and persecution. The export of so-called democracy to undermine legitimate regimes had resulted in devastating consequences. The international community must work together in a cooperative manner, without imposing sanctions and ultimatums. Forced migration could only be addressed through the establishment of order, stability and well-being for all in countries of origin, with a focus on economic and social development. The drafting of the two global compacts had proven to be a slow process, and the United States had already stated that it would not adhere to the compacts. Deportation and building walls would not solve migration issues. The Russian Government was seeking to manage large migration flows, and ensure that all those who arrived on Russian territory had the right to live in dignity. Relevant amendments to domestic legislation were being made in that regard to ensure the right to work of those entering the Russian Federation who were not subject to the visa regime. Multifunctional migration centres had been established, where foreign workers could obtain the necessary documents. The events in Ukraine in 2014 had led to a significant influx of migrants into the Russian Federation. They had been allowed to work without permits and been granted permanent residence. The St. Petersburg Declaration, adopted at the 137th IPU Assembly, had included a commitment to respect all people of all nationalities.

Mr. N. ANZOUR (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation refuted the statement made by the representative of Turkey. Turkey was supporting terrorist activity in the Syrian Arab Republic and was a party to the ongoing conflict through direct aggression. The occupation of Afrin was in contravention of international law. Turkey should withdraw its forces immediately. Its army and mercenaries had caused the deaths and displacement of thousands of Syrian citizens. He called on the Turkish authorities to cease their aggression which was perpetuating terrorism and contributing to the destabilization of the region and the world.

The sitting rose at 5.40 p.m.

Item 2 of the agenda

Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda (A/138/2-P.1 to P.8, Inf.1.rev.1 and Inf.2)

The sitting was called to order at 5.40 p.m., with Ms. G. Cuevas Barron (Mexico), President of the IPU in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT said that four of the seven requests received for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda addressed similar topics and had therefore since been merged into a single request, which left four requests in all to be considered. Those four requests were detailed in document A/138/2-Inf.1.rev.1.

The SECRETARY GENERAL, after explaining the timing of the receipt of the requests, recalled Rules 11.1 and 11.2 of the Rules of the Assembly, pertaining to the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda, and said that a vote by roll call would be taken to determine which of the proposed items was to be included.

The PRESIDENT, noting the sensitivity of the topics proposed for the emergency item, said that the discussion of those topics was likely to be highly politicized. With a view to ensuring due respect for all views and avoiding any repeat of the unfortunate incidents witnessed during debates at the previous Assembly in St. Petersburg, the Executive Committee had endorsed a note prepared by the IPU Secretariat on the management of abusive language in IPU meetings (EX/278/16-Inf.1).

Ms. A. FILIP (Director of the Division for Member Parliaments and External Relations, IPU) recalled in addition that the note had been requested by the last outgoing President of the IPU following those incidents and that it had been circulated to chairpersons of the geopolitical groups for dissemination to their members. Based on the core IPU values of mutual respect, inclusiveness and solidarity, the note defined abusive language as language that was defamatory, intolerant, racist or xenophobic and explained the consequences for speakers who used such language in IPU meetings.

The PRESIDENT invited the authors of the four requests to present their proposals in advance of the vote by roll call.

Mr. N. SHAI (Israel), presenting his delegation's proposal for an emergency item entitled *Repercussions of Iran's malign activities, led by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and its Quds Force, in core arenas in the Middle East, including Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen, and in the Palestinian arena (A/138/2-P.6)*, and after expressing condolences to the people of France over the recent terrorist attack in their country, said that it was time to turn the spotlight on the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a terrorist State that instigated and engaged in terrorist activities throughout the Middle East. It was a grave error for that country to be represented in the IPU's High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, where it had no place. Its membership of the Group should be reconsidered in the light of its criminal actions and those of its proxies. Its involvement in the Middle East region necessitated urgent discussion and he thus relied on Members to support his delegation's proposal.

A delegate from KUWAIT said that the Israeli proposal was nothing more than an attempt to dilute support for the merged proposal relating to the United States declaration on Jerusalem and thereby prevent its adoption as the emergency item. It was furthermore presumptuous, given the fact that no country more than Israel had failed to comply with United Nations resolutions. Many of those resolutions dealt with the plight of Palestinians and called on the Israeli authorities to end their occupation of Palestinian territories and guarantee the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, as well as their right of return. The Israeli proposal merited no support and must be rejected as a reminder of the status of Israel as a country that persistently violated the rights of others.

Ms. T. LINDBERG (Sweden), presenting her delegation's proposal for an emergency item entitled *Violence against women in the workplace, in particular in parliaments, in the wake of the #MeToo movement (A/138/2-P.5)*, said that the proposal had been inspired by the #MeToo social media campaign. By empowering victims to speak out, the campaign had brought to light the global prevalence of the acts of sexual harassment, assault and violence perpetrated against women. While such acts were nothing new, reaction to them had too often been muted. Parliamentarians must therefore end their silence on the matter and act to build a world in which women and girls could fulfil their dreams without the humiliation of being subjected to sexual harassment. The important opportunity of #MeToo should be harnessed to further gender equality. She therefore urged support for her delegation's proposal.

Mr. A. ALAHMAD (Palestine), presenting also on behalf of the delegations of Bahrain, Kuwait and Turkey the merged proposal for an emergency item entitled *The consequences of the US declaration on Jerusalem and the rights of the Palestinian people in Jerusalem in the light of the UN Charter and resolutions (A/138/2-P.7)*, said that the decision of the United States Administration, in December 2017, to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and move its embassy there had created a furore that persisted to the present day. That decision disregarded the long-standing Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, and thus ran counter to the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations and indeed to resolutions of the United States Congress. The United Nations, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the League of Arab States had received unanimous or virtually unanimous backing for their resolutions against the decision. In the occupied Palestinian territories, furthermore, the decision had triggered a spate of hatred and violence instigated by the Israeli occupation authorities through both the Israeli army and terrorist gangs. He called on Members to support the merged proposal.

Mr. G. JAFARZADEH IMENABADI (Islamic Republic of Iran), presenting his delegation's proposal for an emergency item entitled *The necessity to support the Palestinian people in achieving their inalienable rights and to reject the US Administration's decision on Al-Quds al-Sharif (Jerusalem) (A/138/2-P.8)*, said that the root cause of the crises, instability and insecurity in the Middle East was the ongoing occupation of Palestinian territories by the Israeli regime and its flagrant and systematic violation of United Nations resolutions and the rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to establish a Palestinian State, with Jerusalem as its capital. The Israeli regime had moreover attempted to change the demography of Jerusalem in its favour and had destroyed Muslim holy sites. The provocative unilateral decision of the United States Administration to move its embassy to Jerusalem must be robustly condemned in a united show of support for the Palestinian people. He called on Members to vote for his delegation's proposal.

The PRESIDENT announced that the Iranian delegation had withdrawn its proposal.

The SECRETARY GENERAL explained the procedure to be followed in voting by roll call on the three proposals that remained following the withdrawal of the Iranian proposal and drew attention to the allocation of votes listed in document A/138/2-Inf.2.

A vote by roll call was taken.

With 118 votes in favour, 495 against and 841 abstentions, the proposal submitted by the delegation of Israel failed to obtain the required two-thirds majority of the votes cast and was therefore rejected.

With 830 votes in favour, 298 against and 326 abstentions, the proposal submitted by the delegation of Sweden obtained the required two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

With 843 votes in favour, 132 against and 479 abstentions,¹ the merged proposal submitted by the delegations of Bahrain, Kuwait, Palestine and Turkey obtained the required two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority and the largest number of positive votes cast, the merged proposal submitted by the delegations of Bahrain, Kuwait, Palestine and Turkey was added to the agenda of the Assembly as Item 9.

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that the geopolitical groups should promptly submit their nominations for membership of the drafting committee to be tasked with finalizing a draft resolution on the chosen emergency item, which would then be presented to the Assembly for consideration with a view to its adoption.

The sitting rose at 7.15 p.m.

¹ Following New Zealand's correction of their delegation's vote, the final tally for the merged item was: 843 votes in favour, **121** against and **490** abstentions.

Final agenda

1. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 138th Assembly
 2. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
 3. General Debate on the theme *Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees: the need for evidence-based policy solutions*
 4. Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development
(*Standing Committee on Peace and International Security*)
 5. Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy
(*Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade*)
 6. Reports of the Standing Committees
 7. Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and for the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade at the 140th IPU Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs
 8. Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules
 9. The consequences of the US declaration on Jerusalem and the rights of the Palestinian people in Jerusalem in the light of the UN Charter and resolutions
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Sitting of Monday, 26 March

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 9.20 a.m. with Ms. E. Thalén Finné (Sweden), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 9 of the agenda

**Plenary debate on the emergency item:
The consequences of the US declaration on Jerusalem and the rights of the Palestinian people in Jerusalem in the light of the UN Charter and resolutions
(A/138/2-P.7)**

The PRESIDENT said that the Assembly would need to appoint a drafting committee to finalize the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item by the delegations of Palestine, Kuwait, Bahrain and Turkey, as set out in the annex to document A/138/2-P.7. She requested the prompt submission of nominations to the Secretariat.

Ms. M.Y. FERRER GÓMEZ (Cuba) said that her delegation condemned the decision of the United States to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Such a decision was counterproductive to stability and safety in the region and undermined efforts to achieve a fair and sustainable solution to the conflict. She called on all parliaments to demand that the United States Government should respect the will of the international community and the numerous resolutions adopted by the United Nations. Israel must end its occupation of Palestine and its policies of aggression and colonization. A two-State solution, with the Palestinian capital in East Jerusalem, was vital to allow the people of Palestine to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and return to their homes. Policies of discrimination and hostility against the Palestinian people must cease.

Mr. F. ZON (Indonesia) said that the decision of the United States of America to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and relocate its embassy from Tel Aviv was deeply regrettable. Such a decision seriously undermined the peace process and was irresponsible, inhumane and unacceptable. The policy to cut US\$125 million in funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) further demonstrated the lack of political will on the part of the United States to end the suffering of the Palestinian people, and thus demonstrated the failure of the United States as a global leader. The international community should insist that Israel and the United States complied fully with all international legal instruments. The recent decision by Israel to construct more than 1,200 new settler units in the occupied West Bank was a violation of United Nations Security Council resolution 2334, which called on Israel to immediately cease all settlement activities in the occupied territories. Any desecration of religious sites in Jerusalem could further destabilize the situation, fuelling conflict and extremism. The flagrant disregard for the rights of the Palestinian people was in grave violation of numerous United Nations resolutions. The IPU Member Parliaments should recognize the inalienable right of the people of Palestine to self-determination and independence. The resolution to be adopted by the Assembly on the emergency item should urge a two-State solution, in line with the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine. The resolution should clearly state that the parliamentarians of the world stood for peace, democracy and justice.

Mr. A. OMARI (Morocco) said that the choice of topic demonstrated the will of the world's parliamentarians to defend the rights of the people of Palestine. His delegation rejected any decision that might undermine the peace process. An extraordinary session of the Arab Parliament had been held, in which all representatives had condemned the decision of the United States and underscored the importance of respecting international decisions and the rights of the Palestinian people, in the efforts to achieve peace. The resolution emanating from the discussion on the emergency item must clearly refute the decision made by the President of the United States to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and to relocate the US embassy. Historical and religious sites must be protected, and the right of the people of Palestine to defend the city of Jerusalem must be recognized. The international community must support the Palestinian people, and urge the recognition of a Palestinian State in accordance with the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. J. FAKHRO (Bahrain) said that his delegation reaffirmed that the status of the city of Jerusalem as set out in numerous United Nations resolutions must be respected. Any decision that ran counter to those resolutions should be rejected. The international community should find a way to reach a two-State solution. Any change to the status of Jerusalem should be rejected. Jerusalem's Arab heritage must be respected; it was a city with sacred sites for three major religions, all of which must be protected.

Mr. M. REZAEI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the plight of the Palestinian people was a question of humanity, not religion. The Israeli regime had been responsible for aggression, occupation, genocide and crimes against humanity, the deaths of innocent women and children, and had forced millions of Palestinians to leave their homeland. The choice of topic for the discussion and resolution under the emergency item on the Assembly's agenda gave a clear message of international support for the people of Palestine.

Mr. A. JASEM AHMAD (United Arab Emirates) said that the decision of the United States of America to change the status of Jerusalem constituted a flagrant violation of the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, which had been denounced by 128 Member States of the United Nations through the General Assembly. The decision undermined efforts to seek peace, violated international law and ignored the fact that Jerusalem was also a sacred Christian and Islamic site, and should be respected as such. The Arab region was currently facing an unprecedented spread of terrorism and extremism, which would likely be exacerbated by such a decision.

Mr. M.S. HAQUE BHUIYAN (Bangladesh) said that his delegation denounced the decision by the President of the United States to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Relocating the United States embassy to Jerusalem seriously undermined the legal and historical status of the city and constituted a flagrant breach of international law and numerous resolutions of the United Nations. The decision encouraged Israel to escalate its expansionist policy, in violation of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. The Israeli Government had forcibly evicted thousands of Palestinians and was building more settlements through excessive use of force. The IPU Assembly should take a firm stance and adopt an effective resolution in support of the protection of rights of the Palestinian people.

Ms. N. ESSAYAN (France) said that her delegation recognized the importance of supporting the people of Palestine, whose right to live in peace and exercise their own sovereignty must be upheld. The recent decision by the United States administration would not promote dialogue or peace. She called on Israel and Palestine to resume peace negotiations with the support of the international community; the crisis in Palestine had repercussions for development and security throughout the Middle East and in particular for the people of Palestine.

Ms. W. BANI MUSTAFA (Jordan), speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, welcomed the Assembly's decision to discuss the subject of the United States declaration on Jerusalem, which constituted an expression of global parliamentary solidarity with the people of Palestine. The United States decision was in violation of international law and the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, and seriously undermined peace in the region. Jerusalem was a sacred site which must be protected. She wished to emphasize that her delegation's vote against the emergency item topic proposed by Sweden was not a vote against the need to discuss the subject of violence and harassment against women; that topic was indeed extremely important and merited discussion. The treatment of women and girls in Palestine, as evidenced by the recent treatment of 16-year old Ahd Tamimi, constituted the worst form of violence and discrimination against women.

Mr. F. LOMBARDI (Switzerland) said that Switzerland had long been committed to supporting all elements of the peace process in the Middle East and to a two-State solution. The decision of the United States administration to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel had brought all progress towards peace to a halt and had increased tension in the region. After decades of death and destruction, the United States must be involved in the peace process and facilitate a peaceful solution to allow the peoples of Israel and Palestine to live side-by-side in peace. The IPU had a duty to ensure that double standards were not applied in its discussions with respect to human rights, respect for international law and State sovereignty. National sovereignty was a fundamental value that must be defended. It was completely unacceptable to assert that State sovereignty was inalienable in one State, while undermining it in another. The same values and principles must be applied to all countries, continents and conflicts. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to call on their national governments to apply the standards and rules of international law, respect borders, and promote and protect the human rights and territorial integrity of all. The standards set by the United Nations and other peacebuilding institutions must be upheld.

Mr. N. SHAI (Israel) said that he lived on the border with Gaza. Those who had spoken against Israel did not understand the reality of the situation in which the people of Israel had been living since 2001, with more than 10,000 missiles fired into Israeli territory. Israel was under constant threat from Hezbollah and Iran. The Israeli Government had set up refuges to enable the people of Israel to continue to live their lives. Israel lived with terrorist attacks on a daily basis, killing thousands of innocent people. If asked, 99 per cent of the people in Israel would vote for peace, not war. The children of Israel were not taught to kill; they were taught to defend their country, and to defend all those who lived in it. Israel was the only democracy and the only country in which people had the right to freedom of speech in the Middle East. He had brought with him a dove of peace, made from the remnants of a missile that had exploded near his home. He urged the international community, and Arab countries in particular, to understand the situation of the people of Israel and to work together to build peace and guarantee a better future for everyone in the Middle East and beyond.

Mr. D. AL-ASADI (Iraq) said that the decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and to relocate the United States embassy demonstrated the United States administration's abject refusal to learn from lessons of the past. The rights of Muslims, and the history and culture of Jerusalem were being undermined, and peace and stability in the region were being threatened. The lack of stability in the Middle East as a whole could largely be blamed on United States foreign policy. The history and heritage of the Palestinian people must be respected. His delegation therefore rejected the decision of the United States to relocate its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem and expressed its full support for the Palestinian people and their rights of return and to self-determination.

Mr. Q. KHADER (Palestine) said that he wished to thank all delegations that had supported the choice of topic for the emergency item. The issue of violence against women, as proposed by the delegation of Sweden, was also a particularly serious issue. The women of Palestine were gravely affected by constant humiliation, violence and discrimination, as demonstrated by the particularly violent treatment of Ahd Tamimi and her family, who had denounced the Israeli occupation. The people of Palestine were persecuted in the extreme and needed the support of the international community. The United States declaration was contrary to international law and reflected an arrogant and unilateral decision that attempted to change the nature and status of the city of Jerusalem, through judaization, by uniting the two sides of the city to become the capital of Israel. The inclusion of both sides of Jerusalem in the United States decision flouted all international resolutions and decisions on the status of Jerusalem. The allegation that there was no democracy outside Israel was unfounded. The dove of peace, as presented by the representative of Israel, was an affront to the people of Palestine. He thanked the IPU for allowing the debate on the emergency item, and for showing its support for the legitimacy of international law and for speaking for justice and truth.

Mr. A. AL MAHMOUD (Qatar) said that the two-State solution had been clearly laid out since 1967, and solutions to the conflict existed. Respect for the borders delineated in 1967 was imperative for peace. If peace was established, security and stability would follow. The people of Palestine should be granted their right to self-determination. The resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly must be respected. Universal rights should be enjoyed equally by all people and must therefore be upheld in Palestine.

The PRESIDENT announced that preliminary indications of interest had been received for participation in the drafting committee. Nominations were still required from the Twelve Plus group, the Eurasia group, and the Arab group.

Mr. A. ALTARAWNEH (Jordan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that thousands of Palestinians were being held in Israeli prisons. The status of East Jerusalem was set out in international law and the unilateral decision of the United States was in violation thereof.

Mr. N. SHAI (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the IPU was not a governmental forum, but a place where parliamentarians were free to express their views. The topic at hand must therefore be considered from a parliamentary perspective in IPU discussions. United Nations resolutions should be discussed in the context of the United Nations, not the IPU. There could be no peace when Palestinian children were being sent out to kill people simply because they were Jewish. Peace agreements had been concluded and must be respected. The sacred sites in Jerusalem would all be protected. Jews had been prohibited from visiting those sites

until 1967, since which time they had been open to all. Jerusalem was a city of religious freedom. If religion was used to divide people, everyone would lose. Religion should be spiritual, and should not be used in conflict. He implored the international community to understand that the people of Israel only wanted to protect peace and security in the region.

The sitting was suspended at 10.15 a.m. and resumed at 10.30 a.m., with Ms. G. Cuevas Barron (Mexico), President of the IPU, in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT said that she wished to convey the condolences of the IPU to the people of Kemerovo in the Russian Federation, following the tragic fire that had broken out in a shopping centre, killing more than 50 people, many of whom had been children.

A minute's silence was held in tribute to the victims of the fire in the city of Kemerovo, Russian Federation.

Mr. K. KOSACHEV (Russian Federation) thanked the President and all Member Parliaments of the IPU for their expressions of solidarity.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on the theme *Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees: the need for evidence-based policy solutions*

Resumption of the debate

Mr. P. Gallagher (Ireland), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. D. SYLLOURIS (Cyprus) said that despite continuous discussion on migration and refugee issues, and concerted action to mitigate the effects of the current refugee and migration crisis, people continued to drown in the Mediterranean Sea, war continued to rage in the Syrian Arab Republic, exacerbated by the recent Turkish invasion, and sectarian violence was spreading across the Middle East. Climate change, poverty and conflict, along with increased threats of terrorism, were forcing people to flee their homes in search of a safer and better future. Too often, discussions on the migration crisis focused on strategic management procedures rather than acknowledging that the crisis was one of human lives, suffering and death.

Migrants must be treated with dignity by authorities at entry and registration and during their transfer to safety. Family reunification should be granted to all those qualifying for international protection. Education, employment, housing and health care should be provided for all. Action must be taken to counter the root causes of forced migration, combined with the establishment of clearly defined legal entry routes for refugees in urgent need of humanitarian relief. All those who were granted entry must be treated with respect, taking account of their cultural and social background and their aspirations. The world's problems could not be solved with the same thinking that created them; solutions could only be found with a change in mindset.

Ms. R. ALITWALA KADAGA (Uganda) said that the spectre of African people, desperate, frightened, alone, miserable and hungry, crossing into Europe, dying of starvation, dehydration and disease, was an indictment of the international community and African leaders who appeared oblivious to the situation. Violations of human rights, conflicts, injustice and corruption had caused the migration of millions to a life of uncertainty, torture, slavery and squalid conditions in camps in Europe. Given the high level of youth unemployment the world over, economic migration was also an increasing reality. Parliaments that had not yet done so should ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

The root causes of migration could be addressed by taking measures to improve social and economic infrastructure in countries of origin. African leaders should invest less in conflict and more in the welfare of their people. Uganda was host to millions of refugees from around Africa. Hospitality had, however, come at the cost of the destruction of the environment, and had placed considerable pressure on education, health care and sanitation, as well as on physical infrastructure. The United Nations should budget for assistance to ensure that host countries were not unduly disadvantaged. Parliaments must ensure that migration remained a subject of public discussion, and that governments upheld their commitments under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, and all other relevant international and regional instruments to which they were party. Consideration should be given to updating the 1951 Refugee Convention to take account of new realities.

Mr. K.M. NGOGA (East African Legislative Assembly) said that the East African Community had been established on the principles of equality, peace, security and access to opportunity. Peace was a vehicle for sustainable development. With that in mind, plans were in place to operationalize the East African Community Standby Force. East Africa had been a source and host for refugees for many years and had made considerable progress in establishing mechanisms to address the causes of mass refugee flows. Challenges, however, persisted. He had been a refugee from birth until the age of 27 years. Many others had grown up in the same—or worse—situation. There was no shortage of evidence that policy-makers could use in their approach to addressing migration crises.

Giving refuge to those fleeing conflict and seeking security was one of humanity's longstanding traditions. Better governance and distribution of opportunities to include the most disadvantaged were crucial. The values of humanity should be evident in the approaches to preventing the causes of forced migration. The most viable and sustainable solutions to the challenges of refugees and migration were those that addressed the root causes in the countries of origin. The interdependency of world order meant that political and economic failures had widespread effects beyond borders. A common and united approach was therefore essential. Parliamentarians must ensure that legislation was enacted that enhanced peace and inclusivity and addressed inequalities. They should appropriate more resources to hold the executive accountable and check corruption.

Mr. J. ZANGPO (Bhutan) said that for Bhutan, a small, least developed and landlocked country, with fewer than a million inhabitants, sovereignty was an issue of priority. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration should take account of the potentially adverse impacts of migration on developing countries, particularly small and vulnerable countries like Bhutan. The inclusion in the draft document of proposals on national sovereignty and the right of States to exercise sovereign jurisdiction with regard to national migration policy were therefore welcome. As well as understanding the challenges related to migration, Bhutan also benefited from the contributions of more than 100,000 migrant workers who constituted around 15 per cent of the population.

The lives and livelihoods of people in Bhutan, most of whom were dependent on agriculture, were increasingly affected by climate change. Its implications must be given due consideration in all discussions on migration. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represented a global commitment to make this world a better place. Several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to migration, and it was clear that migration and development were closely interlinked. Bhutan pursued a development philosophy of Gross National Happiness, and the Constitution provided for the establishment of conditions for a good and compassionate society rooted in Buddhist ethos and universal human values. Migration was viewed through the lens of those values, with due attention to the need to preserve the peace and security of the nation.

Mr. C. CASSAMÁ (Guinea Bissau) said that migration constituted a major global challenge; the African Parliamentary Union had decided to hold a biennial African parliamentary conference on migration to discuss new approaches and measures to migration management. According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, all persons had the right to leave and return to their country of origin. Migration challenges must therefore be tackled using a human rights-based approach. Parliamentarians had a particular responsibility to ensure that policies on migration were integrated into national development strategies and to ensure that domestic legislative frameworks were aligned with international standards. The world's parliamentarians must also work together through bilateral and multilateral approaches, to prevent excessive restriction on legal migration routes, which could result in a shift to illegal migration or trafficking in persons. The challenges posed by migration were bringing global governance structures into question. In Africa, while some progress had been made, unemployment, poverty, disease, terrorism and natural disasters constituted serious challenges that must be addressed. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration must be concluded and implemented.

Mr. R. MSOWOYA (Malawi) said that while migrants made a conscious decision to leave their homes in search of a better life elsewhere, refugees were forced to leave as they would be at risk of persecution or death if they remained. They fled, often leaving their homes and loved ones at short notice, with no idea of where they would go. With the number of people living in fragile and conflict-affected areas predicted to increase by 82 per cent by 2030, and the continuous increase in the number of people living in countries other than their country of birth, urgent action would be required to forestall the challenges ahead. Sustainable solutions must be sought through a

common and humane approach. Parliamentarians should call for an evidence-based review of all policies relating to migration, in order to find lasting solutions. The challenges of mass migration had been rife for decades, and a wealth of evidence should therefore be available to be used in seeking solutions. The scope of the "responsibility to protect" doctrine should be broadened to include mass forced displacement. The time had also come to review the legal framework in place to address the causes and effects of migration, and to update the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1979 Handbook and Guidelines on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status, based on up-to-date information and evidence.

Mr. K. MAKELO LUSAKA (Kenya) said that for nearly 30 years Kenya had been hosting large populations of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants from neighbouring countries, in particular Somalia and South Sudan, in some of the world's largest refugee settlements. Prolonged conflicts causing mass displacement had far-reaching socioeconomic and political consequences with traumatic, diverse and long-lasting ripple effects. There must be greater focus on the contemporary aspects of migration challenges. Xenophobic narratives, which were being touted for short-term political gain, must not impede international cooperation on migration. The Parliament of Kenya had enacted legislation providing for the recognition, protection and management of refugees, and a law on protection and assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The timely and accurate use of evidence could provide a platform for proactive measures to reduce suspicion, fear and stereotyping of migrants. Parliamentarians were uniquely positioned to adopt well-researched, evidence-based policies that incorporated refugees' and migrants' rights and promoted their integration for the benefit and growth of society. Parliaments must ensure that evidence collection on refugee status took a humanitarian approach. Evidence-based policy solutions would reduce the challenges related to integration, dispel fears and eliminate discrimination. Migrants and refugees were part of global humanity; their sustainable integration would therefore be to the benefit of humanity as a whole. Partnerships must be forged to ensure that migrants and refugees were treated humanely, and every effort must be made to reduce the circumstances that fuelled involuntary migration and displacement.

Mr. D. DRAMANI (Togo) said that migration had also been the theme of the 10th Conference of Speakers of Parliament of the *Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie*, during which speakers of parliament had discussed mechanisms for strengthening international dialogue, interregional consultation and cooperation on migration issues. While in the past migration had been linked to trade, religious pilgrimages, wars and pandemics, nowadays it was associated with climate change, poverty and economic and political instability. Thousands of migrants were losing their lives at sea, on journeys to reach a better future.

Togo was party to several international instruments related to migration and refugees, and participated actively in regional and international meetings on migration management. The national employment strategy and national development plan both included aspects on migration. An interministerial committee on migration had been set up and a national migration and development strategy was being prepared. In order to find a lasting solution to contemporary migration-related challenges, concerted coordinated action would be required. Parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, must put in place a comprehensive legislative framework to ensure that migration would be to the benefit of humanity. International tools must be strengthened; the adoption of the two global compacts would be particularly relevant in that regard. A frank, open and constructive interparliamentary dialogue was needed between countries of origin and countries of destination.

Mr. J. DA GRAÇA DIOGO (Sao Tome and Principe) said that the situation of migrants and refugees could not be discussed without discussing fundamental human rights. Refugees were often victimized and stigmatized on cultural, social, religious and ethnic grounds as a result of discriminatory State policies. The propagation of stigma had a negative effect on those seeking refuge. Terrorism also created hostility in international relations. The root causes of forced migration, must be identified and addressed. While uncontrolled migration could not be allowed and national sovereignty must be respected, fundamental rights must not be violated in the name of national security. Safety and refuge must be granted to all who were vulnerable and in need. Systems for migration management must therefore be rethought, taking into account the advantages of hosting migrants.

Sao Tome and Principe was a relatively young democracy which had been established on the principles of respect for fundamental rights and safeguarding justice. It was a nation of peace and security which hosted migrants and granted them the same rights as its citizens. The rights of refugees and migrants must be protected everywhere. Parliamentarians should be the guardians of

human rights and of justice, and must work together through a common approach to ensure the dignity of migrants. He called on all States to uphold their obligations under international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Mr. I. Flores (Chile), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. A. AL MAHMOUD (Qatar) said the world was witnessing difficult times, where human rights abuses, conflict and genocide were taking place in full view of the international community. International resolutions were failing to have the desired impact. The people of Palestine had been living under illegal occupation for 70 years, a situation that had resulted in war and destabilization throughout the Middle East region, which constituted a threat to international peace and security. The international community must seek more effective processes to end occupation, genocide and murder, and to guarantee respect for international law. Millions of people around the world were fleeing their homes in search of asylum. While the adoption of the two global compacts would be important, they would remain meaningless if not implemented. The IPU must not only be a forum for dialogue and discussion but also an effective platform for action. Interparliamentary dialogue and diplomacy had an important role to play. Many of the crises from which people were fleeing had been caused by States; the victims must be given refuge and treated with dignity. Concerted cooperation was needed to overcome conflict and crisis, and to ensure respect for human rights at all times. The Government of Qatar was making efforts to provide employment and education opportunities in the Arab region, and had opened a centre for interfaith dialogue to promote peaceful coexistence of religions. United Nations procedures, in particular those of the Security Council, should be revised. Resolutions must address the root causes of forced migration, and the international system should be reformed to ensure that its decisions and resolutions were respected and implemented.

Mr. Y. SULAIMON LASUN (Nigeria) said that the forthcoming global compacts would strengthen the regime for managing mass migration through an approach rooted in cooperation. Such an approach would identify and address the root causes of forced displacement, ensure that the human rights of all migrants and refugees were upheld, eliminate all forms of discrimination, address trafficking in persons, migrant smuggling and contemporary forms of slavery, increase international cooperation, create regular migration pathways, and enhance the contributions of migrants and diasporas to countries of origin and destination alike. While populist politicians spread narratives about the likely negative effects of migration, such as security risks and threats to the local labour force, to stir sentiments of fear and mistrust among host communities, evidence showed the positive economic and development impacts of migration. The international community must therefore ensure that factual data and evidence were taken into account when negotiating the global compacts.

Nigerians, many of whom had been sold into slavery in Libya, accounted for the greatest proportion of migrants arriving in Italy across the Mediterranean Sea. The Nigerian Parliament was taking various initiatives to end that crisis, through dialogue with national and international non-State actors and other partners. Efforts were being made to intensify cooperation with governments in countries of transit and destination, to strengthen legal frameworks and take innovative steps to encourage repatriation and reintegration. The Nigerian authorities were committed to countering the root causes of mass migration by improving the opportunities for young people, and by cooperating with other States at the regional and international levels.

Mr. Y. RETA (Ethiopia) said that Ethiopia had a long history of extending hospitality to persons seeking refuge. The Ethiopian authorities had pledged to increase the opportunities afforded to refugees and migrants and to establish effective legal and institutional frameworks to govern migration. Migration should be viewed from a positive perspective; well-managed migration could fill gaps in labour demand in host countries while contributing to economic growth and poverty alleviation in countries of origin through flows of remittances, knowledge and skills transfer, and forging partnerships for investment and business. The Ethiopian Parliament had enacted an overseas employment law to ensure that recruitment remained ethical, that migrant workers' rights were safeguarded without restriction, and that employment agencies were not a front for migrant smuggling. Bilateral agreements had been concluded with major destination countries and Ethiopia's consular services had been strengthened to oversee the observance of migrant workers' rights.

Ethiopia was the second largest host country in Africa. As such, its Government was committed to promoting integration by adopting inclusive education, health and employment policies, and scaling up out-of-camp and local integration policies. Solutions to migration challenges must be based on empirical data to ensure that informed decisions, which would lead to

effective policies, were made. Parliaments were uniquely positioned to act as an interface between people and State institutions, and would therefore have a major responsibility in ensuring the application of the two forthcoming global compacts. His Parliament was committed to working collectively with other States and relevant bodies to apply the compacts and thereby ensure that migrants' rights were fully protected at all times.

Mr. P. MATIBINI (Zambia) said that unless measures were taken as a matter of urgency the numbers of forcibly displaced people worldwide would increase. The international community must consider how to improve the global regime for migration management to effectively address the complex dimensions of the plight of refugees and migrants, using a human rights-based approach. He welcomed the IPU's efforts to seek a parliamentary dimension to the forthcoming global compacts for safe, orderly and regular migration and for refugees. Those compacts should include the promotion of regional cooperation to achieve more humane and "smart" migration.

The burden of managing and caring for refugees was greatest on countries that were economically frail, such as Zambia. A more effective global regime for migration management was therefore imperative. Such a regime must be based on evidence showing how migration could result in positive effects on the socioeconomic status of migrants without negatively affecting host country populations. Evidence should also be used to consider how to best identify and manage the primary drivers of irregular migration and how best to secure the human rights of migrants and refugees. Urgent measures were needed to address the specific needs and requirements of migrant women, children and the elderly, who were often at risk of discrimination and abuse.

Mr. V. MATEU (Andorra) said that economic transformation in the late twentieth century had turned Andorra into a country of destination, with migrants currently accounting for 54 per cent of the population. Most were economic migrants from neighbouring countries with similar cultures and religions, and the majority of the local population considered that they contributed positively to Andorra's workforce and economic development. Despite successful integration, fear remained that the local identity and traditional values might erode, along with concerns about saturation of the welfare State. There was also an awareness that peaceful coexistence was fragile. The collection of empirical data was therefore key to ending speculation and deconstructing stereotypes. Integration plans were also essential to dispel any potential tensions and recall migration's many advantages to society.

Migration was not one of Andorra's greatest challenges; major flows of forced migration were taking place outside Andorra's borders. Every effort was, however, being made to act in support of refugees and migrants, and Parliament had enacted legislation to ensure that anyone in temporary transit for humanitarian reasons was duly protected. International cooperation was essential to ensure that migration was safe and voluntary, and to dismantle criminal networks responsible for trafficking in persons. Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime was particularly important in that regard. Political will was essential, and parliamentarians had a responsibility in that regard; strategic rhetoric should not be used to gain votes. Once the seeds of mistrust had been sown, peace would be difficult to maintain. The duty of parliamentarians was not to win votes but to govern for the common good.

Mr. A.M. OQUAYE (Ghana) said that increasing migration presented opportunities and challenges for countries of origin, transit and destination. The causal factors of migration, which included poverty, absence of decent work, lack of development opportunities and the effects of climate change, must be addressed to ensure that any migration was voluntary and safe. Armed conflict and war, the increase in terrorism, the arms trade, corruption and dictatorships were also forcing people to flee their homes. The influx of migrants could create tensions with host communities, which could lead to xenophobia and human rights abuses. Parliaments must take steps to counter those attitudes and bring an end to hate speech and racially-motivated violence. Parliaments must be objective when considering the root causes of migration; many of the push factors were due to poor governance and a betrayal of the trust bestowed on leaders. They must ensure that their legislative and oversight functions were used to protect the people they represented.

Mr. A.L. MAKANA (South Sudan) said that every effort was being made to bring an end to the ongoing conflict in South Sudan through national dialogue, a "people-to-people" peace initiative, and a high-level revitalization forum. National dialogue had yielded results with a return to normalcy in some key areas, facilitating the return of tens of thousands of refugees. International partners, in particular Germany and Japan, had provided invaluable support. Although some progress had been made through the grassroots peace initiative, more support was needed; children who had been abducted by cattle rustlers still remained at large. The high-level

revitalization forum had been created to give fresh impetus to the agreement on resolving the conflict in South Sudan. Although Parliament had supported that initiative, the opposition had made unrealistic demands of the forum, calling for the immediate dissolution of the elected Parliament, the army, the judiciary and the presidency. He called on the international community to bring pressure to bear on the opposition, to enable negotiations for peace to proceed.

The South Sudanese parliamentary women's caucus and youth caucus were becoming increasingly active at both the national and international levels. Parliament had also been involved in the negotiation of the peace agreement between the Government and the South Sudan National Liberation Movement. The agreement had enabled over 500 child soldiers to be reintegrated into the community and enrolled in education. Invaluable support had been provided in that regard by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Government of Sweden. Parliament had also launched diplomatic campaigns for peace, sending delegations to neighbouring countries, and was working hard to support the Government in the implementation of the peace agreement. He urged all partners to refrain from imposing sanctions and to support the efforts to return to peace in South Sudan.

Mr. F. ZON (Global Organization of Parliaments against Corruption) said that corruption and migration were linked in many ways: corruption facilitated illegal migration, which often involved border bribery and document forgery. Bribery could be used to facilitate journeys when migrants had to rely on smugglers. Smugglers themselves were heavily dependent on corrupt officials. Corruption, in the form of unexplained administrative fees, also impeded remittance flows back to countries of origin. It even occurred in the delivery of aid when governmental institutions took advantage of international contributions and donations. Corruption was often a chief contributor to instability and violence, forcing people to flee for safety. It undermined the legitimacy and stability of governments. Many of the conflicts currently ongoing around the world had been caused by public dissatisfaction with corrupt government services.

Forced migration was fuelled by conflict and could have disastrous consequences. The influx of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar into Bangladesh showed how massive abuse could result in humanitarian tragedy. Solutions to such situations could only be found through international cooperation and a world without corruption. The forthcoming Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration would include anticorruption principles in provisions on the promotion of transparency and accountability and the commitment to ensure faster, safer and cheaper remittances. In order to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration, sustainable development policies must be promoted. Parliamentarians had a role in that regard and should make every effort to work towards the attainment of the SDGs.

Ms. M. TRIANTAFYLLOU (Greece) said that the international community must strive to achieve peace, in particular in the Middle East, as a precondition for safe orderly and regular migration. Migratory flows were likely to increase owing to climate change, water scarcity, economic inequalities and religious fundamentalism. She therefore welcomed the efforts to negotiate the two global compacts which would contribute to ensuring a holistic approach to effective migration management. Cross-border cooperation and regional interparliamentary action, as well as interaction between local authorities and law enforcement agencies in countries of origin, transit and destination, were vital to preventing trafficking in migrants and to ensure that smugglers were brought to justice.

The smooth transition of migrants into the community in host countries must be ensured through a two-way process of mutual adjustment. In Greece, efforts were being made to educate migrants about the Greek language and culture. Health care was also provided, with extensive vaccination coverage to prevent epidemics. Awareness campaigns were being run to inform local populations and refugees about their rights and obligations. Migrants must also be able to enter the local labour market. Any State that did not uphold its responsibilities to ensure safe and regular migration must be sanctioned. The Dublin III Regulation should be revised to allow refugees in Mediterranean countries, who did not wish to remain there, to seek asylum in a third country. Closing borders exacerbated problems and fuelled trafficking. Developed countries should provide financial assistance to least developed countries to build sustainable societies and develop their economies, so that people did not feel forced to leave their homes. There was no need to "export" western models of democracy; mutual understanding and peace were essential.

Mr. H. WU (China) said that the world was undergoing profound transformations that were not only fraught with risk, but also presented challenges and opportunities. International migration had become a distinctive feature of globalization. Conflict, poverty, and disparities in development had led to an increase in the number of migrants and refugees, as well as a rise in trafficking in

persons and in populist and protectionist policies. Migrants and refugees were humans, whose right to pursue well-being should be protected. In order to endure comprehensive migration management, all countries should cooperate, through the leadership of the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The positive role that migrants could play in the economic development of countries of origin and destination must be understood.

Efforts must be made to regulate migration routes, optimize border governance and combat transnational organized crime and migrant smuggling; discrimination against migrants must be brought to an end. The root causes of forced migration must be addressed through a forward-looking approach to encourage the peaceful settlement of armed conflicts. Migration flows into and out of China had surged over recent years, with many foreigners coming to work in China and providing important links with the rest of the world. The Chinese authorities were committed to pursuing a foreign policy rooted in peace, and had contributed peacekeeping personnel to the United Nations, as well as humanitarian aid for refugee crises. The Government of China stood ready to cooperate at the international level on the reform of the international governance system, and to share the experiences of economic development, which could serve as a useful example to others, in particular when addressing the root causes of mass migration.

Mr. M. AL-GHASSANI (Oman) said that the Government of Oman made every effort to provide the optimum security for migrants on Omani territory. Effective solutions must be sought to the causes of mass migration, based on the principles of conciliation and peaceful coexistence. Conflict resolution was vital. The number of migrants was increasing daily. The people of Palestine continued to face Israeli oppression. Rather than seeking solutions, steps had been taken by the United States administration to exacerbate the situation further. International law must be respected and justice must be done. The Rohingya people in Myanmar were suffering from oppression and persecution and more than 100,000 people had fled their homes, causing a major humanitarian crisis. Despite the fact that Myanmar was party to international agreements, its international obligations were not being upheld. The authorities in Oman made every effort to provide as much support and aid to refugees as possible, through housing and health care, and rehabilitation and reconciliation activities. Innovative approaches were needed to protect the rights of migrants and promote migration as a tool for reconstruction and growth. The adoption of the two global compacts would constitute a significant step forward.

Ms. J.d'A. GAKUBA (Rwanda) said that the rise in irregular migration was a situation that needed the attention of the global parliamentary community. The fundamental rights of migrants and refugees must be defended first and foremost. Migration had always been an essential element of development and human welfare, yet without adequate regulation it could entail grave violations of human rights. Rwanda had experienced a mass exodus of refugees. Peace and stability had been re-established and some 3.4 million Rwandans had since returned. Rwanda had also been a host country for refugees, mostly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi. Land was made available for refugee camps, and refugees were granted access to public services, in particular health care and education. Refugees were allowed to move freely in Rwanda, and had the right to work, set up companies, pay taxes and create jobs, thereby enabling them to contribute actively to the economy in their host country. Efforts were made to attract foreign skilled workers for economic development and to mitigate the consequences of illegal migration. The national migration policy included measures to raise awareness of the risks of trafficking and other human rights abuses among the vulnerable, in particular women and children. Free movement of persons was considered a basic right, which should be promoted and protected. It was also viewed as a means of attaining the SDGs. All parliamentarians should do their utmost not only to protect the rights of migrants and refugees, but to allow them to be productive citizens anywhere in the world.

The sitting rose at 1.10 p.m.

Sitting of Monday, 26 March (Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.35 p.m. with Mr. M. Bouva (Suriname), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on the theme *Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees: the need for evidence-based policy solutions*

Resumption of the debate

Mr. D. MCGUINTY (Canada) said that countries must embrace and manage migration rather than oppose it. Although migration was a challenge, it was also an opportunity to foster positive change. In Canada, migrants had broadened trade and investment and stimulated economic and cultural growth. Diversity and inclusion were not weaknesses but essential to growth, prosperity and success. All States involved in the global compacts on migration and refugees should engage with the private sector to promote the benefits of diversity. A thoughtful public policy was also required to successfully incorporate migrants into new societies.

Canada had taken a number of measures on migration both domestically and internationally. It had contributed significantly to drafting the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. It was one of the top five immigrant receiving countries in the world. The country's resettlement programme recognised the particular challenges faced by the most vulnerable, including women, children and the elderly. It had also released new guidelines regarding the evaluation of refugee claims on the basis of sexual and gender identity.

Mr. J.H. RI (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that, while some countries were rejecting migrants, others were making an effort to help them through humanitarian assistance, job creation and other measures. However, such efforts were unlikely to be enough. The migration crisis was a result of aggressive interventions from the United States of America and other western countries. The interventions aimed to topple independent States, fuel conflict and undermine peace. The United States and the West spoke the loudest on universal equality and human rights yet were ignoring and discriminating against refugees. Putting an end to such racism, chauvinism and aggression was key to resolving the migration crisis.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) wished to build a just and peaceful world free from aggression, war, inequality and racial discrimination. Indeed, economic development could only be achieved in a peaceful environment. It was particularly vital to safeguard peace and security on the Korean Peninsula thus the DPRK had taken initiatives to thaw inter-Korean relations. It was high time that the United States of America put an end to its hostile policies, including the sanctions and pressure against the DPRK. The DPRK was ready to resolve all problems through dialogue and negotiation.

Mr. G. KIRKILAS (Lithuania) said that, throughout history, Lithuania had been a country of origin, a host country and a transit country for refugees. It therefore welcomed efforts to introduce a more effective refugee protection regime. In particular, Lithuania approved of measures to encourage global burden sharing and provide recipient countries with comprehensive support. It was also important to ensure the safety of refugees, particularly in the context of human trafficking, as well as to prepare for crisis situations nationally, regionally and globally. There must be a human rights element to refugee protection with a particular focus on vulnerable groups such as women, children and people with disabilities.

Russia posed a very dangerous threat to Europe. Its deliberate interference in the domestic affairs of European countries was unacceptable. It was also unacceptable that it had committed systematic violations of human rights, particularly against Crimean Tatars. The international community must therefore preserve all sanctions against Russia.

In conclusion, countries must welcome, protect, promote and integrate refugees in a spirit of compassion, foresight and courage. What mattered most were people, not interests.

Mr. R. LOPATKA (Austria) said that migration was both a historical phenomenon and a timely matter. In addressing migration, it was vital to emphasize that human rights, including those of undocumented migrants, were universal. Austria therefore welcomed the ongoing negotiations on the two global compacts and the efforts of the IPU to include a parliamentary perspective. Poor living conditions were one of the major causes of migration. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were therefore of great importance. It was particularly important to create decent

work as well as to establish the rule of law and democratic governance. Democratic governance would require the adoption of principles such as participation, transparency and accountability. When engaging in development cooperation, countries must remember that most refugees were internally displaced. They must also aim to deter people from leaving their homes for economic reasons.

The Austrian Development Agency had launched several projects. One example was a project to provide sustainable food security to communities in Uganda that were hosting refugees from South Sudan. The country would also address migration under its presidency of the European Union (EU) which would begin in July 2018. It was important to reform the Common European Asylum System so that migration standards were aligned across all Member States. There must also be an EU plan to enhance cooperation with countries of transit and origin, as well as to tackle human trafficking. Parliaments must be at the forefront of tackling migration issues.

The General Debate was suspended at 3.15 p.m. to allow for an interactive session with the Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO), with Ms. G. Cuevas Barron (Mexico), President of the IPU, in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT said that Mr. T.A. Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, was a former parliamentarian, minister of health and minister of foreign affairs from Ethiopia. He had prioritized universal access to health services in the work of WHO. In his presentation, he would share his vision and clarify how he planned to engage parliamentarians.

Mr. T.A. GHEBREYESUS, *Director-General of WHO*, said that he hoped to strengthen IPU-WHO partnerships, especially on the health needs of vulnerable groups, such as women, children and adolescents. Parliaments played a crucial role in ensuring that health could flourish through their law-making, oversight, accountability, budgeting and advocacy functions. Not only must they provide health services but also address the social, environmental and economic determinants of health.

Migration could be a key driver of economic and social prosperity. However, policies for managing migrant health were unsatisfactory. Migrants often missed out on essential services and faced discrimination and social exclusion. Many also lived and worked in substandard conditions that put them at a greater risk of communicable and non-communicable diseases. The lack of integration also undermined economic and social development in the host country.

One of the priorities of WHO was universal health coverage, including for migrants regardless of their status. However, with at least half of the world population lacking access to essential health services, it was not only migrants and refugees who were excluded. Such a situation could not be tolerated. Universal health coverage was about more than just providing health insurance, paying for care and ensuring access to good quality health services whenever problems arose. It was also about providing a full range of services that promoted health and prevented diseases throughout the life cycle. Examples of such services included vaccinations for children and breastfeeding opportunities. Countries that invested in health promotion and prevention also reaped long-term economic benefits and were more efficient in preventing health outbreaks. As a result, universal health coverage and health security were two sides of the same coin.

There was no single path to universal health coverage. Each country must adapt to its own social, political and economic circumstances. However, the foundation was always a strong health system based on primary care with a practical focus on health promotion and disease prevention. There were several dimensions to a health system which delivered universal health: sustainable financing, skilled health workers, good governance, reliable service delivery, meticulous data management and comprehensive access to medicines. One often overlooked aspect was the need for a strong legal framework which enshrined the right to health and promoted equity, equality, efficiency and accountability. Universal health coverage was not a luxury but a necessity towards which all countries, regardless of income level, could make progress. It was a political choice.

At the 2018 World Health Assembly, WHO would ask Member States to approve a new five-year plan at the heart of which were three targets. The targets were to see one billion more people enjoying universal health coverage, one billion more people protected from health emergencies and one billion more people enjoying better health and well-being. Member States must help WHO achieve those targets by adopting relevant laws and policy. In doing so, they must not only ensure access to health services but also address climate change, pollution and problems with clean water and sanitation. It was also important to encourage healthier choices, for instance, by taxing tobacco and other harmful products.

All laws and policies must go hand in hand with careful implementation and appropriate budget allocations. They must be informed by the best available evidence. There was more science and research available than any other time in history, yet the gap between evidence and policy was wider than ever. It could sometimes be difficult to differentiate between correct and incorrect information. WHO could assist countries in that regard.

He called on countries to fulfil three specific requests. First, they should ratify the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products by 2 July 2018 so that it could come into force. The illicit tobacco market destroyed health, fuelled organised crime and deprived governments of tax revenues. Second, they should form a Group of Friends of WHO within their parliaments which was committed to global health issues. Third, they should attend a technical briefing for parliamentarians on ensuring universal health coverage and health security at the 2018 World Health Assembly. It was paramount to work together to achieve a healthier, safer and fairer world.

Ms. M.J. CARRIÓN (Ecuador) said that she wished to involve WHO in discussions in Ecuador. The country was about to adopt a law which promoted equal access to primary health care free of charge as well as access to medicines. Mr. T.A. Ghebreyesus should clarify how Ecuador could participate in the meeting for parliamentarians at the World Health Assembly. He should also clarify how the country could offer support to global health issues.

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that the IPU would organise a separate meeting for parliamentarians at the 2018 World Health Assembly. All countries would receive a letter inviting them to include parliamentary representatives in their delegations. The IPU had made the UN Scaling Up Nutrition movement a priority of its Advisory Group on Health.

Ms. D. SOLÓRZANO (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that her country would try to form a Group of Friends of WHO. She asked how her parliament could gain access to WHO health programmes. Venezuela was going through a serious humanitarian crisis where there was limited access to hospitals and medicines.

Ms. S. RAFI (Air Quality Asia) said that her organization commended WHO on its work on air pollution, particularly for setting PM2.5 as the measure for healthy air. WHO should continue to rank cities according to air quality targets.

Mr. T.A. GHEBREYESUS, *Director-General of WHO*, said that WHO would be happy to support Ecuador in its work. The IPU and WHO would write to all countries encouraging them to include parliamentarians in their delegations at the World Health Assembly. Venezuela should submit all requests to the WHO country office which would provide support in conjunction with headquarters and the regional office. WHO would send guidelines to all parliaments on how to form a Group of Friends of WHO. Parliamentarians were key to making universal health coverage a global movement. WHO had recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with a view to being more aggressive on air pollution.

The PRESIDENT said that the IPU condemned the attacks on Saudi Arabia on 25 March 2018 which targeted civilians and destroyed buildings. According to UN Security Council decisions and policies, there should be no transfer of arms to militias regardless of their source.

The General Debate resumed at 3:45 p.m, with Mr. M. Bouva (Suriname), Vice-President of the Assembly in the Chair.

Mr. P.J. RAJAONARIVÉLO (Madagascar) said that migration also affected the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States. Approximately 70 per cent of migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa were displaced within the same geographic area while only 16 per cent went to Europe. It was important to find an appropriate, long-term solution. Given that most migrants moved for economic reasons, the most sustainable solution was to enhance development, for instance, by improving living conditions and creating decent work. The world was interconnected thus countries must join forces to address the problem.

Madagascar had seen people migrate to and from its shores. Although the country had welcomed migrants, it did not endorse illegal migration. Madagascar was in need of an observatory on migration as well as support to monitor coastlines. It also required a strong legal framework. Madagascar hoped to learn from Papua New Guinea which had resettled migrants in safe areas following natural disasters.

Mr. A. TAVARES CORREIA (Cabo Verde) said that legal and regular migration could be very positive. Indeed, Cabo Verde had a large diaspora which was well integrated and had made many contributions to host countries. Migration was only a problem when it was illegal and irregular. It was important to find a medium to long-term solution to illegal and irregular migration. Investing in education was particularly valuable since it led to an inclusive and participative society.

Europe and Africa must align their agendas. Their relationship must be based on mutual prosperity rather than dependence. Western countries often saw Africa as a problem thus took indifferent or paternalistic attitudes which bred mistrust. The entire international community, including international organisations, the private sector and civil society, must join forces to create a more beneficial partnership between the two continents.

One solution to the migration crisis was to encourage development in Africa. Western countries should provide support, not by issuing payments, but by investing and creating opportunities which deterred people from migrating. Germany's Marshall Plan for Africa was a step in the right direction. Africa must make the necessary reforms to promote political, economic and social rights, combat corruption, ensure transparency and guarantee the safety of people and goods. Cabo Verde had recently adopted its own 2017-2021 plan for sustainable development which aimed to create a more participative, resilient and inclusive society.

Ms. A.M. MARI MACHADO (Cuba) said that countries had made many commitments on migration, but taken very little action. Migrants continued to face human rights abuses, such as exploitation, discrimination, inadequate legal protection and limited access to basic services such as health and education. It was particularly important for developed countries to act. Countries must not treat migrants and refugees as criminals, nor should they build walls, detention camps or administrative barriers. Instead, they should respect international principles such as non-refoulement and recognise the positive impact of migration on sustainable development. It was also vital to address the root causes of migration. That said, Cuba did not agree with "brain-grab" practices in which industrialised countries stole qualified professionals from non-industrialised ones.

It was vital for the international community to cooperate and share responsibilities on migration. Any solution must not undermine self-determination, sovereignty and the equality of nations. The global compact on migration was a good document but required further streamlining in some areas.

Mr. M. TOMASSONI (San Marino) said that the two global compacts must comply with human rights standards. The human rights of migrants and refugees must be respected throughout the entire migration process: departure, transit, and destination. It was also essential to promote integration activities, break down prejudices and foster mutual understanding. If countries remained inactive, they risked creating a barrier between "us and them". The international community must work together to develop policies.

San Marino was open to diversity, cooperation, solidarity and dialogue. It was therefore committed to addressing the migration problem. The country had recently decided to develop several small-scale projects to accommodate migrants and refugees, particularly women, children and people with disabilities.

Mr. Y. CHIN (Republic of Korea) said that, despite efforts from the international community to protect migrants and refugees, the number of displaced people was on the rise. It was a problem which affected countries of origin, transit and destination. The international community must come together to find a durable solution. It could also be an opportunity for countries to transform their economies.

The Republic of Korea had a history of migration both as the country of origin and country of destination. Currently, the country was home to two million foreign nationals. The Republic of Korea had taken a number of measures to protect the human rights of foreign nationals. For example, it had passed a law ensuring equal treatment of foreigners in the workplace.

Mr. W. Simina (Federated States of Micronesia), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Ms. B. BUBULA (Poland) said that Poland understood the suffering of migrants and refugees since its own citizens had been forcibly displaced throughout history. The country had therefore taken several measures in light of the migration crisis. For example, it was contributing millions of dollars to help Syrian refugees temporarily settle in Jordan or Turkey.

The two global compacts should promote a balance between an effective global system of migration management and the right of individual countries to sovereignly formulate a migration policy. More emphasis was needed on security issues with a view to reducing illegal migration. As such, countries should enhance border protection, counteract human trafficking and enhance the obligations of countries of origin to readmit migrants. It was also important to address the root causes of migration in the countries of origin, including political unrest and underdevelopment. In doing so, people would live with dignity without having to leave their homeland. There should also be a responsible labour migration policy which took into account the needs of the host country's labour market. Any international solution must differentiate between migrants, asylum seekers and persons subject to international protection.

In conclusion, Poland believed that migration could only be beneficial when it was legal, organised and responsive to a country's needs. Countries had the right to decide who to admit to their territory as well as to ensure the security of its citizens.

Mr. O. HAV (Denmark) said that the international community must act on the migration crisis. One political party in Denmark had also advocated for a Marshall Plan for Africa. The plan would encourage international organisations to take concrete initiatives which helped people stay in their own countries. Ideally, people should only leave their country of origin if they obtained refugee status under a UN quota system. It was necessary to put an end to trafficking of migrants and other human rights abuses. Countries must strike a balance between their right to control who to admit and the need to help those who were suffering.

Mr. N. SHAI (Israel) said that Arab countries declared war in 1947 after the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to establish two States in Mandatory Palestine: a Jewish State and an Arab State. Although Egypt and Jordan recognised the State of Israel in 1979 and 1994 respectively, war in the Middle East continued. If other Arab States signed the peace agreement, the problems would be resolved, including the refugee issue. Although the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) had provided aid to refugees, it had not sought a permanent solution and had thus sabotaged peace in the Middle East. Israel was born out of a great wave of Jewish refugees, including Holocaust survivors, and Jewish people from Eastern Europe and Arab countries. The Jewish refugees integrated into a new country without the assistance of any international organisation. In Palestine, the Hamas Government had done nothing to help its own refugees. It was time to solve the Palestinian refugee problem and achieve peace. Israel would help Palestinians resettle in Jordan, Lebanon and Gaza but it would not let them return to Israel.

Mr. J. MATOS ROSA (Portugal) said that Portugal had seen many of its own citizens emigrate but had also welcomed foreign nationals within its borders. Migration had both a positive and negative side. Although migration could promote economic growth and development, it was also linked to wars, terrorism, failed States and poverty. Countries must address drug trafficking as a priority since it often financed the above-mentioned phenomena. They must also tackle food insecurity and climate change which were two significant, yet often forgotten, causes of migration.

It was important to understand the reality of migration through statistics. Syrians represented only 25 per cent of the total number of refugees globally. The remainder came from Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. Furthermore, it was a myth that the European Union was the main destination of refugees. As much as 86 per cent in fact moved to neighbouring developing countries. The poorest countries were therefore suffering the greatest impacts of migration.

Countries must find better solutions to migration. For example, they must create legislation that promoted the well-being of refugees and allocate resources to protect their human rights. It was a global problem which required extensive cooperation.

Mr. E.A. LUVSANTSEREN (Mongolia) said that the Mongolian Parliament had adopted its national sustainable development agenda for 2030. The aims of the plan included eradicating poverty, improving education and health services, and ensuring green development. Mongolia had also hosted the Ulaanbaatar Dialogue Initiative on Northeast Asian Security. It was also a Member State of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

The response to the refugee crisis should focus on ensuring the dignity of refugees, supporting host countries and addressing the root causes of migration. It was the shared responsibility of all to promote safe movement of people and respect international law. Parliamentarians must cooperate to find solutions.

Mr. T. WATANABE (Japan) said that Japan had been taking in thousands of Indochinese refugees for a number of years. It was also absorbing refugees from Myanmar and accepting young Syrians to study. Indeed, Japan's third country resettlement programme was the first in Asia. It was also crucial to integrate refugees. To that end, Japan offered language education, provided vocational support and conducted periodic surveys.

States must respond quickly to people in crisis and restore political and economic stability in countries of origin. As a result, Japan's refugee programme offered both humanitarian and development assistance. Japan was also engaging in conflict prevention, reconstruction and peacebuilding, particularly in the Middle East. It was crucial to follow up after implementing any policy.

The refugee issue was a common challenge for international society. Parliamentarians must raise awareness of it.

Mr. N. EVANS (United Kingdom) said that it was paramount that EU citizens living in the United Kingdom had the right to remain with full rights after Brexit. British citizens living in other EU countries must be able to do the same. Many people chose to migrate in pursuit of a better life. Governments could mitigate the situation by setting the lowest tariffs possible on trade. They should also have zero non-tariff barriers.

The United Kingdom gave 0.7 per cent of its GDP to international development. He urged other countries to match that figure. The international community must do more to address the causes of migration. It must support countries that were overburdened by refugees, including Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Bangladesh. Indeed, the Burmese Government was not doing enough to deter its people from fleeing to Bangladesh. Countries must also give support to the people of Venezuela who were suffering as a result of bad governance. Many Venezuelan parliamentarians did not get paid because their Government refused to recognize them as legitimate. There was also a starvation crisis despite the country being rich in resources.

Ms. M.J. CARRIÓN (Ecuador) said that the international community must advocate for universal citizenship. Universal citizenship went beyond political borders and included all people in the global sphere without discrimination. Free movement was an inherent part of universal citizenship and must be guaranteed. It was important to prioritize vulnerable populations such as mothers and elderly people.

There could be no sustainable development without sustainable peace. There could be no sustainable peace without sustainable development. Above all, parliaments must ensure a fairer distribution of wealth and cover the basic needs of populations. They must also put in place legislation to address the refugee problem. Ecuador was committed to achieving peace and development within Latin America and globally. It had already absorbed many refugees fleeing the conflict in Colombia.

Ms. A. Tolley (New Zealand), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. S. LIENGBONLERTCHAI (Thailand) said that Thailand was committed to facilitating legal migration based on human rights and humanitarian principles. The international community must work together to address the issue.

Thailand had hosted millions of displaced people over the past four decades. It had signed memorandums of understanding with neighbouring countries to expand regular employment pathways and thus control irregular movement. The country had also passed several laws on managing migrant workers.

Thailand believed in a balanced, inclusive and comprehensive approach to migration. It supported the two global compacts since they would help achieve the SDGs. Parliaments could maximise the benefits of migration by reducing unfair burdens on migrants through legislation and policy.

Ms. M. BARTOS (Hungary) said that humanity was experiencing one of the biggest crises in its history. Nation, country, community, faith and culture were essential for mankind to survive the crisis. However, individuals must also serve the community to which they belonged.

Migration was a symptom of the crisis and not the cause itself. First and foremost, the international community must manage the causes of migration. It was necessary to create conditions that allowed people to stay in their home country. Hungary was providing assistance in numerous domains under its Hungary Helps programme. For instance, it was supporting the work of the UN World Food Programme, reconstructing houses in Iraq and providing healthcare and psychosocial support in Lebanon.

Hungary could not support the global compact for migration since it did not reflect the Hungarian experience. Nevertheless, Hungary would remain an active player in the international community.

Mr. R. GONZÁLEZ PATRICIO (Latin American and Caribbean Parliament) said that Latin America had historically been a receiving region but had become a sending and transit region in the twentieth century. It was regretful that some industrialized countries were closing their borders and politicising migration. Countries would not contain the influx of refugees by denying its existence, criminalising migrants, building walls or setting up camps. Above all, it was vital to deal with the root causes. There was also a need for greater international cooperation and shared responsibility. The Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO) had taken steps in that regard, for instance, by setting up working groups and alliances with the European Parliament. Countries must also combat all acts of hate, xenophobia or racism that targeted migrants.

PARLATINO recognized the sovereignty of States in determining their migration policy while also underscoring the duty to respect the human rights of migrants. The only way to make progress was to do it incrementally.

Mr. P. GALLAGHER (Ireland) said that migration resonated with Ireland since the country's history was interwoven with migratory flows. It was paramount to protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of their status. As such, countries must respect the principle of non-refoulement and tackle people smuggling networks. However, Ireland also supported the principle of sovereignty and the right of countries to decide who to admit. Diaspora communities could play a key role in promoting development both in their homeland and in the recipient countries. States must balance their obligation to manage their borders with the opportunity to take advantage of the benefits of migration.

The key to maximising the benefits of migration was the establishment of well-managed migration systems which facilitated the orderly mobility of migrants. All policies must be based on clear evidence. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) should play a leading and coordinating role in the implementation and follow up process for the global compacts. It was also important to reduce irregular migration and to address root causes, such as climate change and conflict.

Many people in the developed world were unaware that developing countries hosted the overwhelming majority of refugees. Countries must work together to ensure that the public was better informed. Significant resources must also be mobilised to meet the humanitarian and development needs of migrants but also of host countries which were frequently poor and marginalised. The global compact on migration required a greater distinction between regular and irregular migration, as well as between migrants and refugees.

Ms. B. TSHIRELETSO (Botswana) said that migration was a global phenomenon which affected most countries in the world. Policies must focus on the management of global migration and the protection of people affected by displacement. Host countries must also come up with a national integration policy to guarantee migrants a decent standard of living.

Botswana lacked a timely and comprehensive approach that coupled border management with the protection of migrants. As a result, the Government was finding it difficult to provide basic social services to migrants. Instead, it was having to spend its money on repatriating illegal immigrants. To address the problem, the Government had reviewed and amended several migration laws. Countries must continue improving their policies and legislation with a view to enhancing the living conditions of migrants.

Mr. I. FLORES (Chile) said that migration must occur through regular channels. In doing so, it could be a driver of national and regional development. Countries had an obligation to adapt international standards into their national systems.

The nature of migration in Latin America and the Caribbean had changed. There had been a reduction in the number of migrants moving to North America or Europe, and an increase of movement within the region. In response, countries had introduced many integration processes and signed various regional agreements under the auspices of such organisations as MERCOSUR (Common Market of the South) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). Although progress had been made, there was still a long way to go. Between 2010 and 2015, Chile had seen the largest proportional increase of migrants of all countries in Latin America. It did not, however, have many refugees. It was nevertheless making an effort to welcome those that did arrive. The country had also ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

The only way to tackle migration was to do it together as a global community within a shared framework of principles and values centred on human rights. It was also necessary to respect the sovereignty of all States and their responsibility to safeguard the security of their own citizens. The global framework must incorporate the SDG agenda and be subject to systematic reviews.

It was a paradox that greater movement of capital, goods and services globally had led to greater barriers on human mobility. As such, it was important to foster conditions that benefited both national citizens and migrants.

Mr. F. LOMBARDI (Switzerland) said that he expressed solidarity with the parliamentarians of Venezuela as well as those from other countries whose society or government made their work difficult. Although Switzerland was not a frontline State in the migration crisis, it had developed an advanced migration system. It adhered to the EU Dublin Agreement and was taking the same proportion of refugees that would be required under the EU relocation programme. The country strongly respected human rights in all its procedures and had developed integration programmes. Switzerland emphasised the need to maintain a distinction between refugees and economic migrants so that States could prioritize those with more urgent needs.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) had decided to create a permanent ad hoc committee on migration. The IPU should consider doing the same. The committee had various purposes. First, it created a dedicated group of parliamentarians from different countries that specialised in migration issues. Second, it coordinated activities with international organisations, NGOs, public and private bodies. Third, it went on field visits to different locations. Fourth, it raised awareness among parliamentarians on the need for a new vision on the issue. Indeed, it was crucial to find a shared vision for migration management that was both coherent and responsible. Emergency response was not enough. Switzerland supported the efforts of the United Nations to finalise the global compacts.

Mr. A. GRYFFROY (Belgium) said that the only migration channel should be legal migration, with visas and through relocation. Countries must make more effort to stop irregular and illegal migration with a focus on combatting trafficking in persons, smuggling and slavery. It was important to make a clear distinction between refugees and migrants. Most affected countries must receive humanitarian and development assistance. There must be more emphasis on the push factors of migration, such as conflict, bad governance and climate change.

The international community must protect the human rights of all migrants. However, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants confused human rights with civil rights. Newcomers had rights but they also had responsibilities. They must accept the values and norms of the host society. It was disappointing that the New York Declaration paid limited attention to return policies. If the outcome of an asylum application was negative, the applicant must return.

Mr. A. DERZSI (Romania) said that Romania had taken steps towards addressing the migration crisis although it was not directly affected by it. For example, the country had relocated many refugees from Greece and Italy. It had also set up an inter-ministerial coalition for the integration of refugees which attended to their basic needs, such as housing, health and education.

Romania's national strategy on migration promoted legality, responsibility, sovereignty, cooperation, coherence and respect for human rights. The aim was to encourage regular migration in a way which benefited the host country, the country of origin and the migrants themselves. Romania would also contribute to finding an international solution on the protection and integration of migrants and refugees.

Parliaments of host countries were responsible for the integration of migrants not only through their legislative, budgetary and oversight functions but also through their links to local communities. Local authorities must have the capacity, budget and legal framework to provide all services needed. Parliamentarians must engage all stakeholders within their constituencies, including the private sector and civil society.

A sustainable and efficient solution to migration required international solidarity, cooperation and shared responsibility. It must be based on human rights and the rule of law. Given that migration went hand in hand with development, all measures should also be integrated within the SDGs.

Ms. J. URPILAINEN (Finland) said that migrants had the will to contribute to society when they were given opportunities. They must not be seen as burdens, but as people who built society. Integration policies were particularly important. Finnish integration policy promoted the equality, inclusion and well-being of migrants. Examples of the many measures taken included setting up an advisory board on ethnic relations and allowing migrants to vote in municipal elections.

Currently, the world's response to the migration crisis was inadequate and underfunded which left refugees with an uncertain future. It was important to offer humanitarian assistance to refugees but also to tackle the root causes. Countries must pay particular attention to climate change in addition to conflict. They must also work towards the SDGs.

Progress on difficult issues usually occurred when there was enough pressure. The international community must take advantage of the momentum generated by the global compacts. The global compacts were important since they offered concrete measures to tackle the problem. For instance, they offered measures for migrant or refugee status determination, to enhance legal migration pathways and reduce vulnerabilities.

Mr. S. IRO (Niger) said that migration was inherent to humanity. It was therefore the duty of States to provide migrants with the necessary protections. Those protections included human rights and humane living conditions. So far, international efforts had not been satisfactory. It was particularly important to address the causes of irregular migration and set up regular migration routes.

Niger was a transit country for migrants moving towards Europe. Under an agreement with the EU, the Government had implemented a number of measures to better manage migratory flows. However, any durable solution required countries to improve the social and economic well-being of their citizens. It was also imperative to address terrorism.

Ms. C. ROTH (Germany) said that migration was a very urgent yet ignored issue. Although war, violence, discrimination and political persecution remained common causes of migration, the climate crisis and environmental degradation were also factors. Industrialised countries must look at how their actions were contributing to the problem and radically reform their politics. They must no longer accept that their exports, growth and consumption lead to poverty and overexploitation of natural resources elsewhere. An approach focused on tackling the root causes of migration must be reflected in the global compacts. Such an approach would require structural reform in areas such as trade, agriculture, fishing, foreign policy and climate action. It would require consistent implementation of both the Paris Agreement and the SDGs. Developed countries would also need to support developing countries resolutely. Other critical measures included establishing safe and legal avenues for migration and improving protection for climate change refugees which was currently non-existent.

Mr. A. JASEM AHMAD (United Arab Emirates) said that the migrant crisis had arisen as a result of conflicts in the Arab world. Those conflicts were primarily due to external interventions in the private affairs of sovereign States. One example was that of the Islamic Republic of Iran which was intervening in a number of countries either directly or through proxies. In particular, Iran's actions in Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunb were a grave violation of international law. Iran must restore ownership of the islands to the United Arab Emirates. Furthermore, Israel did not have the right to change the status of Jerusalem. Doing so would also lead to an escalation of violence.

Parliamentarians must solve the refugee crisis since it was causing political, humanitarian and socioeconomic problems, threatening stability and undermining international law. The global compacts must consider the basic rights of refugees. The United Arab Emirates had provided a great deal of aid to refugees and migrants. For example, it had funded camps in Jordan and spent billions on improving education and infrastructure in Yemen.

Mr. L. KHAN (Afghanistan) delivered his speech in Pashto. No interpretation available.

A delegate of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN exercising the right of reply, said that the delegate from the United Arab Emirates had delivered baseless allegations against the territorial integrity of Iran. The allegations ran counter to international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the principle of good neighbourly relations. Iran reiterated its own non-negotiable sovereignty over the islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunb. However, Iran was committed to ensuring security, stability and lasting peace in the Persian Gulf. It was therefore ready to engage in bilateral talks with the United Arab Emirates to remove misunderstandings.

The sitting rose at 6.35 p.m.

Sitting of Tuesday, 27 March (Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 11.05 a.m., with Mr. A. Jasem Ahmad (United Arab Emirates), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on the theme *Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees: The need for evidence-based policy solutions*

Resumption of the General Debate

Ms. B. MBETE (South Africa) said that the migration debate centred on the need to surmount physical boundaries and borders created by ignorance in order to welcome those forced by circumstances to seek shelter outside their home countries. Well placed to build bridges to that end, parliamentarians must work to strengthen inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration issues, including governance, and the global regime for migrants and refugees. Supported by appropriate policies, migration could contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic growth and to development in original and host countries alike. The numerous structural factors influencing decisions to migrate continued to intensify, however. For South Africa, a sender and recipient of migrants, challenges included that of integrating migrants into communities already competing for scarce resources, which created tensions leading sometimes to violence. Most migrants to South Africa were either low-skilled, asylum seekers or were granted residence on the strength of a relationship with a national.

Through their oversight, legislative and budgetary functions, parliamentarians must seek to implement the commitments made under the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. South Africa would participate actively in the two global compact processes, which must retain the right of States to determine their own immigration and residence policies; place no additional responsibilities, burdens or obligations on developing host countries; and address the root causes of migration. The mobilization of adequate, regular and predictable funding was furthermore essential for implementation and should include global development actors while excluding loan facilities, which were burdensome on indebted developing countries, particularly in Africa.

Mr. D. CARTER (New Zealand) said that New Zealand was unlikely to experience a spontaneous landfall of people, as its two main islands were surrounded by vast and dangerous oceans. Many strove to enter the country as legal migrants, however, and migration growth had recently exceeded its population growth by more than double to the point where over one quarter of its population was born outside New Zealand, making for a diverse and exciting society including also its indigenous Maori people. The country's legal migration framework was a true partnership with migrants as contributing citizens, to whom extensive support was available, as needed, to promote their assimilation.

New Zealand was compliant with its international treaty obligations and cognizant of the need to protect the most vulnerable to, among other, manipulation, economic abuse, sexual violence and human trafficking in migrant and refugee situations. It was considering legislation to protect minors against forced marriage and scrutinized businesses and others dispensing advice to potential migrants, revoking the licence of any business found to be unprofessional. An independent tribunal had been established to ensure that all such advisors operated within the law. New Zealand would furthermore deal responsibly with any future climate migrants from its close Pacific neighbours threatened with displacement from sea level rise. It continued to be an open-facing country and pledged a constant effort, spurred on by the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, to counter any xenophobia and intolerance of migrants and refugees.

Mr. I.V. FIGIR (Federated States of Micronesia) said that displacement defined the current age, with people everywhere on the move in search of safety, employment and a future for their children. Often they had no choice, ejected from their homes for having the "wrong" ethnicity, religion or skin colour. To leave one's home was not a human characteristic. In Micronesia, people refused opportunities in favour of remaining in the environment of their own customs and traditions. Yet they and their fellow Pacific islanders would eventually need to move to escape climate change effects, including sea level rise and loss of fresh water reserves through salt water seepage. Migrants and refugees nonetheless landed on their shores seeking better lives, security and potential happiness.

The fulcrum of such movements of people lay in tragic stories, legacies and unresolved problems, notably in the Middle East region, concerning which there was a numbness of global proportions demanding global solutions. Thinking globally meant acting locally, however. On the forthcoming annual Micronesian Law Day, a nationwide debating competition was to be organized for secondary students on the subject of whether Micronesia should abide by international standards in its treatment of migrants and refugees. Micronesia had also made a modest contribution to the IPU for activities relating to migrants and refugees. In effect, no country was too big to care or too small to evade responsibility concerning migrants and refugees. He appealed against cuts in assistance for Palestinian refugees and urged concerted efforts to settle the Syrian conflict. Micronesia stood ready to do its share, however modest.

Mr. F.M. AMORUSO (Honorary President, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean) said that the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration was a key turning point in that it sought to address migration issues by treating them as a shared international responsibility. No country could resolve those issues singlehanded and none should be left to do so, as had effectively happened to some in Southern Europe. The global compact also crucially focused on protecting the rights of migrants, especially vulnerable groups such as women and children. As to the drivers of migration, they included war and poverty but also population growth and, increasingly, climate change. Desertification and water scarcity in sub-Saharan Africa alone, for example, had caused millions to migrate elsewhere. There was also a tendency to believe that people moved only northwards, whereas the truth was that many simply headed to neighbouring countries. It was now often difficult, however, to distinguish migrants from refugees in that both were targeted for by criminal groups seeking to exploit them for profit. For all those reasons and more, migration entailed a complex set of problems to be tackled. One way forward should be to promote sustainable development as a means of reducing outward migration by instead giving people cause to stay in their home countries. In short, no one should be forced to migrate other than by choice.

Mr. E. VONGVICHIT (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that, in cooperation with the neighbouring countries and international organizations, his country had attempted to resolve the migration issues it faced as a result of being surrounded by five countries with strong economies. It was implementing the numerous international treaties it had ratified and welcomed the IPU's endorsement of the declaration that had emanated from the theme of the General Debate at the 133rd IPU Assembly in 2015, concerning the imperative for fairer, smarter and more humane migration. It also fully supported IPU resolutions, including that adopted in 2014 on the role of parliaments in protecting the rights of children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children, and in preventing their exploitation in situations of armed conflict, which had guided its development of national policy in that sphere. It was furthermore involved in the current discussions on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

At the national level, it was taking measures to uphold human rights and the principles of non-discrimination. Under its Constitution, asylum was granted to foreign nationals persecuted because they fought for freedom, justice, peace and scientific causes. The rights and freedoms of stateless persons and foreign nationals were also protected by law, which both groups were under obligation to respect, and the Constitution provided for their right to file claims and lodge petitions.

Ms. H. KÜTT (Estonia) said that the international community must prepare itself for the challenges and opportunities presented by the ever-increasing scale of migration. In that context, efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and poverty eradication would promote the equality and security needed for people to build futures in their own countries. Estonia was committed to protecting the human rights of all migrants and refugees, with a special focus on vulnerable groups, especially women and children, and youth. It also emphasized public diplomacy and political dialogue as means of preventing conflict, a root cause of migration that also affected neighbouring countries, as exemplified by the plight of Syrian, Rohingya and Ukrainian refugees.

In addition to its other aims, the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration should cover the responsibility of States towards their own citizens. It should thus include measures for tackling irregular migration, including through combating human trafficking and smuggling; seek to ensure opportunities for all, especially youth; underline the role of international development cooperation in creating adequate living conditions; and recall the obligation of States to facilitate and accept the unconditional return and readmission of their nationals. Following a human-centred approach, the compact must also strengthen global migration management while taking into account the principle of national sovereignty. In countries of origin, the development of digital

technologies and services would foster economic growth and sustainable development, as well as reduce the pressure of irregular migration. Voluntary migration enriched culture, knowledge and development. Engagement and opportunities were therefore essential to that end.

Mr. D. XIMENES (Timor-Leste) said that parliamentarians embodied the hopes of their constituents for justice and the protection of human rights and therefore had an important contribution to make to the discussion of such a global issue as migration. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted in 2016 had spelled out the commitments undertaken for both groups by Heads of States and Governments, including protection of their human rights regardless of their status. Parliamentarians must fully engage in working to create a legal framework to that end and to find innovative solutions to the conflict and violence that forced so many millions around the world to flee for survival.

For their part, countries must share the responsibility, on the basis of their respective capacities, for managing large movements of refugees and migrants with a view to achieving safe, orderly and regular migration. Migration policy should furthermore take into account the labour needs in destination countries for migrants, whose contribution helped to foster socio-economic development in those countries. The causes of migratory flows, including poor governance, poverty and climate change effects, must also be tackled. In closing, he recalled the fate of the thousands of refugees in Algeria from Western Sahara, the last colony in Africa, and urged recognition of the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination after their decades of fruitless struggle to achieve that aim.

Mr. J.M. KATUPHA (Mozambique) said that no one could afford to be indifferent to an issue that affected all people and nations, whether directly or indirectly. The many millions of regular and irregular migrants around the world shared the common goal of a secure and better life. Indeed, migration and refugee flows were symptomatic of deep-seated causes ranging from injustice, inequality and conflict to natural disaster and imbalances in the distribution of wealth and resources. A thorough analysis of those causes would assist the development of appropriate mechanisms, currently inadequate, for effectively managing migratory flows among countries of destination, origin and transit. The challenge lay in ensuring that all such countries implemented the norms and principles established for that purpose. Parliamentarians must therefore produce legislation guaranteeing freedom of movement across borders as a human right and dignified treatment for both migrants and refugees as citizens of the world.

In Mozambique, the past civil war had sparked a mass exodus of citizens but the peace and security since re-established had fostered the growth of business and tourism, attracting migrants from around the world, who were welcomed. The country was also one of transit for irregular migrants, however, which created pressures. Mozambique therefore looked forward to the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and the parliamentary input thereto.

Ms. M. IONOVA (Ukraine) said that Ukraine was among the countries with the highest number of persons internally displaced by military conflict, due in its case to the Russian aggression against it. Poised to enter its fifth year, the illegal Russian occupation of Crimea and the devastating war in Donbass had brought dire humanitarian consequences and caused thousands of Ukrainian deaths. The actions of the Russian-led forces were furthermore deliberately intended to increase the risk of disaster, while the repressive policies and systematic abuses of the Russian occupation authorities had created many thousands of internally displaced persons and refugees. The millions affected in Donbass continued to need humanitarian assistance and protection. Thousands of children, furthermore, still lived in the dangerous grey zone littered with mines.

As part of its responsibility to protect and assist internally displaced persons, the Ukrainian Government had introduced relevant legislation, administrative procedures and coordination, and response mechanisms. It also provided social services and benefits for all internally displaced persons, whose lives it was working to improve through improved access to health care, education, shelter and employment. Ukraine actively cooperated with relevant United Nations agencies and other international organizations. Countries must be assisted not only to overcome problems facing migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons but also to identify the reasons that forced them to leave their homes. Those problems would not disappear, however, without united action to stop all Russian oppression. On that score, all Ukrainians looked to the IPU for solidarity and support.

Mr. J.I. ECHANIZ (Spain) said that the movement of people was forecast to grow as conflicts and socio-economic conditions worsened in the interconnected world. The human rights-based processes under way to improve migration management in countries of destination, origin and transit were therefore apt and timely. It would require political will and leadership to implement their

outcomes which must be reflected in national and regional laws to ensure, on the basis of shared responsibility, an effective response to migratory pressures. Parliamentarians would accordingly play an instrumental role in the ultimate success of those processes. As a country of origin, transit and destination owing to its geographical location and historical ties, Spain had drawn on its experience to develop good practices in its own migration policy and strategy. It was thus committed to implementation of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration as an evidence-based framework for resolving migration-related issues.

Noting the high number of Venezuelans forced to migrate from their failed and corrupt State, he called for solidarity in supporting their cause. Not only was their Government preventing the establishment of a humanitarian corridor to ease the shortages of food and medicine; it was also violating the human rights of parliamentarians, including by refusing to release funding for their salaries in a move that had likewise affected the payment of contributions for Venezuelan membership of international organizations. The IPU Members must continue to stand united against such actions as part of the international pressure on that Government to guarantee respect for human rights and democracy.

Mr. M. ALSHADADI (Yemen) said that his country remained in violent turmoil following the power grab by Houthi militias, whose actions in defiance of the peaceful transition agreement brokered through dialogue had led to the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 2216 (2015) calling on them to withdraw from government institutions and relinquish all arms. The Houthis had failed to comply, however, at which point an Arab coalition had stepped in on behalf of the recognized government.

The Houthis had committed crimes against humanity in Yemen, which included shelling civilian areas and preventing the delivery of food and medicine. The result had been a humanitarian crisis and an outbreak of disease, with assistance provided essentially only thanks to the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre and the Emirates and Kuwait Red Crescent Societies. Thousands had been killed and injured, thousands of properties destroyed and millions displaced. The Houthis had moreover fired internationally prohibited missiles supplied by the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was thus directly responsible for Yemeni deaths. He called on that country to desist from its activities in Yemen and furthermore to cease its occupation of the islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa. He also urged the IPU to condemn the ongoing Houthi crimes against humanity; call for the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 2216 (2015); and avoid all dealings with the militias and their illegitimate institutions, in particular the House of Representatives, which was not to be trusted.

Ms. S. ERRANTE (France) said that all governments and parliaments must continue to monitor progress in the development of the two global compacts relating to migration and refugees. Poverty, insecurity and lack of basic needs ranked highest among the multiple drivers of migration. The quest for international peace must therefore be a long-term priority with a view to ending suffering and liberating resources for tackling such issues, which demanded strong political will. It also called for investment by all stakeholders in sustainable development to restore hope in all those lacking access to essential services. In order to further that goal and in turn help to reduce migration, including that prompted by climate change, important initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance could be replicated in other spheres. Indeed, structural projects to provide futures where none existed must be supported to promote achievement of the SDGs.

In France, cooperation was deemed vital for dealing with migration issues. Legislation was envisaged to facilitate the integration of migrants, for whom the complex administration procedures should be streamlined and access to housing and employment improved. Parliament was engaged in rising to those challenges so as to improve the situation of migrants. Recent events in the island of Mayotte had underlined the pressing need to deal with the criminal networks exploiting migrants, including unaccompanied minors, and profiting at their expense. All must join France in its commitment to daily combating human trafficking and people smuggling—the disgrace of the century—until their eradication.

Ms. D. SOLÓRZANO (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said it was saddening that her country was no longer in a position to offer solutions to migration issues as it had problems of its own. Deprived of food and medicine under the current dictatorship, its citizens were being forced in their thousands to flee from the resulting humanitarian disaster and take refuge in neighbouring countries. In addition to destroying the country's industry and economic development, the regime was continuing to undermine democracy through, among others, its bid to extend its rule. She therefore appealed to the IPU Members to adopt a firm position of solidarity with the Venezuelan people in the hope of rescuing democracy and resolving the political and humanitarian crisis.

Ms. E. THALEN FINNE (Sweden) said that the imperative for action to address migration issues was underscored by the rapidly mounting figures on migrants. It was heart-breaking for people to be migrating without choice through circumstances not of their own making. Change was possible, however, as shown by Sweden, which no longer sent migrants but received them. Crucial to strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees was the gender equality aspect. The human rights of women and indeed children must be guaranteed, together with their protection from violence, sexual abuse and forced marriage. Similarly crucial were the protection of stateless persons and the need for countries to share the burdens associated with migration insofar as no country was untouched by it. Such aspects chimed with the target articulated in Goal 10 of the SDGs, which was to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration, including through the implementation of planned and well-manage migration policies.

Parliamentarians bore a responsibility to ensure that migrants were welcomed and integrated into their host communities and given opportunities to contribute. Sweden had long been shouldering its share of responsibility for migrants. Stronger regional and international cooperation would be needed, however, in pursuit of concrete measures for implementation of the global compacts and for the establishment of adequate monitoring mechanisms. Parliamentarians thus had an important job ahead of them, for it was their actions in their home countries that would determine the success achieved in addressing the complex challenge of migration.

Ms. Z. GRECEANÎI (Republic of Moldova) said that migration not only brought about a redistribution of labour resources but also determined trends in bilateral relations and domestic policy. The migration issues facing Moldova were system-wide and attributable to the lack of oversight of both inbound and outbound migration. The increasing number of those leaving Moldova, including many of its youth, did so primarily in order to seek work and better living standards in either the Russian Federation or Europe, where they integrated into the host communities and often became permanent residents. While they made a positive contribution to Moldovan development through their remittances, their absence from the Moldovan workforce deprived the country of their skills. The national demography was also affected as a result of fewer marriages and in turn a declining birth rate. Efforts were therefore needed to promote and enhance the country's socio-economic stability and create new jobs in order to reduce outward labour migration. Stricter regulation would also help such situations as would coordination with destination countries, which could furthermore promote mutual benefit by rechanneling resources spent on integration activities into development assistance for sending countries.

Mr. A.S.M. FERAZ (Bangladesh) said that Bangladesh had been firmly sensitized to the rights and welfare needs of refugees and displaced persons as a result of its war for liberation during which many of its people had been forced to seek refuge elsewhere. It had thus been hosting—and not for the first time—large numbers of the Rohingya forcibly displaced from Myanmar and was working with international partners to provide their basic needs and secure their right to a secure and sustainable return to their homeland. The Rohingya were denied a nationality, however, giving cause for grave concern over their statelessness. In Myanmar, they were also denied access to basic rights and subjected to extreme violence and persecution, described as a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing" by the United Nations Secretary-General. As the country providing shelter to the Rohingya on humanitarian grounds, Bangladesh urged the IPU Members to continue mobilizing public opinion and working for a democratic and meaningful solution to the crisis.

Mr. G. DAUDZE (Latvia) said that the two global compacts relating to migrants and refugees were a welcome first step towards building the common understanding, approach and commitment needed to overcome the challenges entailed in achieving efficient and sustainable migration management. Global measures, however, should be initiated only where national actions were inefficient. It was essential to strengthen comprehensive and strategic cooperation with main migration origin and transit countries, with a special focus on readmission. In that context, regional cooperation was particularly important for boosting the limited capacity of single countries to address regional migration flows. Global solutions, furthermore, potentially lacked flexibility and needs-tailored approaches. Sustainability was an important principle linked to that of voluntary participation in activities relating to relocation, admission and legal migration, which should correspond to the socio-economic situation, labour market needs and national capacity of the destination country. Individuals should be relocated only as a last resort in emergency situations.

Its small population notwithstanding, Latvia was fulfilling its pledge to shelter a fixed number of migrants from other European countries. For the past three years, it had been implementing an action plan specific to its circumstances for the selection, relocation, admission and accommodation of asylum seekers and for the economic inclusion of refugees and persons having obtained alternative status. On the basis of the concrete experience acquired as a result, the relevant legislation had recently been amended.

Mr. M. THAMBI DURAI (India) said that international migration was an imperative in the world of vast opportunities created by globalization and scientific and technological advances where resources were used for the common benefit. For centuries home to people of different faiths from around the world, India was open to the idea of human movement and indeed had a diaspora of its own that contributed significantly to the socio-economic and cultural environment of the host countries concerned. It believed that labour migration should be simplified and that well-managed professional mobility would benefit both source and destination countries. In its efforts to prioritize safe, orderly and regular migration, it had introduced effective immigration and residence laws, measures to combat irregular migration and human trafficking, and arrangements concerning such matters as pre-departure orientation training and mutual recognition of skills.

Different courses of action were required for refugees and migrants as distinct and separate groups. India was not a signatory to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees but its domestic law was adequate for dealing with refugees as vulnerable groups. All residents of India enjoyed legal protection, equality before the law and non-discrimination. Concerning migrants, not all host countries gave due recognition to their contribution or guaranteed their basic right to a life of dignity. Receiving countries should not perceive their upkeep as a burden but as part of the remuneration for their labour and toil. The IPU must call for the universal safety and well-being of migrants and for restoration of the dignity of labour.

Ms. L. LEGARDA (Philippines) said that the Philippines had long been both a receiving and a sending country, with many of its citizens living and working in numerous occupations worldwide. While helping to sustain the growth of the Philippines economy, those citizens also undeniably contributed to the vibrancy of the economies in their host countries through what some called reverse foreign aid and others simply human development. Cross-border movement should never occur at the expense of dignity, however, yet respect for women migrant workers was not universal. They instead remained the most vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, forced labour and violence, as evidenced by the thousands of distressed Filipino workers who had sought consular assistance.

With worldwide displacement at an all-time high, humane and evidence-based policymaking was a must. The global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration should thus be pursued as a platform for the collective action that was clearly lacking. It must be human rights-centred; address both human rights and sustainable development; incorporate the standards of protection enshrined in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants; be guided by outcome documents from other processes; establish international migration governance as a responsibility shared among sending, receiving and transit States; and be gender-responsive and child-sensitive. Its 360-degree approach was welcome and, in view of the range of expected actionable commitments, it would make sense for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to play a lead coordinating role in the areas of implementation and capacity-building.

A delegate from the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the delegate from Yemen had made baseless allegations concerning the territorial integrity of the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf. Furthermore, it was inconceivable that any heavy military equipment could have been delivered to Yemen at a time when the land, sea and air blockade of that country made even the delivery of humanitarian aid impossible. Ever since the start of the Yemeni crisis, his country had spoken out against foreign military intervention, saying that it would complicate and exacerbate the situation. Humanitarian conditions in Yemen were dire and the military strikes achieved nothing for those who supported the unjust war. Yemen belonged to all Yemenis and no country had the right to interfere in its domestic affairs. The situation would be resolved only through political dialogue among Yemenis.

The sitting rose at 1.20 p.m.

Sitting of Tuesday, 27 March (Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.30 p.m., with Ms. C. Roth (Germany), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on the theme *Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees: The need for evidence-based policy solutions*

Resumption of the Debate

Ms. M. GUERRA CASTILLO (Mexico) said that the future global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration presented a historic opportunity for the international community to improve the governance of migration. Recent population movements had sparked xenophobic reactions and hate speech in disregard of the socio-economic and cultural benefits of migration for countries of origin and destination alike. The development of new and humane responses to migration, with its multiple causes, was a shared responsibility. All migrants must be treated with dignity and respect for their human rights, which was among the aims of the global compact.

For Mexico, host of the preparatory meeting on the global compact held in Puerto Vallarta in December 2017, the global compact was a foreign policy priority. As parliamentarians, they must advance solutions from the local perspective in the interest of achieving true global governance of migration. Those solutions must translate into a global compact that was balanced, non-discriminatory, human rights-based and people-centred, and that offered guidelines for measurable compliance with its principles. Vulnerable migrants, including unaccompanied children, merited a special focus. The compact must aim to decriminalize irregular migration. Measures were also needed to end discrimination against migrants in all its manifestations. The global compact should be aligned with other relevant instruments, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and remain discrete from the future global compact on refugees. Implementation and follow-up were also vital and an area in which parliamentarians had an important oversight role to play.

Mr. W. WILLIAM (Seychelles) said that even small island States such as his were affected by migration and that the development of an evidence-based policy solution for migration management was a timely response to the wider impact of unplanned migration. The global compact was a tool aimed at creating orderly migration through change and adaptation with a view to the integration of migrants, an endeavour in which responsibilities must be common but differentiated. Solidarity was indeed the only means to its success. The causes of migration, including greed and selfishness that motivated exploitation of the vulnerable for personal gain, must be recognized and vigilance exercised in order to detect the early warning signs. Migration policies should be supported by rapid response mechanisms at the national, regional and global levels, as well as by good governance, effective rule of law, and appropriate legislation geared to modern-day realities.

The global compact was an opportunity for creativity in facilitating migration, which contributed knowledge, experience and skills. Sovereignty should not be used as a pretext for barriers to migration. That would be to deny the reality of globalization and would promote hatred, terrorism and rebellion, placing more lives at stake. The time was ripe for collective action on the common agenda to be embodied in the global compact, including through tackling such critical issues as gender equality and women's political empowerment. His delegation looked forward to joining in the IPU efforts to explore solutions and strategies for enhancing the global preparedness for a timely response to migration challenges.

Mr. M.R. MAJIDI (Asian Parliamentary Assembly) said that strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees through evidence-based policy was important for humanity in addressing the critical issue of migration. Together with response capacity, national, regional and global preparedness were key to the management of all migrant groups, including refugees. For its part, the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) worked to formulate measures for the protection of migrant rights with a view to fostering development and friendly relations among nations. Its resolutions, moreover, promoted the parliamentary role in development across the Asian region, covering subjects ranging from, among other, poverty alleviation and rights of migrant workers to environment, counter-terrorism and human trafficking. The APA championed peace, stability, good

governance and the crucial part played by parliaments in forging equality, justice and sustainable development. As such, it was eager to cooperate with other parliamentary assemblies for mutual benefit in the service of nations.

Mr. M. BEN SOUF (Tunisia) said that Tunisia was committed to ensuring decent conditions for migrants in host countries and to supporting international efforts to combat irregular migration. It had dealt humanely and responsibly with refugees on its soil and had formulated a national strategy for organized migration, with a focus on good governance, the Tunisian expatriate contribution to the country's development, and respect for the rights of migrants. An asylum bill was also being drafted on the basis of relevant international conventions and international humanitarian law with the aim of providing protection for refugees.

The political will to share responsibility for that protection indicated the strategic shift in the approach triggered first of all by the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. Adopted in 2013, the Declaration constituted an unprecedented commitment to building a support mechanism for migrants with regard to financial and legal assistance, resettlement, family reunification and so forth. A second trigger was the global compact, which was intended to spell out principles for guiding the management of international migration. The deplorable example of the Palestinian people forcibly displaced from their land and again from their refugee camps underscored the moral responsibility of the international community for improving the lives of refugees, as well as the need for a just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian question. Parliamentarians must work to translate proposals and initiatives into concrete measures and policies for addressing migration concerns at the national, regional and global levels, following a human rights-based approach, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mr. A. OMARI (Morocco) said that parliamentarians must seek optimum solutions for addressing the geopolitical, security, economic and social drivers of migration on the basis of shared ideals and values. Owing to its geographical location and multicultural features, Morocco was a particular destination for thousands of migrants from across the continent and beyond, whom it continued to host, despite the drain on its resources. Claims made by earlier speakers about its southern provinces were fallacious, as borne out by the international recognition of its proposal for the autonomy of those provinces as serious and credible. Morocco was proud of its leadership of the African Agenda on Migration and honoured to be hosting, in December 2018, an intergovernmental conference at which the global compact would be formally adopted. Parliamentarians must thereafter work in earnest to change migration and refugee policies.

In that context, firstly, it was important to recognize that all cultures had been enriched by migration. Secondly, forced migration was often due to human-made causes, meaning that measures to address the consequences were a shared responsibility. Thirdly, the overwhelming majority of migrants and refugees were not terrorists or extremists but contributors to the economic, cultural and scientific progress of receiving countries, while likewise benefiting their countries of origin. Lastly, migration should not be exploited for political or electoral gain, nor migrants used to turn public opinion against others on the basis of colour, religion or origin.

Ms. G. Cuevas Barron (Mexico), President of the IPU, took the Chair.

Special segment on *The dangers of weapons of mass destruction*

The PRESIDENT said that parliamentarians had been key in moving forward the IPU's long-standing agenda on combating the proliferation of weapons, in particular those of mass destruction, in order to arrive at international agreements, the Convention on Cluster Munitions being one of them, aimed at making the world a safer place. The IPU had also focused attention over the years on the devastation caused by small arms and light weapons and had adopted resolutions relating to chemical weapons, the recent use of which in the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Kingdom was highly disturbing and called for firm action. The IPU had furthermore always supported the United Nations process for the prohibition of nuclear weapons, in which context it had organized an interactive session at its 137th Assembly in St. Petersburg and, at the current Assembly, scheduled a workshop on implementation of the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons that had emanated from that process. All Members were encouraged to participate in the workshop.

She welcomed the guest speakers in the special segment, Mr. A. Üzümcü, Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), and Mr. N. Takamizawa, Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and President of the Fourth Conference of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, and invited them to address the Assembly.

Mr. A. ÜZÜMCÜ (Director-General, OPCW), *guest speaker*, said that OPCW was mandated to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention, a comprehensive international agreement that prohibited, without discrimination, the development, production, stockpiling, transfer, retention and use of chemical weapons, under conditions of strict international verification. As a result, almost all global stockpiles of chemical weapons had already been eliminated, which boded well for an unprecedented achievement in the history of disarmament: the eradication of an entire class of weapons of mass destruction. Future efforts would therefore focus primarily on measures to prevent the re-emergence of those weapons, in accordance with the obligations relating to non-proliferation under the Convention, through industry verification, data reporting, and promulgation and enforcement of national legislation.

With the singular purpose of ensuring a chemical weapons-free world, OPCW carried out wide-ranging activities and programmes in support of national implementation, including a Programme for Africa. The effectiveness of legislative and other regulatory measures, as well as of internal administrative structures, was critical to enforcement of the Convention and to preventing non-State actors from accessing materials for the potential development of chemical weapons. Such activities directly complemented the United Nations efforts to promote the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), concerning the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In that context, the OPCW Secretariat had actively focused on offering practical on-site assistance tailored to the needs of any of the 192 States Parties to the Convention that requested it, with concrete results; all but a handful had established or designated a National Authority, which was a crucial channel of communication with OPCW. Another crucial area of focus was ensuring that States Parties had in place all of the initial legislative and/or administrative measures needed for implementation of the Convention, a sphere in which much remained to be done insofar as over one third of the States Parties were still to achieve that aim.

The main challenges to effective national implementation included the fact that the requisite legislative processes were often long and painstaking, whereas they should instead be treated as a priority. OPCW thus offered support activities for the development of comprehensive laws relating to the Convention, as it was through strong regulatory and enforcement action that States Parties would prevent their territories from being used either for prohibited activities harmful to their own interests or as potential trafficking routes. Examples of those activities included internship programmes for drafters of implementing legislation, regional stakeholder forums, and influential visitors' programmes.

The elimination of weapons of mass destruction was of paramount importance, as was the prevention of their re-emergence, while reacting with unity against any breach of agreed norms was indispensable for sustaining the quest for global peace. Despite the remarkable progress achieved in the elimination of chemical weapons, recent experiences proved that the menacing threat of their use had not disappeared, as exemplified by the continuing work of OPCW in the Syrian Arab Republic and by the recent breaches in the United Kingdom. Continual and conscious efforts were needed to ensure a universal, strong and enduring norm against chemical weapons, including by stressing the need for countries that had not yet done so—Egypt, Israel, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and South Sudan—to become parties to the Convention, which would promote a climate of trust and also benefit regional and global security. Indeed, a truly universal Convention would impart even greater authority to measures against threats that affected all nations.

To those ends, the institutions and processes built for dialogue and cooperation must be strengthened and used to the fullest, with people of goodwill everywhere playing their part individually and through their representative bodies in civil society. The active participation of parliamentarians in those collective endeavours was critical to international peace and security. He therefore called on the IPU Members to take the necessary measures, in their respective countries, for full and effective implementation of the Convention, which was achievable only through comprehensive legislation. Twenty years after its entry into force, the Chemical Weapons Convention deserved to be addressed as a matter of priority. In view of the complexity of the security environment, in particular the growing terrorist threat, it was primarily in the interest of all States Parties to the Convention to ensure its effective implementation.

Mr. N. TAKAMIZAWA (Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva), *guest speaker*, explaining the issues relating to small arms and light weapons and the significance of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), said that parliamentarians had the power to promote both effective implementation of the Treaty and earnest deliberations in their home countries concerning its merits. Poor arms regulation enabled and sustained armed conflict, thus necessitating the establishment of adequate control systems to reduce armed violence and

foster the ability of communities to pursue sustainable development. The available data moreover indicated that excessive accumulation and widespread availability of small arms and light weapons increased the lethality and duration of violence.

Adopted in 2013, the ATT had entered into force in 2015 as the first legally binding treaty designed to regulate the international trade in conventional arms. Universalization was vital to ensuring that the Treaty was truly global and that its benefits prevailed. Its 94 States Parties, however, included very few countries in the Asia-Pacific and Middle East region, while 41 signatories had not yet completed the necessary procedures for becoming a State Party.

As stipulated in Article 1 of the Treaty, its essential purpose was to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in small weapons and light arms through regulation of the import, export, transit, trans-shipment and brokering of eight categories of conventional arms. Used in combination with the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects, a politically binding international instrument designed to curb small arms proliferation, it was a satisfactory tool to those ends. Key provisions included the establishment and maintenance of an international control system, including a national control list; the prohibition of arms transfer in specific cases; the conduct of risk assessments by exporting States Parties; reporting to ensure transparency and responsible trade; and international assistance for implementation, for which a Voluntary Trust Fund had been established. Challenges included the need to raise political awareness of the Treaty and to prioritize and build capacity for its implementation.

Seeking to dispel misconceptions that were major impediments to the universalization of the Treaty, he said that it neither banned nor promoted the arms trade; rather, it sought only to regulate the international arms trade with the aim of ensuring responsibility through the eradication of illicit trade. Second, it was not a disarmament treaty and therefore placed no obligation on States Parties to reduce or destroy their stockpiles. Third, the principles underlying its implementation respected the legitimate interest of States Parties, including the right to import arms for national security purposes. Fourth, there was no mandatory requirement to report sensitive national security information. Lastly, in addition to obligations, it had merits such as the assistance it provided through the Voluntary Trust Fund for capacity-building, reporting and indeed for project applications from non-States Parties committed to accession.

Misgivings expressed about the Treaty included the belief that its regulations were not strict enough, whereas in fact it set no more than common standards. States Parties wishing to do so were therefore able to adopt stricter measures. Nor was it true that major exporters were not part of the Treaty, particularly considering that membership enhanced the reputation and credibility of the defence industries of States Parties. The Treaty also had broader benefits in that it promoted global collaboration through the assistance provided by the Voluntary Trust Fund; created a sound environment for socio-economic development; contributed to achievement of the SDGs; reinforced national, regional and human security; and enhanced international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

All signatories and non-States Parties were welcome to attend the Fourth Conference of States Parties (CSP4) to the ATT due to take place in Tokyo, in August 2018. Indeed, their active participation in the Conference and its working groups would further their understanding of the Treaty with a view to ensuring that their national systems met the basic requirements for accession thereto.

The PRESIDENT thanked the guest speakers for their remarks and invited questions from the floor.

Mr. N. EVANS (United Kingdom), thanking the OPCW for its assistance to his country at the current time, asked Mr. A. Üzümcü what further measures parliamentarians could take to prevent the use of chemical weapons, bearing in mind that those called for in the resolution on the role of parliaments in supervising the destruction of chemical weapons and the ban on their use, adopted at the 129th IPU Assembly in 2013, were clearly insufficient to prevent the chemical attacks that had since taken place in the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Kingdom city of Salisbury. As demonstrated by those incidents, chemical attacks could occur in any country and he thanked all those who had given support to his country following the Salisbury attack.

A delegate from LEBANON asked whether sanctions were imposed for failure to comply with obligations imposed under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Mr. A. ÜZÜMCÜ (Director-General, OPCW), *guest speaker*, said that it had taken almost a century since World War I, in which millions of casualties were caused by chemical weapons, to develop a comprehensive treaty combating the use of such weapons. The numerous efforts to achieve that aim had culminated in 1997 with the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention, the implementation of which was the responsibility of the States Parties thereto. A collective commitment was required on the part of all governments to uphold that international norm against chemical weapons, which parliamentarians must also firmly uphold by taking a robust stand against all use of those weapons. The international community could not afford to allow the erosion of a norm into which so much time and energy had been channelled. As to non-compliance, the responsibility for imposing sanctions lay with the Security Council, which had not recently adopted any resolutions in that regard.

Mr. N. TAKAMIZAWA (Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva), *guest speaker*, invited Members to consult the information note on the ATT that had been circulated and emphasized the need for integrated efforts to combat small arms and light weapons, including through more effective implementation of the Treaty and improved reporting rates.

The PRESIDENT again thanked the guest speakers for having addressed the parliamentarians of the world at the IPU.

Item 9 of the agenda

The consequences of the US declaration on Jerusalem and the rights of the Palestinian people in Jerusalem in the light of the UN Charter and resolutions

(A/138/9-DR)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to a draft resolution—set out in document A/138/9-DR—prepared on the chosen emergency item by the drafting committee established for that purpose.

Mr. S. CRUSNIÈRE (Belgium), *Rapporteur of the drafting committee*, introducing the draft resolution, said that the drafting committee had been composed of members of the delegations of Belgium, Chad, Indonesia, Mexico, Morocco, Palestine, Uruguay and Zambia. It had engaged in an exchange of views reflecting the concerns of parliamentarians worldwide over the decision of the United States Administration to relocate its embassy to Jerusalem, following which it had finalized the draft resolution. In addition to renewing solidarity with and support for the Palestinian people in defending its just cause and legitimate rights, the text affirmed rejection of the United States decision and considered it null and void under international law. The draft resolution was both clear and succinct and he commended it to the Council for adoption.

Mr. D. PACHECO (Portugal), while recognizing the efforts of the drafting committee, said that parts of the text were controversial. He therefore proposed that the drafting committee should reconvene in order to reflect further on the text.

A delegate from the CZECH REPUBLIC expressed his delegation's reservation to the entire text of the draft resolution.

A delegate from FRANCE said that her delegation was broadly in favour of the text, albeit that some of the language was excessive. The delegation, however, supported both the right of Israel to a secure existence as a sovereign State and the creation of a Palestinian State within secure and recognized borders, with Jerusalem as the capital of both States. It therefore expressed a reservation to operative paragraph 2 of the text. The term "occupied Palestinian territory" used in the text was furthermore unclear. It would have been preferable to use "occupied Palestinian territories", in consistency with the language of relevant United Nations resolutions.

A delegate from TUNISIA said that the draft resolution reflected the unanimity of the world parliamentary community's condemnation of the outrageous United States decision, which was a threat to peace and should be reversed.

A delegate from HUNGARY said that her delegation supported the two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and wished to express its reservation to the text on the ground that it would do nothing to promote dialogue and understanding to that end.

A delegate from AUSTRALIA said that his delegation also supported the two-State solution and agreed with some elements of the text while strongly disagreeing with others. It therefore wished to reserve its position.

A delegate from CANADA, underscoring his delegation's strong support and respect for the IPU democratic process and tradition, expressed reservations concerning the substance of the text, as well as the sincere hope that the IPU Members could find the wisdom and courage to work together and reignite the collective nobility of purpose to foster dialogue towards peace as the only way forward.

A delegate from ITALY said that his delegation favoured the two-State solution and that the basic principles articulated in the draft resolution were acceptable but the text left no room for leeway in the quest for peace. Operative paragraph 2 was unacceptable, for instance, insofar as Jerusalem was a city of three religions.

A delegate from GERMANY expressed strong reservations to the draft resolution, in particular operative paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 thereof.

A delegate from MOROCCO, affirming the need for the IPU to take a clear position on the matter, said it was only to be expected that those who voted against the current emergency item might not support the draft resolution. He noted, however, that some of their countries had in fact voted in favour of the Security Council resolutions cited in the text.

Mr. N. EVANS (United Kingdom), supported by delegates from BELGIUM and PORTUGAL, said that his delegation backed the two-State solution and considered that the text as it stood did not bring the IPU together in support of dialogue. The delegation therefore supported the proposal for the drafting committee to revisit the text.

A delegate from JORDAN said that the outcome of the democratic vote on the emergency item must be respected, as must the resolutions and processes of the international community, which the Israeli occupier instead continued to ignore, while the United States declaration simply perpetuated the ongoing conflict. All Members of the IPU, including Israel, must accept its resolutions.

A delegate from the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, supported by delegates from INDONESIA, IRAQ, ALGERIA and LEBANON, said that it was unnecessary for the drafting committee to revisit the draft resolution, which should be adopted as it stood.

A delegate from KUWAIT, agreeing with that view, said that failure to observe the Rules of the Assembly relating to the emergency item and draft resolutions would set an undesirable precedent.

The PRESIDENT said that the emergency item had been selected in a democratic process and that the drafting committee had dedicated itself, within the time available, to the task assigned to it. From the views expressed, however, it was evident that the resulting draft resolution would not be adopted by consensus. The precedent to be set should therefore be one of dialogue towards consensus, to which end the proposal to revisit the text merited consideration, bearing in mind that it would under no circumstances entail any change of subject item. The aim of that proposal was to increase support for the draft resolution and avoid a prolonged debate for which time did not allow.

A delegate from IRAQ said that consensus was impossible and, supported by delegates from SUDAN, KUWAIT and BAHRAIN, that the majority view must therefore be respected, as in any democratic process.

The PRESIDENT reiterated that the aim was to work for consensus and that the only impact of the proposal, if agreed, would be to delay the adoption of the draft resolution.

A delegate from PORTUGAL confirmed that the Assembly voted on the subject and no one wished to change that, and that we needed to decide what was better for the Organization and the countries sponsoring the resolution. It was better for the IPU and the sponsors of the resolution to have a bigger majority in support of the resolution. If it was possible to have a better text to achieve that we should try to do so.

A delegate from PALESTINE said that the IPU Members must remain true to the democratic values and objectives of the IPU, including respect for the Charter, resolutions and principles of the United Nations on which the draft resolution was based.

The PRESIDENT said that the democratic processes provided for in the Rules of the IPU had been followed. The only issue currently at stake was the proposal to allow more time for the drafting committee to revisit the draft resolution with a view to furthering the possibility of its adoption by consensus. The alternative was to continue the current discussion of the text.

At the request of the President of the IPU, a vote by roll-call was taken on the proposal that the drafting committee should revisit the draft resolution with a view to working towards its adoption by consensus.

The proposal was rejected by 46 votes to 38.

The draft resolution was adopted.

The following delegations expressed reservations on specific operative paragraphs: Finland, Italy and San Marino (para. 2); France (paras 2 and 5); and Switzerland (paras 2, 4 and 5). France also expressed reservations on preambular paragraph 5. Furthermore, the delegations of Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Seychelles, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) expressed reservations on the resolution as a whole.

The PRESIDENT said that due note had been taken of all the reservations expressed.

Mr. A. Anastasia (Brazil), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on the theme *Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees: The need for evidence-based policy solutions*

Resumption of the Debate

Mr. M. MIJATOVIC (Serbia) said that current migrations were beyond the capacities of any State and posed a global challenge requiring a robust collective response. In Serbia, measures were in place to ensure the best possible living conditions for migrants, as well as their fundamental human rights, with special attention given to women and children. Migrants received all necessary health provision and education for as long as they remained in Serbia, which, for the majority, was a transit country along the Western Balkan route and not a final destination. The majority also stayed in State-run reception centres providing their basic needs and humane care. The Serbian people were empathetic and understanding towards migrants and refugees and stood ready to assist. There had been no episodes of conflict, hatred or violence involving migrants.

By dealing responsibly with irregular migration, Serbia protected its own territory and that of neighbouring countries and countries of final destination. It also worked with success to combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking. The migrant crisis was a global problem that called for concrete solutions, in particular clear policymaking based on the direct experiences of transit and destination countries. A candidate country for European Union membership, Serbia was a reliable partner and stood ready to support a solution agreed by all European Union member States. In March 2016, a reduction in migration along the Balkan route had resulted from an agreement reached between the European Union and Turkey. The issue had to do with people and not numbers.

Mr. K. DARWISH (Egypt) said that irregular migration and migratory flows threatened stability, sustainable development and poverty reduction efforts in countries of origin, transit and destination and were also associated with other challenges, such as organized crime and arms trafficking. The conflicts in various countries had prompted an increase in irregular migration, which was frequently unsafe, if not fatal, and controlled by transnational criminal groups for profit. Egypt had therefore established by law a national committee and a fund to combat irregular migration, concerning which its judicial and security authorities also exchanged information and assistance with their counterparts elsewhere. The rights of migrants were furthermore protected by law.

Despite its economic difficulties, Egypt had over many years been host to thousands of migrants, notably those fleeing conflict in the region, to whom it offered safe haven and the prospect of a better life. With parliamentarians set to play a crucial role in its implementation, the future global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration held promise as a means towards alleviating the suffering of migrants. To that end, national legislation must be established to fight discrimination and xenophobia as well as promote the integration of migrants into society, including through programmes to familiarize them with customs and traditions that differed from their own. Tackling the multidimensional complexities associated with migration and the refugee crisis was no easy task. The current Assembly was a first step along the way, however, attesting to the usual lead taken by the IPU in rising to challenges.

Mr. U.I. LEIRSTEIN (Norway) said that, in the short term, refugees must be provided with aid and protection in receiving countries, which themselves needed support if hosting large numbers. In the long term, however, the root causes of conflict and fragility must be addressed. Stabilization and peacebuilding were indeed long-term processes but social development came only from within. Progress won could be rapidly reversed or destroyed, while extremism and organized crime undermined peace efforts, humanitarian aid and long-term development assistance. Goal 16 of the SDGs aimed to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, access to justice for all and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions. It was thus essential to strive for peace and mobilize resources to fight corruption, human trafficking and smuggling. In countries of origin, citizens must be given fair and equal opportunities of education and employment.

In addition to being safe and orderly for the benefit of migrants and countries of destination and origin alike, migration should be a choice and not a must. Good migration management would be achieved only through international cooperation that took account of the interests of countries of destination, origin and transit, recognized their sovereign right to determine their own foreign residency policy, and was based on the sharing of responsibilities and burdens. Norway would seek to promote multilateral and bilateral dialogue on migration management with key countries of origin and transit. Lastly, he suggested that the international conventions relating to migration and refugees should be reviewed and updated in the light of current circumstances.

Mr. I. MACDONALD (Australia) said that Australia was a nation of migrants, with one quarter of its population either born overseas or having at least one parent born overseas. All migrants and refugees on its soil had contributed to the country's strong and successful multicultural society and indeed to its economy. Australia was also justifiably proud of being home to one of the oldest continuous cultures on earth. Political will and practical action would be needed, however, to implement improved processes for management of the critical challenge of voluntary and involuntary human movement globally. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants was a way of guiding a well-managed and humane response to the mass movement of people, to which end the future global compact must provide strong and practical outcomes, including: reaffirmation of the need to address the root causes of irregular migration and displacement; commitment to existing mechanisms and obligations; and the promotion of models for global cooperation in countering, reducing and preventing irregular migration, including human trafficking and people smuggling.

Australia continued to reap the socio-economic rewards of its positive migration experience. It saw diversity as an investment against marginalization and extremism, played its part in the orderly, planned and fully-resourced resettlement of refugees, and continued to improve its economy and diversity through a regular and planned migration program. Having one of the world's most successful settlement and integration programmes, Australia was keen to play its part in strengthening global governance for migrants and refugees, including through tackling the root causes of displacement.

Mr. N. ANZOUR (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, located as it was in close proximity to Europe, his country was scarcely isolated from the rest of the world, which was all the more reason for parliamentarians not to turn their backs on the wholesale Syrian bloodshed and the drowning of hundreds of Syrian migrants in the Mediterranean. They surely must not differentiate on any ground among their fellow human beings, especially children, who were not to be treated as statistics or collateral damage. They were the future and parliamentarians must do their utmost to ensure that they lived in a safe and forgiving environment, as was required for sustainable development. For many, however, sustainable development in the Syrian Arab Republic—and with it civil peace—was now an alien concept.

The world had furthermore shrunk to the point where dangers erupting in one part had repercussions in others. The law of the jungle reigned; norms governing international relations were disrespected, as were the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and

international law. His country had always been one of civilization but it was currently witnessing daily slaughter and worsening socio-economic conditions. It was terrorism above all, however, that forced its citizens to migrate. Another abiding problem in the region was that of the Palestinian refugees still waiting to exercise their right to return to the territories from which they had been displaced by the Israeli occupier, which obstinately continued to flout all United Nations resolutions in pursuit of its settlement and occupation policies.

Mr. W.W. Simina (Federated States of Micronesia), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. A. ANASTASIA (Brazil) said that increased migration was a direct result of such factors as conflict, underdevelopment, political oppression and deteriorating living standards. As legislators, parliamentarians played a key role in helping to address the situation of refugees and asylum seekers. Brazil had recently introduced a new migration law guaranteeing protection of migrants and their human rights. There was no discrimination on any grounds against foreign nationals wishing to enter the country and migrants enjoyed the same rights as Brazilian citizens. Moreover, at a recent meeting in Brazil, Latin American and Caribbean States had evaluated progress in the implementation of the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action, which concerned refugees and displaced persons, and concluded that improvements had been achieved with respect to the international protection of refugees, sustainable solutions and solidarity. The meeting had adopted the 100 Points of Brasilia which was a guide to good practices and intended for input to the global compact.

In recent years, Brazil had welcomed thousands of refugees of many different nationalities, including rising numbers of Venezuelans fleeing the economic and political crisis in their country in search of security and, in many cases, asylum. It had therefore proved necessary to adopt emergency measures to cater for their needs, including sustenance, health care and education. The Brazilian Parliament was closely monitoring migratory flows and sought to assist such refugees, in particular by promoting their social integration. Migration involved sensitive issues, the satisfactory resolution of which called for international cooperation on the basis of democratic and human rights principles.

Mr. A. Anastasia (Brazil), Vice-President of the Assembly, resumed the Chair.

Mr. S. AL-GBURI (Iraq) said that Iraq had faced major challenges since 2003, in particular terrorism in all its forms, social breakdown, violence and counter-violence. Political complexities notwithstanding, the Iraqi people had exercised their democratic will in free and fair elections in a bid to end the reigning paralysis. The country's emerging democracy set an example by showing the path towards overcoming domestic challenges and bringing peace and prosperity to the world in place of war and conflict. By contrast, authoritarian and non-democratic regimes created tensions and insecurity that endangered the world and rule of law. Direct dialogue was the only way forward to resolving conflict and calming tensions between States in a spirit of cooperation aimed at realizing a secure and prosperous future, with the establishment of peace as a priority.

A case in point was the Palestinian question, which should be prioritized as a humanitarian concern and to which there was no solution other than the creation of a Palestinian State, with Jerusalem as its capital and the return of Palestinian refugees. In Iraq, the children of all those martyred in battles waged to drive out extremists in such cities as Mosul, which had been devastated in the process, looked to the international community for assistance in rebuilding their lives, not forgetting that Iraq had defended the world against Daesh terrorist groups.

Mr. B. RAJIĆ (Slovenia) said that focused international efforts were essential to securing the benefits of safe, orderly and regular migration for countries of origin, destination and transit and, above all, migrants. The human rights of all migrants must be protected and special attention given to vulnerable groups, especially children. In Slovenia, all migrant children enjoyed health care and free compulsory elementary education alongside Slovenian children. Also available to migrants was a free integration programme covering language, culture and history, which helped them adapt more quickly to their new environment. With integration key to the elimination of distrust and intolerance, the global compact should emphasize similar measures with the aim of combating discrimination and xenophobia, as well as of highlighting the role of diaspora communities in assisting new migrants to adapt and integrate.

Effective border control cooperation would help to prevent migrant smuggling, human trafficking and irregular migration. All States had a sovereign right to grant or refuse admission to their territory but were also obliged to accept the return and readmission of its nationals. Given their

diversity and overall interconnectedness, the drivers of migration must be tackled through a common approach and in a spirit of solidarity and shared responsibility. As the most direct link between individuals and the global political environment, parliamentarians must raise awareness of the economic and other benefits of migration for countries of origin and destination alike. The positive effects of migration were only achievable, however, through well-managed migration.

Mr. L. FOFANA (Guinea) said that the world was increasingly confronted with conflicts or natural disasters resulting in massive displacement of populations. Parliamentarians must therefore pool their efforts towards finding more humane and responsible solutions to migrant and refugee issues. Action to strengthen the global regime for migrants and refugees should be built around the causes of migration, which were many and varied. Parliamentarians were well placed to provide the necessary political will and thus had a leading role to play in exploring evidence-based solutions, including through information exchange with other countries. Indeed, that role was consonant with one of their important functions, namely to ensure that all individuals were treated with dignity and protected by legislation.

For its part, Guinea would continue to pursue its national efforts to strengthen the regime applicable to migrants and refugees. It had itself experienced no conflict since its independence but had welcomed refugees from civil wars and post-electoral conflicts in neighbouring countries. Its National Assembly had drawn lessons from conflicts elsewhere and was firmly committed to supporting all parliamentary initiatives aimed at strengthening the global regime for refugees and migrants. To that end, it would be essential to pass laws and adopt resolutions aimed at addressing the factors that drove ordinary citizens to become migrants and refugees.

Mr. A. ALAHMAD (Palestine) said that, in the quest to achieve peace, justice, equality and human rights protection, parliamentarians must be the first to champion respect for IPU values and the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. In the occupied Palestinian territories, the settlement expansion, killings, arrests, blockades and military aggression continued daily at the hands of the Israeli occupier, in flagrant disregard of the many United Nations resolutions calling for an end to its occupation. The Israeli Knesset had in recent years enacted countless laws to the detriment of those living in the occupied Palestinian territories and sought, among other things, to impose Israeli sovereignty over the West Bank and to deduct "martyr" payments from Palestinian tax revenues. The United States Administration was furthermore withholding aid destined for Palestinians in the occupied territories, exacerbating their already dire situation. All such tactics in defiance of the values and principles espoused by the international community simply perpetuated tension and fostered a climate conducive to violence and terrorism.

Palestinians had endured over 70 years of occupation and displacement and looked to the international community for support in their struggle for freedom and self-determination, including through the establishment of a Palestinian State in the territories occupied since 1967, with Jerusalem as its capital. In seeking to achieve the two-State solution, the Palestinian people had paid an unacceptably high price for its aim of a prosperous future in which its children could enjoy the same life of peace and security as others.

Mr. A.A. JAMA (Somalia) said that Somalia had always accepted migrants and refugees but that up to one third of its population had left to seek refuge elsewhere during the country's prolonged civil war. After rebuilding their shattered lives, by way of their remittances they had made it possible for those who remained in Somalia to survive and they had also contributed significantly to growth in their newly adopted countries. Somalia was actively engaged in nation-building so as to give hope to its millions of internally displaced persons and citizens in refugee camps abroad. It thus welcomed the support received from global and regional partners for its stabilization process, which would hopefully encourage the voluntary and orderly return of refugees once the appropriate enabling environment had been established.

The large movement of migrants and refugees was a burning issue to be addressed in a forthright manner before it became overwhelming in its magnitude. Its root causes must therefore be pragmatically and comprehensively tackled to create a balanced solution and effective migration management. Migration had long been part of the fabric of civilization and must be protected from the expedients of short-sighted politicians. International commitments made must also be reaffirmed and fulfilled. The two global compacts in preparation were welcome developments and the IPU must be praised for its efforts to facilitate the parliamentary contributions to both processes.

Mr. M. TIMBINE (Mali) said it was paradoxical that migrants should so often be exploited and subjected to violence and abuse at a time when instruments relating to migrants and refugees numbered the highest ever. Faced with reduced opportunities for legal migration, many Africans had chosen the alternative of irregular migration to escape intolerable situations and meet their basic needs. Their journeys could end in tragic loss of life, however, at the hands of smuggling networks for which irregular migration provided a major source of income. There was nonetheless no denying the pivotal contribution of migrants to growth and sustainable development, as in Mali, where billions in remittances from Malians abroad had helped to improve infrastructures and reduce poverty.

The global compact promised to serve as a comprehensive framework for cooperation to achieve safe, orderly and regular migration and respect for the human rights of migrants, regardless of their status. To that end, solutions to migration issues must be global, participatory and coordinated among countries of origin, transit and destination with a view to addressing the causes of migration and promoting migration as a lever for development. Such concerted action offered the best option for combating irregular migration and ensuring that international migration came to unite and not divide. A positive attitude towards migration must also be cultivated as a way of fighting discrimination and xenophobia, a sphere in which parliamentarians should bring their influence to bear. Parliamentarians must furthermore lead in strengthening coordination among and within States and in seeking to eliminate abuse of migrants.

Mr. G. JAFARZADEH IMENABADI (Islamic Republic of Iran), after expressing sympathy to the Russian people in the wake of the recent fire tragedy they had suffered, said that the growing extent and consequences of migration had turned it into a key international issue. Owing to its geographic location, his country was one of origin, transit and destination for migrants. Disorderly mass migration was driven by numerous economic and other factors, in particular arrogant foreign policy, military intervention and armed conflict which, over the past four decades, had prompted the flight of several million to the Islamic Republic from neighbouring countries. Despite the economic pressures from the unjust sanctions imposed on the country, all child migrants to the country had access to education and other facilities. More international assistance was needed, however, to supplement the limited resources available for helping migrants and refugees. In the spirit of humanity and good neighbourliness, the Islamic Republic had also provided services to irregular migrants, who were treated with dignity and respect.

The success of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration would hinge on cooperation, especially from countries with more economic resources, while the global compact on refugees would potentially improve support for those such as the Palestinians living in wretched conditions and reliant on United Nations assistance for over seven decades. In both cases, it would be necessary to promote collective measures and effectively engage international organizations in addressing the situation of migrants and refugees the world over.

Ms. E. MENDOZA FERNANDEZ (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that the consequences of migration were far from negative in that it offered economic benefits and the opportunity to build a fairer and more balanced world. It was thus regrettable that migration was being driven by increasing socio-economic inequality and by divisions and expansionist aims that had unleashed war and pain. More humane policies were needed in place of those that penalized migrants under the pretext of national security.

For that reason, the World People's Conference on the theme *For a world without borders towards universal citizenship*, hosted by her country in 2017, had declared 10 commandments, which were to: replace the hegemonic perspective of migration policy proposing safe, orderly and regular migration with a humanist vision that welcomed, protected, promoted and integrated migrants; reject the criminalization of migration and eliminate detention centres for migrants; create a world ombudsman of the peoples for the rights of migrants and refugees, among others; strengthen regional citizenships; demand that public expenditures destined for war and criminalization of migrants be used for the creation of integration programmes; promote local policies conducive to integrating cities and societies where the rights of migrants to various services were made effective during their daily life; convene all governments of the world to work together; update the multilateral system; overcome the approach of "rigid borders"; and promote popular mobilization on a global scale. In short, international organizations must recognize that mobility was an inalienable right, walls and barriers notwithstanding.

Mr. J.M. GALÁN (Colombia) said that his Venezuelan comrades were fighting daily for democracy and liberty and defending themselves against the violence and aggression of a tyrannical dictatorship but losing hope. Colombians empathized with and supported them in the

tragedy of their plight. Indeed, many Venezuelans had sought refuge in Colombia from the situation and poverty precipitated by the actions of the dictatorship. The international community must raise its voice in protest against the crimes against humanity being committed by the Venezuelan regime. Although many argued that States were masters of their own destiny and that there should be no interference in their internal affairs, the reverse argument was that there existed a duty of care to intervene in cases where human rights were being trampled over to create catastrophe. He called on the IPU to urge the Venezuelan dictatorship to open a humanitarian corridor for the delivery of aid to those in need and likewise called on all Members to join Colombia in its support for Venezuelans in their quest for a peaceful handover of power.

Mr. B. CHARLIER (International Committee of the Red Cross) said that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) approached migration from the purely humanitarian perspective of alleviating suffering and responding to the needs of those compelled to leave behind their lives because of armed conflict or other untenable conditions. For their part, parliamentarians could assist States to fulfil their primary responsibility to ensure respect for the safety and dignity of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons by adopting migration policies and legal frameworks integrating four fundamental axes.

First, States must respect their obligations under international law, including by harmonizing domestic legislation and procedures therewith in such matters as policing, use of force and the non-refoulement principle. Secondly, States must cooperate to prevent and address cases of missing migrants and the needs of their families left in disarray. Thirdly, States must avoid detention as an administrative tool for migration management owing to its potential long-term consequences for the mental health of already vulnerable people, in particular children detained for reasons relating to their migration status or that of their parents. Fourthly, States must act to prevent all forced displacement, notably through ensuring respect by all parties to armed conflict for the fundamental humanitarian norms contained in the law of war and in international human rights law. Parliamentarians were uniquely placed to help in strengthening protection for all migrants and could also be instrumental in reinforcing the commitment of States to addressing the topic in relevant regional and global forums. The ICRC stood ever ready to assist such parliamentary efforts within the framework of its expertise and mandate.

Ms. C. RODRIGUES BIRKETT (Director, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that migration was inextricably linked with the global mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of ending hunger, achieving food security, reducing rural poverty and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources. Migration indeed had a strong agricultural and rural dimension. Many migrants came from rural areas, to which a large portion of international remittances were sent and where most of the world's poor and hungry also lived. Agriculture and rural development were furthermore important to stemming the current rise in hunger.

The current negotiations for the two global compacts provided a unique opportunity to address the adverse drivers that compelled people to leave areas of origin, such as by promoting increased investment in food security, climate change adaptation, agricultural and rural development, employment creation and entrepreneurship development, particularly for rural youth. FAO therefore welcomed the priority given to food security and nutrition in the first draft of the global compact on refugees and hoped that agriculture and rural development would be included in the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. Its own migration-related work included the improvement of disaggregated data and evidence concerning rural migration, the release of an atlas focused on rural migration in sub-Saharan Africa, and the implementation of numerous in-country projects. Efforts must be redoubled to ensure that migration was a choice and not a necessity, which would in turn ensure that its benefits were harnessed.

Ms. K. OTSUJI (Japan) said that, in the face of the unprecedented scale of migration and refugee issues, Japan was keen to fulfil its share of responsibilities in line with related international conventions and human rights standards. Utmost priority must be given to protecting the human rights and security of migrants and refugees, whose active participation in society must also be enabled in receiving countries. Attention must likewise be given to the treatment of those who were lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex and to the special needs of women and children. It was also important to address the causes of migration, including conflict and persecution, to promote the safe return of migrants and refugees to their countries of origin.

The value of migrants must be recognized in receiving countries, which should nurture mutually beneficial relations by establishing social integration programmes that included teaching of their language and culture. For their part, parliamentarians must work to combat discrimination, prejudice and xenophobia, promote integration through targeted education and knowledge

acquisition activities, and support international agencies and non-governmental and non-profit organizations working with migrants and refugees. High-level political commitment was needed to guarantee the human rights, security and social protection of migrants and refugees, including through the pillars of bilateral and multilateral diplomacy. Individual interests must be set aside in favour of international collaboration and the acceptance of diverse values. In continuing its support to migrants and refugees, Japan looked forward to helping to resolve their difficulties through cooperation with all other actors.

Mr. T. MANSMANN (Germany) said that Germany was now a country of migration, for which reason the authorities had recently decided that migration policy should be established by law. The concerns of its citizens could not be ignored, among them the fact that the country was a main target for refugees and irregular migrants in Europe. There was also criticism of the Government for its humanitarian assistance to refugees and migrants and for its inadequate control of migration. The challenges posed by such issues were immense, but he was confident that they would be overcome in time.

The first aim of migration management should be to improve living conditions in potential countries of origin so that their citizens had reason to stay. A clear legal distinction must also be made between asylum seekers, war refugees and permanent migrants. Another aim for Germany was to ensure access to legal employment for migrants wishing to work and the return of those denied permanent residence and not in need of protection, as well as of those who exploited the opportunities offered to them to engage in criminal activities. While admittedly small, the latter group was a serious topic of debate in receiving countries that should not be underestimated. Efforts must also be directed towards shortening the asylum application process and closing loopholes in the system.

Mr. S. CRUSNIÈRE (Belgium) said that international conflicts, demographic pressures and the climate change effects would increase migration in the coming years and that the processes under way would determine whether it was a source of prosperity or one of dehumanization and social tension. It was time to end the injustices around migration once and for all by first publicly recognizing and highlighting its advantages. Through their labour and remittances, migrants made significant contributions to receiving and sending countries alike and did not warrant the abuse and prejudice, which must be stopped, poisoning some of their lives. Secondly, the means for managing migration and protecting migrants must comply with the relevant legislation. Barriers and restrictions encouraged irregular migration, which increased vulnerability. It was therefore preferable to increase regular migration channels, including through stronger partnership with transit countries. Thirdly, protection for vulnerable migrants must be enhanced through greater international cooperation and a robust international regime aimed at preventing deaths and ill-treatment of migrants. It was also necessary to address the causes of forced migration. Migration should not be synonymous with suffering and the contribution of migrants to development should be welcomed. The opportunity was ripe for ensuring the success of migration for all and parliamentarians had a responsibility to meet that challenge.

Mr. A. SHKRUM (Ukraine) said that, if combined, the millions of the world's refugees and internally displaced persons would form one of its biggest nations. Ukraine was unfortunately among those with the highest number of internally displaced persons, refugees in their own country. It had been four years since the United Nations General Assembly had adopted its resolution affirming the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and condemning Russian actions in violation of international law. During that time, millions of Ukrainians had either been internally displaced or sought asylum elsewhere as a result of the continuing Russian aggression in Crimea and eastern Ukraine. The fact was that an IPU Member country was changing European borders by military force. In a hybrid war, it was using all available instruments, including social media, to incite ethnic discord and gross human rights violations. It had also deliberately interfered in the domestic affairs of other States, creating a mistrust of public authorities and democracy. Until the grounds for their introduction were eliminated, sanctions must be maintained against countries that conducted diplomacy mainly through war and force. The global refugee situation would be improved by treating its causes and not its symptoms.

Mr. J.G. CORREA (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), thanking all those who had expressed support for Venezuelans in their current plight, said that his was no longer a country of destination for migrants but a country of origin. Millions of Venezuelans had been forced to migrate owing to lack of access to food and medicine, which was a form of oppression. Under the ruling dictatorship,

the country was witnessing falling production levels, hyperinflation, and restriction of rights and freedoms, including freedom of opinion. Parliamentarians were being persecuted, having received no pay for some two years. Free and fair elections must therefore be held to change the sorry state of affairs in the country and reverse the mass migration taking place. The Venezuelan people would continue to take to the streets in their fight for a return to democracy and looked to the IPU for support.

Mr. S. SOENDERGAARD (Denmark) said that, were he present to criticize only governments of countries other than his own, he would criticize the military in Myanmar for its genocide of the Rohingya people and its expulsion of so many innocent civilians to Bangladesh and elsewhere. He would criticize the regime in Turkey for its construction of a wall along the Turkish-Syrian border in order to halt crossings of refugees and for its invasion of the Syrian Kurdish town of Afrin which had created new flows of refugees. He would also criticize the United States President Trump for his discriminatory immigration laws and his plan to build a new Berlin wall against Mexico.

All such criticism would be justified but too easy. He therefore instead wished to criticize his own Government for its decision to accept no more refugees under a United Nations resettlement plan. Rather than being part of the solution to the current refugee crisis, that decision was part of the problem. The refugees concerned were among the most vulnerable and to receive them was to provide help where most needed, to demonstrate an alternative to people smuggling, and strengthen the global community from the humanitarian standpoint. He disagreed with that decision and hoped that others would not be inspired to emulate it.

Ms. C. BILYK (Australia), recalling the messages of the special guest speakers in the earlier high-level interactive session, in particular the need for protection systems and principled solutions to displacement, said that Australia was taking measures to combat trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and contemporary forms of slavery and to identify and provide assistance to victims. One recent parliamentary report had recommended the creation of legislation to combat modern slavery, while another had made recommendations for addressing slavery, slavery-like conditions and forced labour, preventing human trafficking and improving support to victims. Australia also had an international strategy to combat human trafficking and slavery and was committed at the regional level to the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, which it co-chaired with Indonesia.

The sitting rose at 7 p.m.

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development

SITTING OF SUNDAY, 25 MARCH

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 9.50 a.m. with Ms. L. Rojas Hernández (Mexico), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

(C-I/138/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held at the 137th IPU Assembly in St. Petersburg (October 2017)

The summary record was approved.

Briefing by the President

The PRESIDENT said that 2017 had been a special year for democracy and for the IPU, as it had marked the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Democracy, and the tenth anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly decision to declare 15 September the International Day of Democracy. At the 136th Assembly in Dhaka, the IPU's governing bodies had approved a series of actions to mark those anniversaries, including the circulation of an international petition in favour of stronger democracies, which was launched on 15 September 2017. All parliamentarians were encouraged to sign the petition and circulate it as widely as possible among their country constituents.

During the 138th Assembly, use of the IPU Assembly mobile application would be promoted, and the Secretariat would be on hand to assist first-time users. Users would be requested to complete a short online survey on assemblies and IPU communications. The results of the survey would be used to garner a better understanding of delegates' expectations and experiences at Assemblies, in order to craft the next IPU communications strategy. All IPU Member Parliaments present were also encouraged to endorse the Common Principles for Support to Parliament, which offered clear guidance and aimed to improve the quality of support available to parliaments.

Three events would take place during the present Assembly that all members of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security were encouraged to attend: a special segment of the plenary of the Assembly featuring the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the President of the Arms Trade Treaty Conference of States Parties, to draw the attention of the global parliamentary community to the dangers of chemical weapons and small arms; a workshop on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, organized by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons; and an informal meeting on the Standing Committee's long-term project on comprehensive disarmament and parliamentary oversight, which was being conducted jointly with the Strategic Concept for the Removal of Arms and Proliferation (SCRAP) of the University of London SOAS, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP).

Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development

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

(C-I/138/DR, C-I/138/DR-am, C-I/138/DR-am.1 and C-I/138/M)

Mr. A. CARONI (Switzerland), *co-Rapporteur*, said that in April 2016, the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, respectively, had adopted resolutions on sustaining peace (70/262 and 2282(2016)), defining "sustaining peace" as "a process to build a common vision of a society, ensuring that the needs of all segments of the population are taken into account". Since their adoption, focus had shifted from the question of how to deal with violent conflict and return to peace, to how to strengthen peace within societies and prevent conflict. The concept of "sustaining peace" was comprehensive, coherent, inclusive and forward-looking.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and its accompanying Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets had shown that Member States of the United Nations shared common aspirations for development. Sustaining peace and sustainable development were inextricably linked, and since they were both issues primarily of national responsibility, the meaningful involvement of parliaments was crucial.

The draft resolution therefore built on existing work being done in the context of the United Nations, while considering sustaining peace from the perspective of previous and ongoing IPU engagement. It aimed to reflect an ongoing paradigm shift in the United Nations and identify new avenues for cooperation. The resolution was intrinsically related to the tenets of both the Charter of the United Nations and the Statutes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. It proposed several specific measures by which IPU Member Parliaments could contribute to sustaining peace as a contribution to meeting the SDGs.

Focusing on peace, rather than war, the resolution outlined ways in which parliaments could contribute to sustaining peace and to strengthening the resilience of societies, rather than focusing on classical security measures, such as peacekeeping operations and counter-terrorism. Despite the breadth of the notion of sustaining peace, he cautioned that the Standing Committee must not overload the resolution, but rather should maintain a strong focus on its core purpose and language.

The PRESIDENT recalled that, following heated discussions during the 137th IPU Assembly in St. Petersburg, the Executive Committee had approved a policy on abusive language, of which the Standing Committee was asked to take due note. Tolerance and respect had always prevailed in the work of the Standing Committee, and she hoped that would continue to be the case.

She invited the Committee to discuss the draft resolution as prepared by the co-Rapporteurs, to which 136 proposed amendments had been received by the statutory deadline.

(b) Debate

Mr. A. SUWANMONGKOL (Thailand) said that SDG 16 emphasized the need to enhance general well-being, respect for human rights, inclusiveness, good governance and justice for all. Thailand had implemented specific policies and strategies in that regard, including a zero-tolerance policy on trafficking in persons. A feasibility study had been conducted in preparation for drafting a 20-year national strategy, including a vision based on the sufficiency economy philosophy developed by his majesty the late King Bhumibol. The strategy was based on six axes for development, including national security, and equality in society and public management. A national legal reform had also been carried out, to ensure that domestic legislation was consistent with the international agenda on sustaining peace. The draft resolution contained useful recommendations, which, if fully implemented, could help to sustain peace at the national and international levels.

Mr. A. NEOFYTOU (Cyprus) said that achieving lasting peace and security was essential for viable economic development and progress. Peace and sustainable development were interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Societies facing harsh fiscal challenges were vulnerable to instability. Upholding the values enshrined in the Universal Declaration on Democracy and meeting the SDGs were crucial to sustaining peace. Parliaments must therefore ensure fair and inclusive institutions, good governance, respect for basic human rights and the rule of law, especially in the aftermath of conflict. Parliaments must increase their focus on eradicating poverty and hunger, ensuring access to adequate housing, health services and education, and increasing employment opportunities, which would not only improve the economic situation, but also contribute significantly to violence prevention. Lasting peace could not be achieved easily; it required concerted efforts by all stakeholders and cooperation between national governments and parliaments, financial institutions and civil society organizations. Sustainable development must be at the heart of all policies if peace was to be sustained.

Mr. T. TUNTEV (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its accompanying goals and targets constituted a set of common guiding principles, designed to unite citizens in crafting a peaceful, stable, inclusive and environmentally sustainable world for all. In Macedonia, the utmost effort had been made to overcome the deep political crisis by uniting citizens through common values. The Government was determined to secure full integration into the European Union and NATO through commitment to good governance, democratic values and respect for human rights and the rule of law. A new approach to development had been adopted, based on cooperation and fostering good relations with neighbouring countries, which had helped to overcome longstanding issues and improve mutual trade opportunities. The United Nations had provided welcome support in that regard.

Activities for sustaining peace should begin at the national level. The need for a clear role for parliaments in efforts to meet the SDGs was therefore essential. Parliaments must budget for sustainable development and strengthen oversight with a view to achieving sustainable peace. The IPU could contribute significantly in that regard.

Ms. M. BON KLANJŠČEK (Slovenia) said sustainable development could not be achieved without peace and security. Given the important link between resilience and sustainable development, a comprehensive approach was taken in Slovenia to humanitarian and development programmes. The link between security and development had also been underscored through a resolution on security and development cooperation, recently adopted by the Slovenian Parliament. Her Parliament was updating legal and strategic documents on development assistance with priority areas including poverty eradication, respect for human rights and promotion of good governance. Relations between countries in the western Balkans remained politically volatile and sensitive. It was therefore particularly important that those countries received the support needed to build sustainable and resilient States and societies, based on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Investing in the stabilization of the region as a whole would also benefit each State individually. Parliaments set an example by their actions and must therefore do their utmost to end poverty, ensure respect for human rights, promote gender equality and protect the environment. The Standing Committee's resolution would provide an opportunity to address a complex range of security issues, and discuss resilience activities and humanitarian action.

Mr. H.B. KAMBHAMPATI (India) said that peace was essential for the attainment of all 17 SDGs. Peace was essential for poverty eradication, health and well-being, education, gender equality, economic growth and environmental sustainability. Peace was paramount to the attainment of SDG 5 on gender equality in particular; evidence had shown that conflict resulted in gender inequity, and that in situations of conflict and violence, women were the worst affected. Conflict-affected countries had struggled to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as the vast majority of their resources had been poured into violence containment efforts. The Government and Parliament of India were committed to building a peaceful world order and worked consistently to build good neighbourly relations, as well as making a significant contribution to United Nations peacekeeping missions. India's national development priorities were fully aligned with the SDGs, with centrally-sponsored development schemes launched around the country, and legislation enacted to promote socioeconomic change. Parliament had been active in amending legislation to promote an inclusive society and foster peace for development, including through a commitment to provide housing for all by 2022. India had hosted the BRICS Women's Parliamentarians' Forum in 2016 and the South Asian Speakers' Summit on the SDGs in 2017. Strong democratic institutions and close cooperation were essential.

Ms. K.M. PARK (Republic of Korea) said that the Winter Olympic Games, held recently in Pyeongchang, had been an event full of hope, which, together with the agreement on the inter-Korean Summit, had revived the aspiration for Korean reunification. Permanent peace on the Korean peninsula, through reunification, would enable the Republic of Korea to play a more proactive role in maintaining international peace and security as a responsible member of the international community. The Republic of Korea contributed actively to peacekeeping operations and had increased its financial support to refugees, enacting legislation in that regard. Peace both among and within nations was essential to ensure sustainable development; the marginalized and vulnerable must be at the heart of all policies in that regard. Parliaments had a crucial role to play in building international peace, as well as maintaining peace at the national level. States with advanced democracy did not allow dictatorships. Parliaments should represent the whole of society. They should make concerted efforts to legislate and build institutions for the marginalized minorities, and stand together in solidarity for peacebuilding and peacekeeping internationally.

Mr. A. KLIMOV (Russian Federation) said that the main reasons for confrontation and wars around the world were distrusting and disrespectful interethnic and interreligious dialogue, and the external interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign States. In follow-up to the resolution adopted by the Standing Committee at the 136th IPU Assembly in Dhaka, Bangladesh, a parliamentary committee had been established in the Russian Federation, to address foreign interference. The Committee had recently issued its first annual report, which had verified facts and drawn reasoned conclusions regarding inadmissible interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign States. Interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue, which had been the subject of the St. Petersburg Declaration, adopted at the 137th IPU Assembly, were crucial for the attainment of sustainable peace and sustainable development. His delegation hoped that those principles would be duly reflected in the final text of the resolution adopted by the Standing Committee.

Mr. C.G. JONG (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the situation on the Korean peninsula was a matter of international concern, which related directly to ensuring peace and sustainable development in North-East Asia. Unjust sanctions by the United States against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea posed a threat to peace and prosperity in the Korean peninsula and gravely threatened the lives of the most vulnerable, in particular innocent women and children. The sanctions were intended to disrupt the full gamut of economic relations and financial transactions in order to overthrow the political system through isolation. Fictional human rights abuses were being reported to undermine the administration. Such reports were the height of impudence. That notwithstanding, a dramatic turning point had been reached in relations and cooperation in the Korean peninsula, which was entirely due to Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un's dedication to the nation, peace and reconciliation.

Mr. A. ALSUBAIE (Kuwait) said that each year, the Standing Committee continued to talk about peace while countries continued to be torn apart by sectarian strife. Peace could not exist without sustainable development. Development could not exist without equitable access to food, housing and education for all, and an end to corruption. Kuwait had contributed significantly to development efforts in other countries in an attempt to foster peace. Regimes that wanted to disrupt peace must be prevented from doing so. Parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, must serve the interests of their constituents. There were millions of internally displaced persons and refugees around the world, who lived with immense suffering. Parliaments must legislate to protect those people and must ensure that the law was upheld, not only by governments but also by civil society and nongovernmental organizations. Countries that have the resources to bring about change must do so. The protection of all citizens was the only source of lasting peace and stability. The time had come to move from words to action.

Mr. S. INATOMI (Japan) said that the inextricable link between peace and sustainable development was highlighted in SDG 16. Conflict invited social division, destroyed infrastructure and instantly undermined decades of development efforts. Where government resources had been exhausted by conflict, social services could not be provided to those most in need. In the absence of democratic governance and the rule of law, a vicious cycle of unrest could take root. Sustaining peace should therefore not be the focus only in post-conflict situations, but measures should also be taken before and during conflicts, and conflict prevention should also be focused on. Development was the key to tackling the root causes of conflict, upholding human rights and ensuring peace and security. Inclusive participation in society, with shared responsibility, was essential in that regard. In Japan, the concept of human security was advocated, focusing on safeguarding the life, livelihood and dignity of each individual, developing their skills and encouraging autonomy. The Government of Japan also provided support to countries in conflict, through humanitarian assistance and post-conflict reconstruction and development activities. The Japanese Parliament would continue to provide support and cooperate with partners to contribute to sustained peace and attain the SDGs.

Mr. M. ALJAWDER (Bahrain) said that the Government and people of Bahrain were committed to meeting the SDGs, which would contribute to economic, social and environmental development, and building infrastructure and human resources. In Bahrain particular importance was placed on ensuring education for all, involving women in all aspects of society, and upholding the principle of equality for all citizens. The groundwork for social solidarity had been laid, by making all services available to all citizens. The Parliament of Bahrain had contributed significantly to development, by legislating for better education, health services and employment opportunities. Implementation of the national development programme, which was aligned with the SDGs, was overseen by Parliament. The Government of Bahrain had established working groups to oversee particular activities and to adjust the development programme as necessary, in the light of experiences gained, and had reported to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), through its high-level segment, on progress made.

Mr. M.J. JAMALI NOBANDEGANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that centuries of hostilities and conflicts in the Middle East region had cost the lives of millions and had a severe impact on sustainable development. Tension and war had disrupted security and peaceful coexistence. International peace and security could not be achieved without justice, equal access to resources, education and health care. In a globalized world, most threats to peace and security were shared and all-encompassing. Terrorism and international organized crime knew no borders and constituted a threat to all. There was not a "one-size-fits-all" approach to development; each country should have the freedom to devise its own development plan, in full respect of its national culture and identity, without any external interference.

Mr. Á. SINMALEZA (Ecuador) said that sustainable peace required not only the absence of conflict but also favourable social and economic conditions that allowed people to live in harmony with nature. Respect for human rights was essential. The Parliament of Ecuador condemned the recent terrorist attacks that had taken place on in the border areas between Ecuador and Colombia. The police and army had borne the brunt of those attacks. He called on the IPU to provide support to the peace process. Ecuador was also facing the economic and humanitarian consequences of the current situation in Venezuela, in particular as host to a significant number of migrants. Migration should never be a necessity. Commitment to the eradication of nuclear weapons was crucial to global peace, since there were no winners in modern war. Aside from conventional weapons, technological innovation was also bringing about unforeseen threats, and was being used to disrupt the relations between States and destroy modern structures and systems. While artificial intelligence could be a tool for improving quality of life, it could also have dramatic consequences for the labour market, which must be given due consideration. Alliances and cooperation between all stakeholders, at the State and non-State level, would be the key to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He underscored the commitment of his Parliament in that regard.

Mr. P. NIEMI (Sweden) said that paragraph 10 of the draft resolution, on gender equality, was particularly welcome; the correlation between armed conflict and discrimination against women had been proven without doubt. Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 was therefore particularly important. In that context, human rights components should be incorporated into United Nations peacekeeping operations as a matter of priority, to ensure gender equality and promote the rights of children. Human rights monitors could play a critical role in helping countries emerging from conflict to sustain peace. Gender-responsive budgets, not just at the national level but also at the regional and international levels, were essential. International organizations should lead by example, not just in setting standards but also in implementing them. The treatment of the most vulnerable groups in society was a barometer for respect for human rights in general. People of different sexual orientation should also be mentioned specifically in the draft resolution. The draft resolution could also be more specific about the measures needed to sustain peace in post-conflict situations, in particular the importance of bringing the perpetrators of war crimes to justice: there could be no peace without justice and no justice without responsibility. All States that had not yet done so should ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Ms. A. HABIBOU (Niger) said that the Forum of Women Parliamentarians had met and held a productive discussion on the topic of the Standing Committee's resolution. It had discussed the worrying situation of women in armed conflict, in particular refugee and migrant women, who were often the victims of sexual violence, rape and were treated as goods for sale. The Forum had agreed on the importance of strengthening women's autonomy, and their participation and representation in all public institutions, and had called for the unequivocal implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and all international human rights conventions. She had submitted proposed amendments to the draft resolution on behalf of the Forum, with those aspects in mind.

Mr. A.K. AZAD (Bangladesh) said that in 1971, the Pakistani army had killed innocent men, women and children in Bangladesh. The three million victims were still remembered, as a symbol of the vital importance of peace. Terrorism, ethnic cleansing and the rising threat of nuclear weapons were a serious threat to peace and stability, and thus to sustainable development. Peace could not be sustained without development, and development could not be sustained in situations of conflict. Terrorism was on the rise, and many innocent people were being forced to flee for their lives. The Government of Bangladesh was doing its utmost to help all those who sought refuge, and was receiving support from the international community, but the root causes of the mass influx of refugees into Bangladesh had not been addressed. Disarmament was crucial. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh had presented a peace model to the United Nations General Assembly, focusing on empowerment through a multidimensional democratic approach anchored in eradicating poverty and hunger, eliminating inequality, including the disenfranchised in all aspects of society, and bringing an end to terrorism. Despite significant resources having been absorbed by efforts to assist the vast swathes of refugees arriving in Bangladesh, progress was being made towards attaining the SDGs. Efforts in that regard would continue.

Mr. R.M. GONZÁLEZ PATRICIO (Cuba) said that preserving peace constituted a significant challenge for humanity. Despite efforts to implement a development programme in Cuba, persistent trade and financial embargoes instituted by the United States some 50 years previously, continued

to hamper progress. Sustainable peace could only be achieved by ensuring full respect for the Charter of the United Nations, particularly with regard to national sovereignty, territorial integrity and the political independence of States. Under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, all people should have the right to live in dignity, with their rights and freedoms respected, yet inequality was increasing the world over. All States should be able to use their resources freely. Cuba was party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and the National Assembly had issued a statement categorically rejecting the growing trend towards militarism. The nuclear threats being made by the United States administration should be condemned. All parliaments must work together towards a world free of nuclear weapons, and should support the proposal made by Cuba to mark 23 September as an international day for the eradication of nuclear weapons.

Ms. P.E. LOCATELLI (Italy) said that the Forum of Women Parliamentarians had met to discuss the draft resolution from the perspective of women's inclusion and contribution. The Forum had considered that the term "sustainable" peace was preferable to "sustaining" peace, since sustainable peace was a better vehicle for sustainable development. The Forum had recalled that the United Nations Security Council had adopted resolution 1325 to address the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women, and to recognise the undervalued contribution of women in peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Despite the resolution calling for the adoption of national action plans, less than a third of United Nations Member States had done so. The Forum had therefore submitted a proposed amendment to the Standing Committee's draft resolution, on the importance of adopting national action plans for the implementation of UNSC resolution 1325, with parliamentary involvement not only in approving and overseeing the implementation of such plans, but also in their drafting. The second amendment proposed by the Forum was on guaranteeing the physical integrity of women and girls in times of conflict, and the third proposed amendment reaffirmed that parliaments must guarantee that the situation and particular needs of migrant, refugee and displaced women and girls would be taken into account.

Mr. P.J. RAJAONARIVÉLO (Madagascar) said that peace and stability were absolutely necessary for development. African countries were the most exposed to all types of persecution, hostility, war and conflict, which had a serious impact on the lives of their populations. People were more likely to suffer malnutrition than in any State that was politically stable. Conflicts did not simply arise from nowhere: they were rooted in injustice. Everyone had the right to dignified living conditions, education and health care. All States had committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to eradicating poverty in all its forms. Overcoming social injustice would be essential if the goals of the 2030 Agenda were to be achieved. All States should therefore work to foster peace and sustainable development, by promoting peace, respect for human rights and a dignified life for all. Political will was needed to redress inequalities, ensure the transition to a green economy, ensure inclusive development, and invest in sustainable peace. The planet was the shared home of all humanity. Security for future generations could only be achieved by building peace and sustainable development through a multisectoral, integrated approach, based on respectful multi-stakeholder partnerships. Madagascar had benefited from the work of young volunteers whose mission had been to create awareness among young women to become leaders in peace.

Mr. J.P. BATUBARA (Indonesia) said that governments must take a comprehensive approach to identifying and prioritizing strategies for sustaining peace, focusing on inclusivity. Peacebuilding must be home grown, with parliaments playing a key role in building effective national institutions that could deliver sustaining peace at the national level. Countries in conflict had the best knowledge of their own local experience and would live with the results and achievements of peacebuilding measures. Indonesia had been making voluntary contributions to the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund consistently since 2006, and had long been an ardent supporter of the Peacebuilding Commission. The Commission should learn continuously from the experiences of States and should, together with ECOSOC, make conflict prevention a cross-cutting theme, including for the attainment of the SDGs.

Ms. M. LAZZARINI (San Marino) said that San Marino was the oldest republic in the world. It had always been neutral, sustained peace, and provided hospitality for those fleeing war. The draft resolution was particularly timely, given the increasing tensions between global powers. It seemed like justifications for attack were being sought at every opportunity. The media played a key role; it should be pluralist and free of manipulation. In light of the current conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, SDG Target 16.4 on significantly reducing illicit financial and arms flows, was particularly urgent. While the profits from the arms trade remained so high, the pressures that led to conflicts and to sell more weapons would continue. While money remained more important the people's

lives, the planet would be degraded and human rights would continue to be denied. In a sustainable economic system, trafficking and exploitation of vulnerable people, in particular children, would not exist. The gap between rich and poor was widening beyond extremes of any justification. A more radical approach was required to seek efficient solutions to ensure the equitable distribution of income and wealth, respect for human rights, social justice, and the self-determination of peoples. The warning signals of conflict must be heeded and preventive action taken as a matter of extreme urgency. Humankind would not continue to develop through the wielding of weapons, but through communication.

Mr. B. QASIM (Palestine) said that there had been many changes in the situation in the Middle East region since the Standing Committee had last met, not least the declaration by the United States Administration to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel through a unilateral and unlawful decision, which constituted a clear breach of international law and the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly regarding the status of Jerusalem, and would only bolster the pursuance of aggression by extremist forces in Israel. The change in the status of Jerusalem undermined efforts to achieve sustainable peace and development in the region. Sustainable development could not be built under occupation. The occupying authorities continued to stand in the way of efforts to find a peace plan; opposing a deal would only result in further conflicts and hitherto unforeseen wars. All resolutions adopted through the United Nations and other international forums must be respected by all parties at all times.

Mr. B. TARASYUK (Ukraine) said that while his delegation supported the draft resolution, it did not agree with many of the proposed amendments, which were not in the spirit of the resolution. Implementation of the resolution, and many others, must be guaranteed. The agreement to hold the 137th IPU Assembly in St. Petersburg had been counter to the principles and ideals of the IPU; the Russian Federation was an occupying force. If the Russian Federation continued to undermine the territorial integrity of sovereign States, using terrorism, interfering in the conduct of democratic elections, and conducting cyberattacks, its calls to foster interreligious and inter-ethnic dialogue, and to prevent foreign interference in the domestic affairs of States, could not be trusted. The Russian Federation continued to flout international law and the Charter of the United Nations. The IPU did not lack good resolutions; it lacked the consistency and determination to uphold its values and principles. The world's parliamentarians should stand together against those who sought to undermine democracy.

Mr. H. WU (China) said that peacebuilding should adhere to the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and be conducted in full respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States. Political security and development capabilities should be enhanced, in parallel with conflict prevention. Peacebuilding should respect the capacity of the countries concerned. External support should be constructive, with a focus on reconciliation. The United Nations should work in synergy with regional organizations to ensure a harmonized approach. His Parliament prioritized development at the national level, as a source of lasting peace. The root causes of conflict must be addressed, by fully promoting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, improving people's livelihoods, and narrowing the wealth gap in developing countries. The capacity for self-development should be promoted as a solid foundation for sustainable development and sustainable peace. His delegation welcomed the draft resolution, although it had submitted several proposed amendments.

Ms. L.I. CERITOĞLU KURT (Turkey) said that the discussion on sustainable development and sustainable peace was particularly timely. The report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707) should be mentioned in the resolution. Her delegation had therefore proposed an amendment to that effect.

Mr. A. ABDELRAHMAN (Sudan) said that the war in Darfur had destroyed essential infrastructure, depriving people of access to education, health services, water supplies and sanitation. Now that the war had ended and peace had been re-established, there was a clear understanding that there could be no economic development without peace. Free elections had been held in Darfur's 12 administrative units, which represented a positive step towards sustainable development. Despite progress in Sudan, war and conflict continued to rage around the world as a result of foreign interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign States. The IPU should continue to offer support to countries that had fallen victim to external interference.

Mr. K. BAKKAR (Jordan) said that while all participants were expressing the importance of common values of tolerance, the rule of law, human rights, and the independence of sovereign States, and all agreed that peace and security were prerequisites for sustainable development, the

world's major powers continued to thrive on the destruction of smaller States. The Middle East had become a battlefield for regional and global powers to undermine each other's peace and security in an abject failure to respect international law and the resolutions of the United Nations. Refugees and migrants were being denied essential assistance by nations seeking to look after their own national interests, which had prevented humanitarian aid from accessing those in need. Sustainable peace and development could only be achieved through joint action and cooperation. All stakeholders in all countries must therefore work together.

Mr. A. ADLERCREUTZ (Finland) said that sustainable development was a prerequisite for peace; if a society could not provide for its people, unrest would surely follow. Challenges were therefore spiralling out of control around the world, as great swathes of land were becoming uninhabitable and their residents were forced to move and find new places to build their lives. Such large-scale migration could not be overcome with bureaucracy or tightening of borders. The only way to create true sustainability was to tackle the root causes behind failing democracies and increasing climate change. A clear roadmap to address climate change had been set out and must be implemented. Rebuilding democracy, however, would be more complex. Corrupt powers feared transparency. The idea that prosperity could be gained through dominance, restricting the rights of minorities and limiting women's participation in society was, however, illogical and unsustainable. True peace could only be achieved through inclusive societies, in which everyone had the right to participate, and where change and diversity were embraced. Nationalism would lead to stagnation and conflict. The importance of an independent judiciary could not be over-emphasized. Political meddling in judicial processes should never be tolerated. Parliamentarians must understand the crucial role they had to play in preventing such interference. Self-determination by a select few, or as a rhetorical means of sustaining a repressive regime or failing democracy was not sustainable. Self-determination must be for all.

Ms. V. RIOTTON (France) said that sustainable development and peace could only be achieved by addressing climate change. Millions of people would be forced to leave their homes as a result of climate change and environmental degradation, the social, economic and political impact of which could be catastrophic. The people most likely to be the worst affected were those who had contributed the least to the problem. All parliaments should ratify the Paris Agreement, and ensure its implementation. Parliamentarians must uphold their responsibilities as representatives of the people, in recognizing climate change refugees, supporting them and enabling them to participate actively in the society of their host countries. Her delegation had suggested some amendments to the draft resolution in that regard. Action to counter climate change could be taken at the individual and community levels. Every effort must be made, in order to reduce the amount of forced migration caused by climate change, and the risk of conflict that ensued.

Mr. R.N. IGBOKWE (Nigeria) expressed his delegation's concern that Africa was taking centre stage for insurgency and conflict. Boko Haram was causing chaos in Nigeria. Sustainable peace was therefore crucial. Countries in situations of instability required early intervention and support. The sooner action was taken to prevent conflict, the easier it would be to prevent large-scale flows of refugees and migrants. The increased focus on conflict prevention, rather than conflict resolution, in international discussions was therefore welcome. Developed countries should therefore focus their assistance on prevention measures, rather than simply bringing humanitarian aid in times of crisis. That assistance should not be contingent on any form of repayment. The only way to ensure sustainable development for all was through peace, at the national, regional and international levels.

Mr. A. WARE (PNND) said that peace and disarmament were vital for achieving sustainable development. The proliferation of weapons aggravated and inflamed conflict, and consumed the financial resources and human capital required to achieve sustainable development. Nuclear war would have catastrophic consequences on humanity, the environment and development. The funds spent annually on nuclear development could make a vital contribution to efforts to attain the SDGs. The diplomatic resolution of conflicts between nuclear armed States was therefore crucial, not only for nuclear risk reduction and disarmament but also to support sustainable development. The IPU Member Parliaments should support diplomatic initiatives and participate in the United Nations High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament. PNND had worked with the IPU to develop the Parliamentary Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World, which had been launched at the 137th IPU Assembly. He encouraged all IPU Member Parliaments to implement it.

The sitting rose at 12.15 p.m.

SITTING OF TUESDAY, 27 MARCH

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 9.55 a.m. with Ms. L. Rojas Hernández (Mexico), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

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

(C-I/138/cr)

The PRESIDENT said that the draft resolution had been revised in the light of the amendments and sub-amendments discussed in the plenary drafting meeting, and invited the Standing Committee to adopt the draft resolution on *Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development*.

The Standing Committee adopted the draft resolution by acclamation.

Mr. A. SUWANMONGKOL (Thailand), supported by Ms. C. ROTH (Germany), Mr. R.M. GONZÁLEZ PATRICIO (Cuba), Mr. A. ADLERCREUTZ (Finland) and Mr. A.K. AZAD (Bangladesh), said that he welcomed the adoption of the resolution, which had been discussed thoroughly in the plenary drafting meetings. The topic was timely and relevant and the text had been drafted in a diplomatic and thorough manner, and could be usefully applied at the domestic level.

Mr. H. WU (China) said that China and many other Member Parliaments of the IPU had not ratified the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and he therefore wished to express his delegation's reservation to operative paragraph 18 of the resolution.

The PRESIDENT said that the reservation had been duly noted and that it would be recorded in the Committee's report to the Assembly.

(d) Appointment of a rapporteur to the 138th Assembly

At the proposal of Mr. A. Caroni (Switzerland), co-Rapporteur, the Committee appointed its President as Rapporteur to the 138th Assembly.

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

The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau of the Standing Committee had considered two proposals for the subject item for the next resolution to be considered by the Standing Committee:

- (a) *Combating sexual violence in United Nations peacekeeping operations and beyond (Sweden); and*
- (b) *Non-admissibility of using mercenaries as means of undermining peace and violating human rights (Ukraine).*

In the absence of a quorum, the Bureau had been unable to submit a formal recommendation to the Standing Committee; it nonetheless suggested that the Standing Committee should take up the second proposal submitted by the Parliament of Ukraine.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that given the importance of the topic proposed by the Parliament of Sweden, the Standing Committee would also hold a panel discussion at the 140th IPU Assembly on the issue of combating sexual violence in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Ms. C. ROTH (Germany) said that further information would be welcome on the format such a panel discussion might take. She suggested the organisation of a wider event on sexual violence following the format of the workshop on refugees and migration which had been held at the present Assembly and had been particularly successful.

Mr. P. NIEMI (Sweden) said that his delegation would be pleased to work with the delegation of Germany to prepare the event, and wished the delegation of Ukraine every success in the preparation of the draft resolution, which would contribute to the ongoing discussion on sustaining peace.

Mr. A. SSEBAGGALA (Uganda) said that he agreed that the topic proposed by Sweden was a particularly important one. Any discussions in that regard must be informed by evidence from the field, and any violations must be investigated.

Mr. B. TARASYUK (Ukraine) thanked the Bureau for its thorough consideration of both proposals. The use of mercenaries in conflict led to substantial and grave violations of human rights. His delegation would gladly participate in a workshop on the topic proposed by Sweden, which was also highly relevant and merited discussion.

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

The Committee approved the proposal to appoint representatives of Jordan and Ukraine as co-Rapporteurs to the 140th Assembly.

(c) Proposals for other items for the Committee agenda

The PRESIDENT informed the Committee that its Bureau proposed that the Committee should include on its agenda for the 139th Assembly an expert hearing on the chosen subject item; a panel discussion on combating sexual violence in United Nations peacekeeping operations and beyond; and a second panel discussion on a topic to be decided by the next President of the Standing Committee. In the interim, members of the Bureau would join others from the Bureau of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs on a field visit to a peacekeeping mission to Liberia, since the previously planned field mission to Côte d'Ivoire had been cancelled at short notice. An offer had also been received from Turkey to host a conference on promoting lasting peace and security in the Middle East along with a visit to a refugee camp.

The Standing Committee approved the workplan as proposed by its Bureau.

Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee

The PRESIDENT informed the Committee that candidatures to the Bureau had been received from Mr. R.N. Igbokwe (Nigeria) for the Africa Group, Ms. Z. Ahmed Hassan Gaber (Sudan) and Mr. A. Jasem Ahmad (United Arab Emirates) for the Arab Group, Mr. J.C. Mahía (Uruguay) and Ms. M. Arregui (Ecuador) for the Latin American and Caribbean Group, and Mr. J.I. Echaniz (Spain) and Mr. H. Jelin (Israel) from the Twelve Plus Group. She added that three current Bureau members were eligible for re-election. In the absence of any objections she would take it that the Standing Committee wished to elect them to the Bureau.

It was so agreed.

Election of the President and Vice-President of the Committee

The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had been informed that the meeting of the geopolitical groups had decided to rotate the presidencies of the Standing Committees. The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security had been allocated to the Twelve Plus Group. The geopolitical groups had proposed that Mr. S. Rakhmanov (Belarus) be elected Vice-President of the Standing Committee, and Mr. J.I. Echaniz (Spain) be elected President.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that she wished to thank the Standing Committee for its support over the course of her two-year tenure. She would remain on the Bureau of the Standing Committee for a further two years, and wished to assure the Committee of her continued dedication to its work.

Ms. M. VARGAS BÁRCENA (Mexico) thanked the President for her contribution to the work of the Standing Committee and her dedicated leadership.

Mr. J.I. ECHANIZ (Spain) said he wished to thank the outgoing President for her excellent leadership. He underscored the importance of parliamentary work on international issues; in a globalized world, sustainable development and conflict prevention must be approached through concerted, joint action. The root causes of conflicts, poverty and injustice must be tackled as a matter of urgency. There were currently 17 countries in the world with prolonged conflicts and vast numbers of people lived in situations of violence. The IPU must work for a change of paradigm in the multilateral system. Thanking the Standing Committee for its expression of confidence in having elected him as its President, he gave assurances of his dedication and commitment to strive towards sustaining peace around the world.

The sitting rose at 10.45 a.m.

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy

SITTING OF SUNDAY, 25 MARCH

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 9.45 a.m. with Mr. A. Cissé (Mali), Vice-President of the Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda (C-II/138/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held on the occasion of the 137th IPU Assembly in St. Petersburg (October 2017)

The summary record was approved.

Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy

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

The CHAIR said that the draft resolution on engaging the private sector in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially on renewable energy, would be put to the IPU Assembly later that week. At the present meeting, the rapporteurs would provide an update and then there would be a debate.

Mr. A. GRYFFROY (Belgium), *co-Rapporteur*, said that it was the first time that the IPU was considering a resolution on clean, affordable and sustainable forms of energy. Although renewable energy such as solar panels, windmills and hydro installations were a big part of everyday life in developed countries, it was not always the case elsewhere. Over one billion people worldwide did not have access to power grids and had to cope with unhealthy wood stoves, dangerous kerosene lanterns, and environmentally unfriendly gas and diesel generators. Such sources of energy were very costly and labour intensive. Solar panels and small windmills, on the other hand, were becoming increasingly cheaper and were also pollution-free. Thanks to subsidies in many developed countries, solar panels and small windmills had recently seen massive investment from business and home owners, causing a rapid increase in production and thus a dramatic reduction in prices. It was therefore possible for developed countries to help provide the one billion people living without access to power grids with an energy supply that was environmentally friendly, healthy and cheap. Studies showed that, through the use of solar power, the cost of energy in Africa could drop by 25 per cent per household per annum in off grid areas. In populated areas, it was not financially viable to develop high voltage energy distribution networks so the alternative was to install solar home systems in villages or houses. However, investors were less keen on funding such small projects since they had little insight into financial risks. The cost of assessing viability was higher than for larger projects, and political instability and risk could mean that investments were lost. The draft resolution aimed to identify what parliaments could do to address the above issues. Parliamentarians must act quickly and decisively.

Mr. DUONG QUOC AHN (Viet Nam), *co-Rapporteur*, said that the draft resolution aimed to identify what parliaments could do to ensure maximum engagement of the private sector on the SDGs, particularly Goal 7. The draft resolution had two parts: the preamble and the operative part. The preamble asserted the central position of Goal 7 on renewable energy, underscored the role of the private sector as a true development agent and noted the challenges of developing countries. The operative part addressed ways to ensure alignment between the private sector and the SDGs in national and international legal institutions, especially on renewable energy.

More concretely, the draft resolution urged parliaments to raise public awareness and encourage the private sector to incorporate sustainable development concerns into its core business areas. Under their decision-making function, parliaments were requested to finalise their national development strategies by developing a road map on Goal 7, reorienting the financial market and considering public-private partnerships. Other points included the need to use off grid renewable energy technology and mini grids, incorporate renewable energy into the state budget and support private investment. The resolution then focused on three main legislative concerns: an enabling business climate, policy-making and assessment, and public consent. On an international level, the resolution called for more exchange among parliaments and international organisations, especially in negotiating new investment agreements. It also urged parliaments to further cooperate on technology transfer and green technology, as well as to strengthen the means to achieve Goal 17. The draft resolution was both detailed and concise at the same time. Although it was very broad on how to engage the private sector, it was specific on renewable energy.

(b) Debate

Ms. L. GUMEROVA (Russian Federation) said that the draft resolution should take into account all areas related to SDG 7: promoting renewable energy, providing affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, and ensuring energy efficiency. The specific conditions of each country should also be acknowledged. As a result, the draft resolution should draw attention to other beneficial energy sources such as natural gas.

Ms. S. SARDARYAN (Armenia) said that her country was committed to the implementation of the SDGs. Armenia had recently established a national innovation lab which encouraged the private sector to promote, finance and implement the SDGs. It would also present its national voluntary review, including an update on Goal 7, at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum in 2018. Indeed, renewable energy was an important priority for Armenia. Approximately 35 per cent of its total electricity generation came from renewable energy with 200 renewable power plants that had been built in the past decade.

Mr. D. KATAYAMA (Japan) said that renewable energy fluctuated depending on weather conditions and would yield surpluses as installations expanded. As a result, countries must find ways to manage renewable energy. Japan was currently working on power-to-gas technology which enabled hydrogen to be generated from water through water electrolysis. The method could be used to store renewable energy. The Government and the private sector were collaborating to promote the use of hydrogen in the city of Kobe. Together, they had launched a pioneer project aiming to generate power and heat using hydrogen. Hydrogen was a user-friendly source of renewable energy and emitted no carbon dioxide. The Japanese amendments to the draft resolution reflected those points.

Mr. O. POROSHENKO (Ukraine) said that his country supported the draft resolution and in particular its focus on renewable energy. Ukraine was already facilitating private investments into renewable energy, for instance, by introducing green tariffs and eliminating exchange rate risks. However, countries sometimes used non-renewable energy as an instrument of political pressure. It was therefore inappropriate to refer to such sources as natural gas in the resolution.

Ms. A. THEOLOGOU (Cyprus) said that Goal 7 was related to other SDGs due to the positive impact it had on socioeconomic issues such as poverty, health and education. The implementation of the SDGs required collaboration among all key stakeholders, including governments, parliaments, civil society and the private sector. Parliaments must encourage private sector investment in renewable energy by passing the relevant legislation, scrutinising government policy and defending constituents' interests. They must build awareness of national policy, eliminate inequitable legal provisions and build productive monitoring links. It was also important to encourage communication and cooperation among the private sector and the government on infrastructure, technology and innovation. To that end, the House of Representatives in Cyprus had passed legislation establishing a new model market place which encouraged cooperation among all parties with a vested interest in energy. The legislation created suitable incentives, established a competitive market and promoted renewable energy.

Mr. S.Y. KIM (Republic of Korea) said that private sector engagement on renewable energy was valuable, but companies were reluctant to participate because production costs were too high. Parliaments and governments should devise policies, laws and institutions to support renewable energy companies, particularly in the early stages of technological development and capital investment. The private companies could later take over to nurture the market and drive growth.

Mr. V. SOCATIYANURAK (Thailand) said that he supported the draft resolution, particularly its focus on good governance, social and environmental responsibilities and green innovation. He agreed with the need to raise awareness among youth and encourage parliamentarians to carry out legal and regulatory reform, for instance on market incentives. A great deal of work, however, remained to be done. Given that solar energy could only be generated in daytime, the public and private sectors should work on energy storage innovation. Countries should encourage private investment in off-grid renewable energy electrification projects over the medium and long term by putting in place the necessary infrastructure, laws and regulations. They should standardise the safety standard and feed-in tariff rate, and consider individual household members in rural and urban areas. The delegation of Thailand had submitted some amendments to the draft resolution.

Mr. D.K. TIRKEY (India) said that it was important to engage the private sector since they brought capabilities, technology, skill, reach and innovation to the table. His delegation supported the draft resolution but wished to submit some amendments.

The CHAIR intervened and said that amendments would be discussed later.

Mr. K. ABDULLAH (Kuwait) said that parliamentarians should encourage governments to use their sovereignty funds for renewable energy projects, including ones that engaged the private sector. Furthermore, governments should stop investing in weapons and instead invest in renewable energy.

Ms. H. BOUVENG (Sweden) said that cutting emissions did not have to come at the expense of economic growth. Over the past few decades, Sweden had seen its economy grow by 70 per cent and emissions fall by 20 per cent. However, the country was still highly dependent on fossil fuels. The Government was tackling the matter by incentivising the private sector to use green vehicles. One such incentive was the bonus-malus system for new vehicles. Under the system, new vehicles with low emissions of carbon dioxide qualified for a bonus at purchase, whilst those with high emissions were taxed at a higher rate for the first three years.

Mr. A. MOHAMED TABER (Sudan) said that the private sector had a pivotal role in development, particularly on renewable energy. The African region had the potential to produce and export a great deal of solar energy, but faced many challenges, including funding. Governments should provide private companies with the necessary protections to invest in clean energy, particularly in solar energy. He welcomed the draft resolution.

Mr. S. AL-MUTAWA (United Arab Emirates) said that his delegation was in favour of the draft resolution but had submitted amendments on strengthening public-private partnerships. There were numerous examples of public-private partnerships on renewable energy in the United Arab Emirates, such as the Shams 1 project by the Masdar Initiative. Countries should identify potential areas within the public sector that would benefit from such partnerships. They should also include the importance of public-private partnerships in school curricula to raise awareness among the next generation.

Mr. A. ESMAEILI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that SDG 7 required the participation of all relevant stakeholders, particularly the private sector. The Islamic Republic of Iran had taken measures to enhance the role of the private sector in the energy market. For instance, its most recent national development plan aimed to increase the country's share of renewable energy through private investment that was both domestic and foreign. The Government were also considering the idea to provide the private sector with incentives, such as tax exemptions, to increase its production of renewable energy. Although Iran's main source of energy was oil and gas, it also had the potential to develop renewable energy.

Mr. G.B. DJIWANDONO (Indonesia) said that his delegation supported the draft resolution but wished to stress two additional points. First, the private sector should protect the local communities in which it operated, for instance, by preserving the environment and safeguarding basic human rights. Second, state-owned enterprises also had an important role to play, particularly in developing economies.

Ms. L. LEGARDA (Philippines) said that her delegation wished to add an amendment to the draft resolution in between paragraphs 4 and 5 of the preamble. The amendment would highlight the need to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius pursuant to the Paris Agreement as well as to phase out fossil fuels, particularly coal. The delegation also wished to add amendments on developing sustainable energy roadmaps, ensuring resilient energy infrastructure, guaranteeing non-discriminatory access to the grid and introducing legislated risk management policies. The above-mentioned amendments would ensure that efforts on renewable energy were driven not only by economic opportunity but also by crises.

The CHAIR said that the Standing Committee would not be able to take into account additional amendments since the deadline for submission had passed.

Ms. J.N. MHLANGA (Zimbabwe) said that her delegation was in favour of the draft resolution. Clean and efficient energy was at the forefront of her Government's priorities. Zimbabwe was involved in south-south cooperation on clean energy under the sponsorship of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Government aimed to increase its share of renewable energy consumption to 20 per cent by 2022, primarily through private sector investments. There were also a number of policy initiatives in place on engaging the private sector. For instance, the Government had granted some private and public entities a waiver of duty on imported components. It was also developing feed-in tariffs on renewable energy to encourage investment.

Ms. S. ZAOUALI (Tunisia) said that her country was working towards producing and exporting solar power. It had a commission on solar energy and a network of parliamentarians which studied bills related to the SDGs. Parliament was establishing laws and policies to encourage private sector investment in renewable energy, including on incentives and public-private partnerships. The Government had also issued a call for tender to produce 1,000 megawatts of renewable energy from wind and photovoltaic sources. The aim was to have 30 per cent of the total energy generation come from renewable sources by 2030.

Ms. W. BANI MUSTAFA (Jordan) said that Jordan had the potential to produce solar and wind energy. The country had enacted legislation to incentivise investment in renewable energy as well as to encourage public-private partnerships. It had also established a fund to promote renewable energy and streamline energy consumption. However, there had also been challenges, including interference in the electricity supply from the grid. Jordan hoped to involve the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and other bodies in its efforts to tackle such challenges. It was important to link renewable energy with climate change and sustainable development.

Mr. R. WU (China) said that parliaments should enact laws to implement the SDGs. They should also give economic market status to the private sector to encourage their participation in renewable energy. Indeed, China had taken both those steps. His delegation agreed with the draft resolution but wished to propose some amendments.

Ms. A. MULDER (Netherlands) said that the rapporteurs should clarify why the resolution did not mention the Paris Agreement. She stressed the importance of including citizens and local communities and authorities in renewable energy projects to ensure public support. A fair approach was necessary both for those who paid the costs and for those who benefitted from the arrangements. Otherwise, the international community would fail to achieve the Paris Agreement.

Ms. M.I. PÉREZ MATOS (Cuba) said that Cuba had a development policy in place which included aspects on renewable energy and energy efficiency. It hoped to reach a 24 per cent share of renewable energy by 2030. All interested stakeholders, including the private sector, must participate to achieve results. Her delegation had included an amendment highlighting the responsibility of States in guaranteeing economic and social rights and therefore access to energy, as a fundamental component of quality of life.

Mr. S. HUSAIN (Bahrain) said that Bahrain attached great importance to renewable energy despite its present reliance on oil. The country had established a specialised unit to streamline energy consumption and promote investment in renewable energy such as wind, solar and biofuel. The Government hoped to achieve a 10 per cent share of renewable energy by 2030.

Mr. D. CHAPMAN (United Kingdom) said that the United Kingdom had a clean growth strategy and hoped to further support renewable energy initiatives in other nations. Scotland had set ambitious climate change targets, including the target to generate all of its electricity from renewable sources, for instance wind and wave, by 2020. The Assembly should consider how to build up research and development initiatives through private companies, universities and international bodies such as IRENA. Affordability was important for all since fuel poverty affected both developed and developing economies.

Mr. F. BURBANO (Ecuador) said that his country had a policy in place to incentivise private investment in alternative energy. Countries with fossil fuel reserves should be given incentives to switch to renewable energy, such as credit, cooperation, assistance, technology transfer and local capacity building.

Mr. M.S. HAQUE BHUIYAN (Bangladesh) said that Bangladesh had given priority to renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy conservation programmes under its most recent five year plan. Some of the measures taken included establishing the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) and introducing fiscal incentives such as duty exemptions on solar panels. During the previous nine years, Bangladesh had installed solar panels in 70 per cent of households. The country aimed to achieve a 10 per cent share of renewable energy by 2020. He fully supported the draft resolution as amended by Kuwait.

Mr. A. GRYFFROY (Belgium), *co-Rapporteur*, said that he agreed with the delegate from the Russian Federation that SDG 7 was about energy as a whole, including energy efficiency. However, the Committee had decided to focus the resolution specifically on renewable energy, as well as on finding solutions for disconnected areas, for instance, through mini grids. With regard to the questions from the Netherlands and the Philippines, the draft resolution did not mention the Paris Agreement because the *co-Rapporteurs* wanted to make it as inclusive as possible. Mentioning the Agreement would exclude those States that had not signed it.

The CHAIR announced that the Standing Committee would continue its work on drafting the resolution in plenary.

The sitting rose at 11.10 a.m.

SITTING OF TUESDAY 27 MARCH

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.35 p.m. with Mr. A. Cissé (Mali), Vice-President of the Committee, in the Chair.

Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy (continued)

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

Mr. A. GRYFFROY (Senator, Belgium), *co-Rapporteur*, said that the final draft of the resolution as amended was ready for adoption. However, there was a mistake in preambular paragraph 4. The word "linchpin" should read "significant linchpin". He asked the Committee to approve the draft resolution with that small change and, once approved, the IPU Secretariat to add the word "significant" before the word "linchpin" in the final text.

The draft resolution as amended was adopted by acclamation.

(d) Appointment of a rapporteur to the 138th Assembly

The CHAIR proposed that Mr. A. Gryffroy be appointed as the rapporteur who would present the resolution to the 138th Assembly.

The rapporteur was appointed by acclamation.

Preparations for future Assemblies

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

The CHAIR said that the Bureau had received four potential topics for the next resolution. Australia had proposed: the role of fair free trade and investment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Belgium had proposed: the use of digital technology to achieve the SDGs. Serbia had proposed: the role of parliaments in promoting sustainable and inclusive industrialization and in encouraging innovation. Ukraine had proposed: prioritising the digital transition to improve efficiency and bolster economic growth. The Bureau had asked Australia and Serbia to combine their proposals into one title. The final title suggested was as follows: *The role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation.*

The title was agreed.

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

The CHAIR said that the Bureau had nominated two rapporteurs for the new draft resolution. They were: Ms. S. Raskovic Ivic (Serbia) and Mr. J. Wilson (Australia). The IPU Secretariat would also find a third rapporteur who would be from Africa.

The rapporteurs were appointed.

(c) Proposals for other items for the Committee agenda

The CHAIR said that the Committee would have six hours in total at the next Assembly to discuss its agenda. In the first three hours, the Committee would discuss the topic of the new draft resolution. In the next two hours, the Committee would discuss the implementation of the resolution on renewable energy adopted at the 138th Assembly. The final hour would be spent discussing the draft outcome document of the Parliamentary Meeting at the 24th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Poland (UNFCCC COP24).

The agenda was adopted.

Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee

The CHAIR said that the nominations for vacant posts in the Bureau were as follows: Mr. V. Socratianurak (Thailand), Ms. L. Gumerova (Russian Federation), Ms. L. Nazaryan (Armenia), Ms. A. Mulder (Netherlands), Mr. N. Evans (United Kingdom), Mr. L.B. Penn (Togo), Mr. R. El Hilaa (Morocco) and Mr. M. Al-Juboori (Iraq).

The nominations were approved.

The CHAIR said that the geopolitical groups had nominated Ms. J. Mhlanga (Zimbabwe) to be the new President of the Committee. The Bureau nominated Ms. W. Bani Mustafa (Jordan) to be the Vice-President.

The nominations were approved.

The sitting rose at 2.50 p.m.

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

SITTING OF MONDAY, 26 MARCH

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 9.40 a.m., with Ms. B. Tshireletso (Botswana), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda (C-III/138/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held during the 137th IPU Assembly in St. Petersburg (October 2017)

The summary record was approved.

The next resolution of the Standing Committee: *Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*

(a) Confirmation of the co-Rapporteurs

The PRESIDENT said that, as agreed at the 137th Assembly, one of the rapporteurs of the Committee was to be from the delegation that had proposed the current subject item, namely that of Morocco, which had accordingly nominated Mr. A. Touizi for the position. Following consultations, the IPU President, Ms. G. Cuevas Barron, had, in accordance with Rule 13 of the Rules of the Standing Committees, nominated Ms. K. Sosa of El Salvador and Mr. J.I. Echániz of Spain as his co-Rapporteurs. The Chair took it that the Committee wished to approve those nominations.

It was so decided.

(b) Preparatory debate on the next resolution (C-III/138/3(b)-Inf.1)

The PRESIDENT, after drawing attention to a note of the Executive Committee on the management of abusive language in IPU meetings (EX/278/16-Inf.1), introduced the guest speakers in the preparatory debate who would be providing their perspectives on the process involved in developing a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration: Mr. J. Lauber of Switzerland and Mr. J.J. Gómez Camacho of Mexico, the two co-facilitators of that process, both of whom were Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in New York.

Mr. J. LAUBER, *guest speaker*, in outlining the preparatory process leading to the adoption of the global compact, said that, given their key links with communities affected by international migration, parliamentarians had vital input to contribute to the process. More important still was their role in the implementation of the global compact which was intended to provide a non-legally binding framework for improving the governance of migration in all its dimensions, including through strengthened international cooperation. The three-phase process had been set in motion with the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants in September 2016 which had also mandated the development of a global compact for refugees. Spanning a total of approximately one year, phase I of the process had comprised regional consultations aimed at gathering information to promote familiarity with the subject and build a basis for the intergovernmental negotiations under way in the current phase III. The exercise had revealed important findings including the fact that migration was predominantly interregional, as well as a substantial driver of economic development. Furthermore, no country was any longer exclusively one of origin, transit or destination for migrants.

In phase II of the process, a preparatory meeting had been held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, in December 2017, in order to take stock of the information gathered. He and his co-facilitator had subsequently drawn on that information in preparing a zero draft of the global compact, which had been presented in February 2018 to Member States of the United Nations. The ensuing six rounds

of monthly negotiations, two of which had already taken place, would be completed in July 2018, at which point the final zero draft would be approved with a view to its formal adoption at an intergovernmental conference to be organized in Morocco for that purpose in December 2018.

Mr. J.J. GÓMEZ CAMACHO, *special guest*, likewise emphasizing the key role of parliamentarians in the negotiation and implementation of the global compact, said that the first of the three parts of the zero draft covered the vision and guiding principles underpinning the compact. Formulated on the basis of the evidence and data gathered during phase I of the preparatory process, those principles were crucial to dispelling common misconceptions and creating an accurate narrative of migration that would explain the purpose of the compact. The second part of the zero draft set out a cooperative framework comprising 22 objectives, together with actionable commitments for their fulfilment, all of which were non-legally-binding and adaptable to the migration circumstances, realities and contexts specific to each country. The objectives were geared to the migration cycle, starting with the root causes and continuing on through the departure, transit and destination stages, and were built on a human rights-based and people-centred approach.

The third part of the zero draft dealt with the fundamental aspect of follow-up and review at the multilateral, regional and national levels in support of coherent and harmonized implementation. The aim was to provide spaces at each of those levels for sharing experiences, exchanging views and cooperating on ways forward for further managing the complexities associated with migration. Another challenging aim of the global compact was to ensure that the enormous developmental and economic benefits created through migration were not only maximized but also spread equally across the globe.

The PRESIDENT thanked the co-facilitators for sharing their insights, wishing them every success in the remainder of the intricate negotiation process, and invited the co-Rapporteurs to speak about the draft resolution to be prepared on migration for consideration by the Committee at the next Assembly.

Mr. A. TOUIZI (Morocco), *co-Rapporteur*, said that it was important to focus on the positive aspects of migration and counteract the misinformation often disseminated by the media. In working for the protection of migrants, parliaments were morally bound to establish national action plans for implementation of the global compact in all its dimensions and to oversee follow-up measures. His own country had developed a sound migration policy on the strength of its migration experiences. Having started out as a country of origin for migrants, it had gone on to become a country of transit and ultimately a country of destination. He looked forward to learning of the experiences of other countries, which would surely provide a substantive basis for the draft resolution.

Ms. K. SOSA (El Salvador), *co-Rapporteur*, welcoming the fact that the global compact would take into account regional responses, said that the Central American and Caribbean region was currently pursuing a migration approach that included the development of framework laws for guaranteeing the fundamental human rights of migrants who transited or remained in the region. A multifaceted strategy was essential to addressing the causes of migration, which, as in El Salvador, were often economic or conflict-related. Also to be addressed were such issues as unaccompanied child migrants, family reunification and assistance to migrants upon repatriation, including as a means of preventing new migratory flows. Migration was a trend affecting all countries, which must therefore work together to secure more humane treatment for migrants.

Mr. J.I. ECHANIZ (Spain), *co-Rapporteur*, said that the current Assembly provided the opportunity to gain a broader view of the migration issues affecting different countries and assist the development of a draft resolution contributing to the effective governance of those issues. With international migration rising in line with the growing number of underlying causes, its consequences must be tackled at the global level through cross-cutting measures. That entailed a complex process of bringing together differing viewpoints on the matter in order to build an intelligent and balanced response which should be evidence-based, respectful of human rights and dignity, non-discriminatory and free of stereotyping. Parliamentarians were well placed to lead implementation and follow-up of the global compact and to build mutual trust and cooperation among all stakeholders. With its experience as a country of origin, transit and destination, Spain had evolved good practices in migration and was fully committed to the future global compact.

Ms. J. NIKOLOVA (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), commencing the debate, said that a global framework was essential to comprehensively address the complex and intertwined issues of migration. Only by acting jointly and sharing responsibilities would stakeholders succeed in achieving safe, orderly and regular migration and protecting the dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants. Her country would continue its participation in the process of developing the global compact on the basis of its own experiences of migration. Its policy and legislative framework for the transit and stay of migrants had been harmonized with those of the European Union and it was well acquainted with the benefits of cross-border and international cooperation on migration, including the humanitarian aspects. The security of States, the public and migrants must be mutually reinforced to avoid counterproductive strategies that increased the vulnerability of migrants. Migration brought socio-economic benefits and its challenges could be resolved through legal, administrative and labour policies for promoting the integration of migrants.

Mr. B. RAJIĆ (Slovenia) said that, among other things, migration enhanced economic growth and reduced inequalities but also created political tensions and human tragedy. In Slovenia, migrant children enjoyed free and compulsory elementary education alongside Slovenian children, which was important for learning the language and culture of their new country. The global compact should thus emphasize similar integration measures and indeed non-discrimination, as well as border control cooperation to prevent migrant smuggling, human trafficking and irregular migration. While all States had a sovereign right to grant or refuse admission to their territory, they were also obliged to accept the return and readmission of their nationals. Given their diversity and overall interconnectedness, the drivers of migration must be tackled in a spirit of solidarity and shared responsibility. As to parliamentarians, they must raise awareness of the economic and other benefits of migration for countries of origin and destination alike.

Mr. Z. SANDUKA (Palestine) said that the Palestinian people had first been driven out of its homeland in 1917, following the issuance of the fateful Balfour Declaration on establishing a Jewish national home in Palestine. Under the later United Nations plan, adopted in 1947, to partition Palestine into one Arab and one Jewish State, no Palestinian State had ever been established, whereas an Israeli State had, in 1948. The criminal Israeli actions against the Palestinian people had then begun, exemplified by the wholesale demolition of villages and forced displacement. Many millions of Palestinian refugees had since continually endured miserable conditions in tented camps while Israel continued to flout United Nations resolutions calling on it to facilitate the return of Palestinians. United States funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) had recently been halved in a bid to curtail its activities. The Palestinian people had universal support, however, as evidenced by the choice made concerning the emergency item to be debated at the current Assembly.

Ms. S. KOUMA-KOUKOUTRA (Cyprus) said that parliamentarians were key in promoting a strong national human rights framework for all, especially vulnerable groups such as migrants and refugees, as well as in stimulating national dialogue and endorsing a common agenda on global migration. War and conflict must be the first of the root causes of migration to be eliminated and focus must be placed on development assistance for countries plagued by underdevelopment and poverty. In Europe, military operations aimed at containing migration must be terminated and border control mechanisms replaced by multinational search and rescue efforts. Also needed were a permanent system for relocating refugees to all European Union Member States; safe and legal routes for migrants and asylum seekers; humanitarian visas and family reunification; and dignified temporary accommodation for asylum seekers, funded by the European Union. Parliamentarians must furthermore be at the forefront in advocating the truth: migrants and refugees were not a danger—they were in danger.

Mr. P. CHAKONA (Zimbabwe) said that the poor economic situation in Zimbabwe had created multiple and complex issues characterized by high levels of brain drain, cross-border mobility and irregular migration. Outward migration had become a key coping mechanism for the Zimbabwean population, several million of whom were estimated to be living and working overseas. The resulting loss of many specialist skills had negatively affected the country's service industry, while the capacity to manage such issues was constrained by the lack of an appropriate legal, institutional and policy framework. Various migration-related policies had been drafted some years earlier, for instance, but had yet to be approved. The Government was nonetheless progressing soundly towards the implementation of mechanisms for dealing with its complex and multifaceted migration challenges, among them human trafficking. A European Union-funded project was also supporting its efforts to manage migration through dialogue with non-State actors in a migrant-centred, gender-sensitive and development-oriented manner.

Mr. T. MEEPIEN (Thailand) said that, as a country of origin, transit and destination for migrants, Thailand pursued the integrated, balanced and comprehensive approach to international migration management underlined in the zero draft of the global compact. Its Parliament was furthermore committed to raising positive awareness of migrants, promoting regularization of their status, and addressing such related problems as human trafficking. Thailand had promptly ratified the region's first legally binding instrument for combating trafficking in persons and had ensured legal protection for all victims of trafficking. It was also drafting new legislation against people smuggling and stood ready to work closely with all partners at home and abroad with a view to strengthening the effectiveness of migration-related policies and their implementation. It aimed in addition to bring Thai migration governance into line with international standards by expanding the regular pathways for migration and preventing migrants from falling prey to trafficking networks.

Mr. M. DE FREITAS (South Africa) said that, supported by appropriate policies, migration could contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development in countries of origin and destination. Its root causes must be addressed, however, to ensure that it was a choice and not a necessity. South Africa had initiated policy frameworks to regularize migration, provided renewable permits as a means of addressing irregular migration, and extended certain social benefits to recognized and deserving refugees. It had also, *inter alia*, legislated against trafficking in persons and drafted an action plan to combat racism. It nonetheless reserved its right to determine admission, exit and residence conditions for foreign nationals. Through their oversight functions, parliamentarians must seek to address, *inter alia*, gender-based violence, human trafficking and the root causes of large movements of refugees; support countries dealing with major influxes of refugees and migrants; and robustly condemn xenophobia and racism directed against refugee and migrant groups.

Mr. A. YOUSEF NEJAD (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his was a country of origin, transit and destination on account of its geographical position. The linkage between migration and such issues as security, development and climate change had increasingly drawn attention to the global, regional and national dimensions of migration and the need for cooperation to address their consequences. Balanced and principled migration policies were essential, as were measures for addressing the deep-seated causes of migration and promoting swifter growth in developing countries. International financial resources must be mobilized for investment in those countries, including for the purposes of capacity-building, knowledge and information exchange, and technology transfer. Creation of the conditions conducive to such investment would ultimately reduce migration and with it human trafficking.

Mr. G. ZHENG (China) said that migration was here to stay and played an important part in improving the labour situation, promoting development and strengthening cultural exchange among peoples. It also contributed, however, to various problems, such as human trafficking, organized crime and protectionism, and anti-migrant sentiment was on the rise. China actively supported the initiative to develop a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, which must at the same time be balanced with respect for the sovereignty of States over their borders. It was similarly essential to take a long-term view by addressing the root causes of migration. China was determined to ensure the effective management of international migration and related issues within its own borders, as indicated by its recent establishment of an office dedicated to that purpose.

Ms. K.W. NA (Republic of Korea), noting the inexorable rise of migration in the globalized world, said that her Parliament had passed legislation to promote the health and well-being of migrants, support their adjustment to Korean society and ensure respect for their human rights. Institutional measures had also been introduced to eliminate discrimination against migrants, encourage generosity towards other cultures and improve social communication with non-nationals, whose numbers in the country had almost doubled in the past decade. Koreans had thus come to recognize the value of inclusiveness and cultural diversity in their otherwise homogeneous society. With their legislative and oversight functions, parliamentarians would have a crucial role to play with respect to implementing the future global compact, bringing public attention to migration issues and actively fostering solidarity with parliaments in countries of origin. Cooperation among nations was vital to finding solutions to migration issues, which for her country included the case of defectors from its northern neighbour.

Mr. A. DERZSI (Romania) said that migrant domestic workers in Europe, especially women, were often subjected to poor working conditions, abuse and violence. In order to counter that situation, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) had resolved to strengthen both the related legislation and its implementation by, among others, ensuring that domestic work

was treated as a "real" job, affording legal and social protection to workers, and promoting gender equality in employment. National parliaments must likewise do their utmost to promote knowledge concerning the management of migration, while governments should pursue an integrated and comprehensive approach by establishing special structures for dealing with migration issues, including those involving diasporas. Given its magnitude and multiplicity of causes, migration was set to remain a priority on the parliamentary agenda. The IPU must therefore work for a strong parliamentary commitment to the global compact which promised to address migration in all its diverse perspectives.

Ms. U. KARLSSON (Sweden) said that the draft resolution must address the issues of statelessness and internally displaced persons, especially women and children, who were vulnerable to violence, sexual abuse and forced marriage. The legislation in any country must furthermore be applicable to all, including migrants and refugees, who should be guaranteed equal rights and protections with nationals, as well as equal access to health, education and other services. In relation to its population size, Sweden was the European country hosting the largest number of migrants, including many thousands of asylum seekers. It was therefore keen to promote their socio-economic integration and enable them to make a positive contribution to the country, which were aims that called for goodwill and appropriate policymaking. In short, migrants should be seen as an opportunity and a resource, rather than as a problem.

Mr. S. GAVRILOV (Russian Federation) said that the Russian Federation was a major country of destination for migrants, who benefited from its provision of special social, educational and cultural programmes and other services. International migration was primarily driven by terrorism and extremism which must therefore be robustly countered, including by working for the economic development of countries of origin instead of interfering in their sovereign affairs and prolonging colonial-style policies. It was regrettable, however, that the United States had withdrawn from the process leading to the global compact citing incompatibility with its sovereign right to decide its own migration policy. For its part, the Russian Federation refuted the concept of shared responsibility for migration management, believing that the onus lay with those who exacerbated conflict and supported terrorism. In receiving countries, civil society and other organizations must also be engaged in the fight against irregular migration by helping to improve the integration of migrants and refugees.

Mr. M. DE FREITAS (South Africa), speaking on a point of order, said that he objected to the noisy discussion among delegates during the debate, which was not only deeply disrespectful to delegates who were speaking but also distracting for those who wished to listen to their words. All individual discussions must be conducted outside the room.

The PRESIDENT thanked the speaker for his point of order, saying that it was indeed justified and chimed appropriately with her earlier request for delegates to respect the speaker.

Mr. W. AYENEW (Ethiopia) said that international migration—and with it human trafficking—was a global challenge precipitated by war, drought, lack of democracy, and human rights violations. Migration must therefore be reduced for the sake of peace, stability and development. The key role of parliaments in that endeavour consisted in formulating new laws, regulations and policies designed to protect the rights of migrants. Although Ethiopia did have internally displaced persons, the largest migratory flows came from neighbouring countries whose refugees Ethiopia treated as family. Indeed, the Ethiopian Government and people were committed to accommodating those refugees in a safe and orderly manner. To that end, it was essential to share experiences so as to strengthen cooperation among parliaments on the subject and inform their development of relevant legislation.

Mr. V. MAHATME (India) said that the draft resolution must propose ways of overcoming a difficult problem faced by temporary migrant workers, namely that employers in destination countries often retained their passports and thus controlled their movement which was in violation of their human rights. As migration was necessary for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in countries of origin and destination alike, the draft should also emphasize the need to address migration and development issues in an integrated fashion as should the global compact which must additionally deal with the structural drivers of migration. Together with the all-important capacity-building mechanisms, the means of implementing the global compact must, too, be clearly defined. Also to be delineated were the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in the follow-up and review processes, at which stage the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and the Regional Migration Forum should each be repurposed and renamed to reflect their review functions.

Mr. L. YEMETS (Ukraine) said that, due to the military conflict stemming from the Russian invasion and occupation of Crimea and Eastern Ukraine, Ukraine was among the countries with the highest number of internally displaced persons. Thousands of Ukrainian citizens had been killed and millions forced with the choice of either seeking asylum in non-occupied territories or remaining under Russian occupation. The Russian Federation refused to accept responsibility for the humanitarian situation in Eastern Ukraine where its forces disrespected the population and shelled critical civilian infrastructure. Vocal opponents of the occupation were furthermore routinely abducted, tortured or murdered. The Russian Federation also pursued the same tactics in support of the totalitarian Syrian regime. The IPU must be explicit about those causes of forced migration and also signal that the topic would remain on its agenda for as long as the Russian Federation and its allies and proxies continued to repress and exterminate Syrian and Ukrainian civilians.

Mr. A. ATICI (Turkey) said that refugee problems could be resolved through understanding the motive of those who left behind their countries, families and friends, which was that there was no other choice in the face of poverty and internal conflict created by others. To minimize migration and the problems associated therewith, so-called developed countries must cease their efforts to "bring democracy" to other countries, as well as halt their arms sales and their support for internal conflicts in other countries which they also impoverished through exploitation of their natural resources. It was furthermore inhumane to discriminate against refugees on the ground of race or religion and to accept those who were comfortably off and well-educated while abandoning others to their fate. Such issues were a major concern and demanded attention.

Mr. F. ALDHABBAHI (United Arab Emirates) said that issues to be highlighted in the draft resolution must specifically include the need for: a set of agreed international principles concerning human dignity; international development assistance to curb migratory flows; humane treatment of migrants in accordance with international humanitarian law, international law, international human rights principles and all relevant international instruments; coverage of the rights and obligations of countries of origin, destination and transit in the global compact; emphasis on the potential benefits of migrants for the development of receiving countries; strict international sanctions for trafficking in migrants; access for migrants to humanitarian services in transit and destination countries; recognition of educational qualifications obtained by migrants in their countries of origin or elsewhere; and streamlined procedures for obtaining temporary or permanent residence and work permits as a way of helping to reduce irregular migration.

Ms. J. ALSAMMAK (Bahrain) said that the reasons for migration could be social, political, economic or environmental and that migrants were in need of services to ensure their health, employment, security and so forth. Bahrain had a large population of migrants who were attracted to it as a country reputed for its safe and peaceful environment. The Government and Parliament had cooperated in addressing migration-related issues by, for instance, working to ensure that schools taught the principles of tolerance, solidarity and peaceful coexistence and to promote the establishment of a national human rights institution and a centre to combat human trafficking. Parliament also had its own human rights committee and enacted appropriate legislation in the areas of migration and human rights. It was through such cooperation that safe, orderly and regular migration could be achieved.

Lord DHOLAKIA (United Kingdom) said that migration issues should not be confused with those relating to refugees and asylum seekers. Furthermore, all countries had the right to determine their own immigration policy but must categorically ensure that the policy was in no way discriminatory. The unfortunate reality was that persons entitled to enter countries could experience considerable hardship through having to undergo processes designed to keep others out. Migrants created tremendous wealth for destination countries where they must consequently be treated with respect and dignity. In Western countries, asylum seekers and refugees were sometimes politically exploited and the public was often unaware of the benefits of migration. The authorities should therefore publicize and clarify their immigration policies so as to inform public opinion. Those policies must also be monitored to ensure that obligations were being met and the push and pull factors of migration identified and balanced in the interest of moving positively forward.

Mr. A. ALDEQBASI (Kuwait) said that none of the problems associated with migration would ever be eliminated unless their root causes were tackled head on and decisively. For thousands of families fleeing oppression, suffering and the consequences of conventional or chemical weapons attacks, the choice to migrate was a matter of life or death despite the odds against surviving their journeys. The international community and its institutions were all talk and no action and their

credibility was at stake. Efforts must be focused on ending inhumanity and insecurity and on bringing to justice under international law those who violated human dignity, rights and freedoms. Lack of robust action to deal with such catalysts for migration would end in nothing but crying over spilt milk.

Ms. K. OTSUJI (Japan) said that, with its population falling due to a declining birth rate and ageing society, Japan could not function without migrant labour. International migration was taking place on an unprecedented scale which demanded close cooperation to tackle its root causes and robust action to protect migrant rights, especially given the rising popularity of parties advocating anti-migrant policies and racial discrimination. Host countries must work to eliminate such prejudice and ensure that migrants were treated with dignity as in Japan where violations of the human rights of temporary migrants benefiting from internship programmes were identified and punished. Countries must also promote the socio-economic integration of migrants and raise awareness to combat discrimination, racism and xenophobia. As to parliamentarians, they must exchange relevant information and participate actively in the ongoing negotiations for a principled global compact that would guide the actions of all stakeholders in the area of migration.

Mr. W. WILLIAM (Seychelles) said that mass migration would continue to be triggered by its many drivers if they were not promptly addressed. Preparedness to adapt and mitigate would reduce pain, hatred and loss of lives, as well as control the growth of terrorist groups that resulted from development gaps. Critical issues must be addressed at source by identifying their causes. Renewed global commitments to give impetus to political will were also needed and the issue of sovereignty must be continually revisited to prevent it from being used as an argument against appropriate actions, such as the amendment of national laws. Migration should be seen as an opportunity with the added value of experiences, skills and knowledge useful for nation-building. Women should also be further empowered to join in addressing issues, given their compassionate and caring nature. Good governance and respect for rule of law and governance institutions were moreover critical to promoting peace and stability.

Mr. D. MARIE (France) said that migration was a factor in development and had enhanced economies and cultures. Refugees needing international protection and asylum must be distinguished from economic migrants and from climate migrants whose numbers were growing and who should be accorded a special status guaranteeing basic protection. The achievement of safe, orderly and regular migration necessitated cooperation and development aid for countries of origin and transit in order to promote the return of migrants; measures to combat trafficking and international organized criminal groups exploiting the vulnerable for gain; and, in destination countries, rights to essential services and employment for migrants, as well as the right of return for those denied leave to stay. In Europe, migration was a topic of lively debate often inflamed by populist and xenophobic political parties. Parliamentarians must show their reason and humanity, not forgetting that countries had been built over generations with the support of migrants.

Ms. Z. AHMED HASSAN GABER (Sudan) said that freedom of movement should be guaranteed to all and that migration, both regular and irregular, was prompted by political and socio-economic factors. Migration should be safe, orderly and regular but was positive for destination countries and negative for countries of origin owing to the loss of skills that would otherwise contribute to their development. The proper management of migration called for appropriate domestic legislation, especially in countries such as Sudan, which shared borders with seven countries and was thus a country of origin, transit and destination. Migration was also associated with the trafficking of human beings whose economic despair left them with no choice but to be smuggled as goods and subjected to forced labour, which was among the practices criminalized in Sudan. It was through the global compact that safe migration would be realized.

Mr. A. NIYONGABO (Burundi) said that, using their legislative and oversight functions, parliamentarians must work to reduce unsafe, disorderly and irregular migration, to which international cooperation was also key. Economic strengthening in countries of origin was vital. Most countries of the South had natural resources that could aid their development were those resources not exploited by the North, to which young victims of the resulting poverty then headed. Efforts must furthermore be made to avoid destabilizing countries so as to prevent the insecurity that often sparked migration. Another problem was the lack of educational opportunities pushing young people from the South to pursue their education in the North where they would then remain. Cooperation should be initiated in order to explore ways of enabling the South to benefit from the skills of such individuals. As to refugees and internally displaced persons, good political and economic governance could help to prevent the wars and conflicts responsible for their situation.

Mr. M. AL-JUBOORI (Iraq), noting that all countries were affected by migration, said that Iraq had been turned from a receiving country for many migrant workers into a sending country from which millions of its citizens had fled in order to escape war and conflict, as well as the worsening economy and living standards. Those causes of migration must be removed by ending war, eradicating terrorism, fostering international peace and working to improve socio-economic conditions in post-conflict countries especially. Reconstruction must be a priority in those countries, including in order to encourage the return of both internally and externally displaced citizens to their homes. Major rebuilding and infrastructure projects were therefore under way in Iraq, notably in the regions destroyed by Daesh. Reconstruction was a challenging and costly undertaking, however, and one that called for international assistance.

Mr. J.P. BATUBARA (Indonesia) said that no country could face the constant challenge of full-scale migration alone. Efforts to enhance global migration governance must therefore be focused on the benefits for sending countries, receiving countries and migrants themselves. Accordingly, parliamentary cooperation on migration should seek to achieve a number of aims, such as: protecting the human rights of migrant workers and their families, through accession to relevant international instruments; improving the management of sending and receiving migrant workers and ensuring clarity in their contracts of employment; creating regular pathways for migration, including with the participation of business; providing access for migrant workers to social and health services in receiving countries; and building technical capacities in developing countries. All IPU Members should also work closely in tandem to ensure the protection of regular and irregular migrants through comprehensive national policies sufficient to meet the needs and interests of all stakeholders.

Mr. M. ALHAIZAN (Saudi Arabia) said that millions of migrant workers lived in peace and security alongside the citizens of Saudi Arabia which thus had a wealth of experience to contribute with regard to addressing migration-related issues from a humanitarian standpoint and without discrimination. A leading donor of development assistance, the Kingdom also provided generous aid to, among others, Syrian and Yemeni refugees and displaced persons. It hosted large numbers of Syrian refugees, who were treated with respect and enjoyed safety, freedom of movement and the same free access to all services as citizens, and it furthermore delivered relief to the Yemeni people in their current crisis. The many Yemenis in Saudi Arabia had visitor status and were under no requirement to obtain residence and labour permits or to pay any applicable fines for irregular entry. Saudi Arabia always sought to preserve human dignity in pursuing its relief efforts which it did without political or other motives.

Mr. A.R. AZKAHE (Syrian Arab Republic), underscoring the need for parliamentary cooperation on migration issues, said that the causes of migration from his country were clearly rooted in the terrorist activities carried out on its soil over the past seven years with the backing of numerous States in the region and beyond. Their supply of weapons and funding to armed terrorist groups bent on destabilizing the country must stop, as must their support for operations to smuggle members of such groups into his country across its borders with Turkey. Whereas such funding would have been better spent contributing to economic development and sustainable growth in developing countries, it was still being used to inflict suffering on the Syrian people who welcomed the Russian and Iranian efforts to help rid them of armed terrorist groups.

Mr. O. YANAR (Finland), speaking from experience as a migrant, said that migrants generally seized opportunities presented to them and willingly resolved to join their new compatriots in contributing to the society of their countries of destination, often with great success. It was important to consider refugees and migrants in that light, rather than to think of them as a burden. As migrants invariably gave back to society, measures to promote their integration were in fact a valuable investment. Barriers against migration must be replaced by humane policies and legal pathways for regular migration, which would in turn aid the fight against human trafficking. The underlying causes of migration must also be tackled to prevent escalating figures in future and European countries in particular must step up to share the responsibility for resolving migration issues which should not simply be outsourced to countries neighbouring those in crisis.

Mr. F. MWIJUKYE (Uganda) said that migrants in Africa were generally fleeing from conflict and situations caused by political misunderstanding, as in the case of refugees to Uganda, which was among the biggest host countries while still having its own challenges to overcome. Without action to address the causes behind the increasing number of migrants and refugees, a crisis of unmanageable proportions would result. It was therefore imperative to focus on identifying and tackling those causes above all else.

Ms. A. MAKONDA RIDLEY (Malawi) said that migration was by no means a new occurrence but had come to attention because it was now wide-scale and no longer a matter of choice. Human rights violations and lack of good governance were fundamental causes of current migrations, yet destination countries could be guilty of the same and thus scarcely qualified as exemplary hosts for migrants or refugees. Indeed, communities whose own rights were not respected by their governments were unlikely to embrace those groups. Migration policies should consequently be aimed at creating a safe and welcoming environment for migrants. The crucial role of parliamentarians in that quest was to encourage governments to shun the populist route of emphasizing, as a vote-winning tactic, the negative aspects of migration and instead focus on the well-documented positive contribution of migrants to countries of destination and origin. The IPU was ideally placed to build the capacity of parliamentarians to perform that role.

Mr. J.P. LETELIER (Chile) said that the current debate was useful for identifying both the long-standing and the newly-emerging structural drivers of migration, including climate change and State fragility, and its positive and negative consequences. Migration had always existed as part of human nature and was furthermore a basic human right that was independent of international humanitarian law. The majority of countries, however, believed otherwise and therefore sought to restrict freedom of movement through such questionable measures as migrant quotas. Insofar as the future global compact would be non-legally-binding, it was essential to establish national legislation to combat hate speech, xenophobia and racism which were not opinions but arose from fear of diversity and should not be tolerated. Remembering that most destination countries were not in fact in the North, basic standards of accommodation and other services for migrants should also be guaranteed to prevent some of the poor conditions that they often endured.

Ms. N. LABIDI (Algeria) said that there would have been no civilization or progress without migration. It was therefore an irony in the globalized world that borders were more closed than ever before and obstacles to movement increasing, which created tensions and led to unprecedented human tragedies. Another irony in the age of ultramodern transport was the fact that thousands of migrants perished on the seas in makeshift vessels. A simple visa would suffice to prevent such dramatic scenarios, including in transit and destination countries which did their generous best but were frequently left singlehanded to face the humanitarian "burden" of migrants. A further irony was that young migrants should now encounter hurdles never faced by previous generations of migrants who did not have their education. The fact was that human resources in developing countries were attracted to richer countries. Laws were in place governing the movement of goods. Were human beings less precious than goods?

The PRESIDENT invited the co-Rapporteurs to sum up their reading of the debate.

Mr. A. TOUIZI (Morocco), *co-Rapporteur*, said that he had taken careful note of the views expressed concerning key aspects of the topic, including the causes of migration, the need for cooperation to resolve migration issues through a positive approach and appropriate mechanisms, and the legislative and other roles of parliamentarians in working to protect migrants and preserve their dignity. Those views would provide useful input to the draft resolution.

Ms. K. SOSA (El Salvador), *co-Rapporteur*, said that she too had taken good note of the comments and suggestions made, in particular with respect to the drivers of migration, the issue of responsibility, the importance of cooperation, and the need to dispel the association between migration and criminal activity and instead promote a positive attitude towards migration as a human right. She was hopeful of a good outcome to the concerted international efforts under way to improve migration management.

Mr. J.I. ECHANIZ (Spain), *co-Rapporteur*, thanked the participants for their many views reflecting the diversity of migration experiences in countries around the globe and said that he had noted with interest the differing opinions voiced. The intention was to balance those views in the draft resolution, which offered a great opportunity for the IPU to make a useful contribution to the global efforts for the management of migration in the coming years.

The PRESIDENT, thanking all those who had contributed to the debate, said that Members were welcome to provide further input to the draft resolution up until the deadline of 20 April 2018.

The sitting rose at 12.50 p.m.

SITTING OF TUESDAY, 27 MARCH

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 4.40 p.m. with Ms. B. Tshireletso (Botswana), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair

Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee

The PRESIDENT said that there were several vacant posts in the Bureau. The African Group wished to nominate Mr. R. Ossele Ndong (Gabon) to replace Mr. D.P. Losiakou (Kenya). The Arab Group wished to nominate Mr. M. Musa (Lebanon) and Mr. Y. Al-Khater (Qatar) to replace Mr. M.N. Al-Gburi (Iraq) and Ms. F. Dib (Syrian Arab Republic). The Asia-Pacific Group wished to nominate Ms. S. Batsukh (Mongolia) to replace Ms. L. Kheng (Cambodia). The Eurasia Group wished to nominate Ms. N. Rahmonova (Tajikistan) and Mr V. Batrincea (Republic of Moldova) to replace Mr. S. Yershov (Kazakhstan) and Mr. L. Slutsky (Russian Federation). The Group of Latin America and the Caribbean wished to nominate Ms. G. Fermin (Dominican Republic) and Mr. M. Teixeira (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of) to replace Ms. K. Sosa (El Salvador) and Mr. M. Bouva (Suriname). In two years, Mr. M. Teixeira (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of) would be succeeded by Mr. G. Boric (Chile). The Twelve Plus Group wished to nominate Ms. A. Gerkens (Netherlands) and Ms. S. Lahaye- Battheu (Belgium) to replace Ms. S. Koutra-Koukouma (Cyprus) and Mr. J. Lacao (Portugal). In addition, the following Bureau members were eligible for re-election for a second two-year term: Ms. B. Tshireletso (Botswana), Mr. P. Wangchuk (Bhutan), Mr. A.Y. Desai (India) and Ms. S. Isayan (Armenia).

The nominations were approved.

The PRESIDENT said that her term as President of the Standing Committee was coming to an end, but she would continue to be a member of the Bureau. The chairs of the geopolitical groups had decided that the next President should be a member of the Asia-Pacific Group. The nomination for President was Mr. A.Y. Desai (India).

The nomination was approved.

The PRESIDENT said that it would be more practical to elect the Vice-President at the 139th IPU Assembly. The new Bureau would then be in place and the geopolitical groups would have discussed how to distribute the positions fairly to ensure representation and gender balance.

It was so decided.

Consideration of a proposal for a debate on *The role of parliaments in ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and ensuring respect for the human rights of LGBTI persons*

Mr. M. WATERS (South Africa) said that the Committee had taken a unanimous decision at the 137th IPU Assembly to hold a debate on the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people. The President should therefore clarify why there would be another discussion on the proposal for such a debate.

The PRESIDENT said that, at the 137th IPU Assembly, the Committee had approved the Belgian proposal to hold a debate entitled *The role of parliaments in ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and ensuring respect for the human rights of LGBTI persons*. It was agreed that the debate would not lead to a resolution. However, at the final sitting of the Assembly, a number of delegates expressed their opposition. The President of the Assembly therefore referred the proposal back to the Committee for further consideration. The task of the Committee at its present sitting was to re-examine the proposal and take a decision on how to proceed. First, the representative of Belgium would be invited to present the country's proposal. Second, delegates would be given the floor to express their views. Third, there would be a vote on whether the debate should be included in the agenda of the 139th IPU Assembly. Delegates must carry out the discussion in an atmosphere of understanding and mutual respect.

Mr. M. WATERS (South Africa) asked how delegates could be sure that the Assembly would not reject the proposal again if there was a majority vote in favour of the debate.

The PRESIDENT said that there might be a need to look at the rules again so there was no difference of interpretation.

Mr. D. MARIE (France) said that there had been a unanimous decision at the 137th Assembly to go ahead with the debate. All it took was a few delegates to raise dissenting voices at the end of the Assembly for the item to be withdrawn from the agenda. France disapproved of what had happened. No delegation had the right to refuse a debate if a majority had democratically decided to hold it. The IPU rules of procedure must be respected.

The PRESIDENT said that the situation was beyond her control. Usually, the Committee decided upon its own agenda. The rules did not indicate that the Assembly could refuse a debate. However, since the Assembly was the highest body of the IPU, the Committee was obliged to do as it had said. Furthermore, those that expressed opposition at the previous Assembly had not yet had a chance to articulate their views properly. In St. Petersburg, the President of the Assembly had taken a decision to refer the matter back to the Committee for further consideration. Delegates must therefore discuss the proposal again. She invited the representative of Belgium to present the proposal.

Ms. S. LAHAYE-BATTHEU (Belgium) said that the IPU was nearly 130 years old but was yet to hold a debate on the human rights of LGBTI people. Assigning equal rights to LGBTI people was neither radical nor difficult. In fact, it was based on two fundamental principles of international human rights law: equality and non-discrimination. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulated that all human beings were born free and equal in dignity and rights. IPU's own text, the Quebec City Declaration, stated that all individuals must enjoy their equal and inalienable rights without any discrimination whatsoever. Similarly, the 2017 report of the UN Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity had called on countries to protect LGBTI populations from violence and discrimination. Countries must respect the abovementioned texts. It was not enough to simply endorse them.

Violence and discrimination against LGBTI people had many facets across the world with life-long consequences for victims. For instance, homosexual relations were criminalised in more than a third of countries worldwide and hate speech was widespread on the Internet. Migrants and refugees were particularly vulnerable.

Parliamentarians had a duty to represent their people in their diversity, including their sexual and gender diversity. It was important to take action, for instance, on fighting discrimination, decriminalising homosexuality and protecting LGBTI people against violence. Although the debate would not be easy due to historical, cultural and religious differences, the Committee must have the courage to hold it.

Ms. L. WALL (New Zealand) said that her delegation supported the proposal for a debate on the human rights of LGBTI people. Parliamentarians must not be afraid to discuss the topic. LGBTI people had been treated badly in the history of New Zealand, particularly under British rule. It was not until 1967 that homosexuality was decriminalised. However, New Zealand had since come a long way and currently had marriage equality. The country therefore came to the debate from a perspective of understanding.

Ms. J. ALSAMMAK (Bahrain) said that her country refused to debate the topic. The impact on society would be very serious if countries did not take legal and social measures to prevent LGBTI behaviour. Atypical sexual behaviour was considered a crime in Bahrain and a crime under many religions, including Islam.

Mr. P. CHAKONA (Zimbabwe) said that LGBTI behaviour was unacceptable under the constitution and culture of Zimbabwe. LGBTI people did, however, have their own association. His delegation did not support the debate.

Mr. M. WATERS (South Africa) said that he supported the proposal for a debate on the human rights of LGBTI people. All countries must respect and accept the fact that there were LGBTI people everywhere. South Africa had transformed since the apartheid regime and currently put the human rights of all at the forefront of its work. The country had become the first in Africa to include LGBTI protections in its constitution as well to legalise same sex marriage. Human rights were universal and could not be cherry-picked.

Mr. A. YOUSEF NEJAD (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation did not support the proposal. A debate on LGBTI people would impose a set of values on the world which did not enjoy international consensus and contradicted the universality of human rights.

Mr. J. WILSON (Australia) said that his delegation supported the proposal for the debate. Countries addressed other types of discrimination and therefore should also address discrimination against LGBTI people. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to consider all important issues regardless of how difficult they were.

Mr. N. EVANS (United Kingdom) said that his delegation supported the proposal for the debate. The United Kingdom had come a long way since the draconian laws of colonial times, and currently had more gay members of parliament than anywhere else in the world. Society did not need protecting from gay people. They were not criminals but people who contributed fully to society. Parliamentarians should stand ready to discuss every issue and combat all forms of discrimination. Discrimination against LGBTI people was a celebration of hate.

Ms. W. BANI MUSTAFA (Jordan) said that her delegation rejected the proposal. Jordan's constitution enshrined the rights of all people without discrimination on any grounds. However, it was more important for the IPU to consider more serious violations of human rights than those contained in the proposal.

Ms. T. MORAIS (Portugal) said that her delegation supported the proposal and hoped there would not be any further delays. Holding the debate was the least the Committee could do given its main objective was to promote human rights. Portugal had adopted anti-discrimination laws and equality plans, including for LGBTI people.

Mr. D. MARIE (France) said that diversity was the wealth of humanity. Parliamentarians at the IPU must defend equality before law, freedom of expression, fraternity and fundamental rights, including for LGBTI people. Those who expressed opposition to the rights of LGBTI people for religious or constitutional reasons should explain their position. There was hope that people's views could change for the better. His delegation supported the proposal.

Mr. A. NIYONGABO (Burundi) said the LGBTI phenomenon was unacceptable in Burundi. He must respect the population that he represented and therefore could not support the proposal.

Mr. O. YANAR (Finland) said that discrimination against the LGBTI community was a disgrace. LGBTI people were normal people who lived normal lives. It was not true that they could not be found in certain countries or cultures. Delegates must stop closing their eyes and respect their own citizens. Equality and non-discrimination was a crucial value for Finland.

Mr. M. AL-JUBOORI (Iraq) requested that the item be withdrawn from the agenda. Iraq did not accept LGBTI behaviour. There had not been unanimity on the topic as suggested by France. The IPU must respect religious and cultural diversity. It must not impose behaviours onto societies that did not accept them.

Mr. F. MWIJUKYE (Uganda) said that LGBTI behaviours were criminalised and punishable in Uganda. Such behaviours were anti-African, anti-religion and anti-humanity. He called on the African Group and others to reject the proposal and boycott the next Assembly should it be included in the agenda.

Ms. Z. AHMED HASSAN GABER (Sudan) said that her delegation was against the proposal. LGBTI behaviours were against human nature and religion.

Ms. H. BOUVENG (Sweden) said that Sweden supported equality and human rights for all regardless of sexual orientation, race, ethnicity and religion. The IPU must be prepared to at least discuss the topic of LGBTI rights. Her delegation strongly supported the proposal.

Ms. K. OTSUJI (Japan) said that she was speaking as the only openly homosexual member of parliament in Japan. She was in favour of the proposal. LGBTI people were fully entitled to fundamental human rights. Parliamentarians from all countries must join forces to eliminate all forms of homophobia and transphobia, including legal penalties against LGBTI people. Such penalties were serious violations of human rights.

Ms. N. LABIDI (Algeria) said that it was important to accept diverse views on LGBTI rights and allow each society to handle the topic how it saw fit. It did not make sense to discuss the topic at the IPU if some countries had not even discussed it at home. That was not to say that such tendencies did not exist. The topic must be handled in a way which fostered tolerance, respected human rights and rejected all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation. Algeria did not support the proposal.

Mr. D. DAWSON (Canada) said that, for years, his country had defended human rights, including the human rights of women and indigenous people. A right was a right. Countries could not distinguish between rights. It was unacceptable that, in 2018, LGBTI people were tortured, imprisoned or otherwise mistreated. It was important to hold the debate since the debate itself was a fundamental right.

Mr. R. OSSELE NDONG (Gabon) said that arguments for and against LGBTI rights were valid on the basis of social, cultural and religious considerations. However, under democracy and freedom of expression, everyone should have the right to voice their viewpoint in a spirit of tolerance. He therefore supported the proposal.

Ms. N. AL KHAROOSI (Oman) said that she was against the proposal since it went against the religion and culture of her country. It was important to listen to the views of the general public who had favoured laws that did not accept LGBTI behaviour.

Ms. H. HUIJBREGTS-SCHIEDON (Netherlands) said that her delegation supported the proposal. Freedom of speech was the most important freedom in the democracy of the Netherlands.

Ms. S. KOUTRA-KOUKOUMA (Cyprus) said that, in 2017, her Parliament had passed a civil cohabitation law for heterosexual and homosexual couples after many years of debate. In doing so, the country had overcome the beliefs of conservative groupings and the church. Her delegation was in favour of the proposal since the rights of all people must be respected.

Mr. F. ALDHABBAHI (United Arab Emirates) said that his delegation rejected the proposal because it was against religion, particularly Islam. LGBTI behaviours also ran counter to Arab traditions as well as the traditions of other countries, and showed disrespect for human nature.

Mr. M. TEIXEIRA (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that his delegation supported the proposal wholeheartedly. Although the convictions of different religions deserved respect, the topic of LGBTI rights went beyond religion and ideology. LGBTI rights were human rights. It was not true that LGBTI behaviours did not exist in some places. Venezuela would continue to fight all types of discrimination.

Mr. W. AYENEW (Ethiopia) said that Ethiopia was a diverse and plural society. However, LGBTI behaviour was not accepted under its constitution or culture since it went against nature and religion. His delegation did not support the proposal.

Mr. M. TOMASSONI (San Marino) said that LGBTI rights were human rights and must be guaranteed. Although his country respected different opinions based on religious and cultural considerations, it was moving forward on fighting discrimination. He strongly supported the proposal.

Mr. G. MOHABA MESSU (Equatorial Guinea) said that the IPU must respect different opinions, cultures and religions, and cultivate a spirit of debate. He was against the proposal as it contradicted the opinion of the people he represented.

The PRESIDENT said that a vote by roll call would be taken to determine whether the debate on the rights of LGBTI people would be included in the agenda of the Standing Committee at the 139th IPU Assembly. A vote by roll call would ensure the results were clear.

The SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE explained the procedure to be followed in taking a vote by roll call.

A vote by roll call was taken.

With 31 votes in favour, and 24 votes against, the proposal submitted by the Belgian delegation obtained the required majority of the votes cast.

Having obtained the required majority, the PRESIDENT said that a debate on *The role of parliaments in ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and ensuring respect for the human rights of LGBTI persons* would be added to the agenda of the Standing Committee at the 139th IPU Assembly.

The sitting rose at 6.10 p.m.

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

SITTING OF TUESDAY, 27 March

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 9.15 a.m. with Mr. A. Avsan (Sweden), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

(C-IV/138/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held at the 137th IPU Assembly in St. Petersburg (October 2017)

The summary record was approved.

Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee

The PRESIDENT said that a number of colleagues had been recommended by their respective geopolitical groups to fill the vacancies of the Bureau. They were: Ms. S. Al-Hashem (Kuwait), Mr. A. Al-Amri (Oman), Mr. M. Ben Souf (Tunisia), Mr. B. Llano (Paraguay), Ms. M.J. Carrión (Ecuador), Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland) and Ms. D. Nazarbayeva (Kazakhstan). Mr. J.C. Romero (Argentina) would also replace Ms. C.L. Crexell (Argentina) since she had moved to another IPU body.

Mr. B.A. LLANO RAMOS (Paraguay) said that it was a pleasure to participate in the urgent work of the Committee. His Parliament was available to all colleagues.

Mr. L. WEHRLI (Switzerland) said that it was an honour for Switzerland to be part of the Committee and collaborate on the topic.

The nominations were approved.

Parliamentary follow-up on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in preparation for the 2018 session of the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development

The PRESIDENT said that the Committee had decided to dedicate each spring session to the role of parliaments in implementing the SDGs. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sent a clear message: in a world of plenty where the necessary knowledge and technology was available, there was no reason why the international community could not find solutions to problems. All that was needed was political will. Parliaments must forge consensus around policy solutions that left no one behind. They must hold governments to account and tailor actions to the specific conditions of their own country. They must also ensure there was a coherent plan supported by legislation and budgeting.

The present session would have two parts. First, the Committee would discuss the process of monitoring the implementation of the SDGs which revolved primarily around the United Nations HLPF. Second, the Committee would address the theme of the 2018 United Nations HLPF which focused mostly on the environmental pillar of sustainable development. In the first part of the session, parliaments would highlight lessons learned and share parliamentary practices on the SDGs with a focus on results. It would be useful to know the extent to which parliaments were integrating the SDGs into their work and the means by which they were doing so. Similarly, delegates should indicate the effectiveness of parliaments in holding the government to account and the challenges faced in advancing the agenda through legislation and the budget process.

He introduced the panellists. First, Mr. M. Mijatovic (Serbia) would share some of the initiatives his Parliament was undertaking. His country had recently used the IPU-UNDP self-assessment toolkit entitled *Parliaments and the Sustainable Development Goals*. The toolkit assessed whether parliaments were fit for purpose to mainstream the SDGs into their work

coherently and across all subject areas. It consisted of a list of questions that groups of parliamentarians must consider together. The results then served as a basis for a plan of action. Second, Ms. C.L. Crexell (Argentina) would speak about her role in embedding the SDGs within key processes of her Parliament. Third, Ms. N. Isler (Director, SDG Lab) would present the work of the SDG Lab which was an initiative to coordinate action among various UN agencies in Geneva. Fourth, Mr. E. Saravanapavan (Sri Lanka) would describe the experience of his country.

Mr. M. MIJATOVIC (Serbia), *panellist*, said that the National Assembly of Serbia had developed a number of mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the SDGs. First, the Parliament had established a focus group responsible for follow up procedures. The composition of the group was wide-ranging and included parliamentarians from both the Government and the opposition, deputy speakers and the chairpersons of the most relevant committees. The majority of members were women. Second, Parliament had carried out a self-assessment of mechanisms already in place to monitor the SDGs using the IPU-UNDP self-assessment toolkit. The above-mentioned focus group was in charge of answering the questions in the toolkit. The questions and answers were then considered in an open debate and entered into a special table. Parliament would check progress the following year. Third, Parliament had begun raising awareness among parliamentarians on the significance of the SDGs, particularly the monitoring process. For example, the foreign affairs committee had organised a public hearing on the implementation of the UN agenda. There was also a schedule of meetings for the parliamentary committees with a special focus on the SDGs, particularly on defining future obligations and oversight measures. Fourth, parliamentarians had submitted a large number of SDG-focused amendments proposing changes to the 2018 draft budget law. Although Parliament had not accepted the amendments, it was a good start. Fifth, future activities of Parliament would include informing the public about the SDGs through the media and launching a campaign in which parliamentarians would talk to youth on the matter. Belgrade would also host the next IPU regional seminar on the SDGs.

Ms. C.L. CREXELL (Argentina), *panellist*, said that she had presented two initiatives to her Parliament on monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: an observatory for the SDGs and a mechanism by which draft bills were matched with their corresponding SDG and target. The task of the observatory was to oversee SDG implementation but also to assist legislators in drafting bills that were in line with the goals. The aim of the mechanism which matched bills with goals was to compile a clear list of statistics and thereby ensure that Parliament addressed all the SDGs. The tools were also useful in raising awareness among members of parliament about the 2030 Agenda. Another mechanism worth mentioning was a special unit within the ministry for sustainable development in charge of designing actions on the SDGs in conjunction with the legislative branch.

So far, the observatory had been approved for the Chamber of Deputies but not yet for the Senate. An observatory on human rights was, however, already in operation and had recently carried out an analysis of bills submitted in 2017. The analysis aimed to establish whether there was a strong, weak or non-existent link between each bill and the SDGs. It also looked at whether the bill was a new law or whether it had modified an existing law. The final results had shown that 59 per cent of the bills had a strong link with the SDGs, 33 per cent had a weak link and 11 per cent had no link at all. It had also turned out that 74 per cent of bills focused only on five SDGs: peace, justice and strong institutions, sustainable cities and communities, good health and well-being, decent work and economic growth, reduced inequalities. The analysis was therefore useful in identifying gaps in implementation. The results were available online in a simple, easy-to-use spreadsheet. It was crucial to have tools to ensure that the SDGs could be implemented easily.

Ms. N. ISLER (SDG Lab), *panellist*, said that parliaments could make or break the 2030 Agenda. Their role involved holding governments to account and monitoring the implementation of the SDGs locally, regionally and globally. Above all, however, parliaments were key in creating the necessary conditions to achieve the agenda, for instance, by elevating the voice of citizens, creating laws and policy and ensuring budget coherence. The SDGs saw three fundamental paradigm shifts. First, the agenda was universal instead of being focused on developing countries. It therefore recognised that, although there were national complexities, the interconnectedness of the world meant that no one could reach the agenda alone. The SDG Lab noted that many developing countries which were active under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were ahead of the game and sharing lessons learned with developed countries. That was a new pattern which she welcomed. Second, the SDGs recognised correlations between sectors which was in contrast to the sectoral approach taken under the MDGs. Acknowledging those correlations in practice was, however, a great challenge. It was necessary to find more examples illustrating the practical benefits of crossing sectors. For example, stakeholders could examine what would be the

economic case for looking at health through the lens of another sector such as education or climate. Such conversations were also a new pattern that she welcomed. Nevertheless, many stakeholders had indicated that different issues were at times so interconnected that it was difficult to prioritise. It was therefore imperative to learn from each other. Third, the agenda had also shifted towards a multi-stakeholder approach. It was more than just a theoretical shift, and in fact acknowledged the practical implications of involving all stakeholders. Different stakeholders would bring valuable expertise in different areas and therefore produce results across the board. The multi-stakeholder approach was also fundamental in ensuring that all parties shared investment risks.

There were a number of recurrent themes that had come up across all regions. One common question was the financing of the agenda, in particular, whether stakeholders would find additional resources or use existing resources differently. Another theme was policy coherence. Policy coherence was a complex issue which required not only political will but incentives at political, policy and financial levels. It would be useful to have more examples where breaking silos across ministries had brought a positive outcome, particularly in economic terms. In addition, many stakeholders recognised the interconnectedness of the agenda but had difficulty identifying where the connections were. Another recurrent theme was data collection and use. Although data collection was necessary, it was more important to know the most beneficial ways to analyse that data for the purposes of policy formulation and budgeting. Finally, technology was seen to have a dark side as well as a positive side. There was a danger of creating more inequalities if all countries did not have access to it.

Other common observations included a huge appetite to learn from one another which the SDG Lab would be happy to facilitate. There was also much emphasis on the private sector. The private sector, however, was not a homogenous group. It could include multinationals, small and medium enterprises, family offices, foundations and many other groups. It was important to understand that different groups had different incentives and disincentives for engaging in the agenda. For example, incentives for multinationals included market opportunities, the chance to set regulations, competition and the value chain. Parliamentarians had a key role to play in ensuring that all sectors engaged.

The United Nations had identified four pillars through which it could add value and support all stakeholders. First, the United Nations could convene its power to connect different stakeholders. Second, it could amplify good and bad practices. Third, it could ask questions and challenge the status quo. Fourth, it could identify innovative ways of operating.

Mr. E. SARAVANAPAVAN (Sri Lanka), *panellist*, said that Sri Lanka planned to localise the 2030 Agenda within its national context. The country had established a select committee on the SDGs responsible for making recommendations. Other tasks of the committee included formulating national policy, liaising with government agencies, encouraging public-private partnerships, seeking support from the UN system and reviewing progress periodically. The committee had also identified four clusters under which the SDG localisation would take place: economic well-being, fundamental needs, a just and fair environment, and stability. The process of SDG localisation would involve setting a base line in respect of the SDGs, planning for localisation at all levels and identifying the actions needed to accelerate results. So far, the Committee had made some progress. For instance, it had presented an interim report to Parliament, ensured that resources were allocated to sustainable development in the 2018 budget and determined country-specific indicators under each SDG. The way forward was to ensure both a top-down and bottom-up strategy, strong leadership, inclusiveness, effective processes, adequate resources, sound governance and support from the executive. In conclusion, the 2030 Agenda would require concerted action by all stakeholders both nationally and globally.

Mr. M. ZHOU (China) said that all countries must integrate the 2030 Agenda into their national development strategies. It was essential to build partnerships under the auspices of the United Nations. Those partnerships should be based primarily on north-south cooperation and complemented by south-south cooperation. Legislation and oversight were also crucial for development.

China had developed a national plan for the implementation of the SDGs and revised several laws to better promote gender equality and social development. Those efforts had led to more insurance cover for serious diseases and a decrease in the maternal and infant mortality rate. China was committed to south-south cooperation within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative.

Mr. K.P. SOLANKI (India) said that the SDGs could not be achieved without strong, sustainable leadership. However, leadership should be globally focused rather than confined to one constituency or country. The aim of leaders should not be to win an election but to improve the lives of future generations.

The Parliament of India had thoroughly discussed the SDGs on a number of occasions. It had also organised many events, including several workshops, a parliamentary conference and a meeting of woman parliamentarians from the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries. A south Asian Speakers' summit had also taken place on strengthening regional cooperation and mobilising resources for the SDGs.

Mr. A. GASHI (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that his country wished to advance Euro-Atlantic integration through the implementation of the SDGs since it would boost economic growth and enhance the well-being of citizens. Macedonia hoped that transparency, accountability and professionalism would improve through the SDG reforms, such as those on good governance, the rule of law, access to justice, human rights and strong institutions. The National Council for Sustainable Development monitored SDG implementation in Macedonia. The Council was chaired by the deputy Prime Minister and composed of members of parliament and ministers, as well as representatives of the Economic Chamber, universities and NGOs. The country had also adopted a document entitled *Partnership for Sustainable Development: UN Strategy 2016-2020* which harmonised UN activities globally on the SDGs with regional activities on European Union accession. There would be five priority areas for cooperation: employment, good governance, social inclusion, environmental sustainability and gender equality. Macedonia would intensify its activities on the SDGs by developing a budget framework, building institutional capacity and adopting specific laws.

Mr. A.K. AZAD (Bangladesh) said that IPU members could be divided into three groups: very developed, developed and less developed countries. The IPU should clarify if it was working with all three of those groups on the SDGs since there was no representative of a less developed country on the panel. The panellists should also clarify whether they had considered political unrest, including the threat of nuclear weapons. It was not possible to achieve the SDGs unless there was peace. Bangladesh had achieved most of the MDGs successfully and was far ahead of many countries on the SDGs. However, the IPU must think globally rather than focus on individual countries, such as Argentina and Serbia.

The PRESIDENT said that every country must find its own solutions but it was also important to help each other.

Ms. S. ZAOUALI (Tunisia) said that the Parliament of Tunisia had established a parliamentary network on SDG implementation which was tasked with studying bills with a focus on sustainable development. The network took a crosscutting approach and worked in concert with the government. It had already proposed amendments to bills related to local communities and was currently undertaking an awareness raising campaign on the SDGs. The Parliament of Tunisia was also considering a legal initiative to include SDGs in school curricula as well as bills on renewable energy sources.

Ms. J. AL SAMMAK (Bahrain) said that international and parliamentary cooperation was particularly important for the SDGs. The international community must create a safe environment in which societies could develop, for instance, by eliminating conflict and terrorism. Bahrain had adopted several national action plans on the SDGs, including on socioeconomic development and health. The plans put an emphasis on equality, protection of the vulnerable, participation of women and renewable energy.

Mr. A. TOUMI (Morocco) said that he agreed with Mr. M. Mijatovic on the need to raise awareness. It was also important to evaluate bills on the basis of the SDGs, as proposed by Ms. C.L. Crexell. However, Ms. C.L. Crexell should clarify how to take into account local government projects since they were often forgotten. The SDG Lab would help the international community to map different goals and allocate resources accordingly. Indeed, the Government of Morocco was already allocating the budget in line with the country's priorities. Different departments must be accountable for the resources they received so that governments could measure progress on the SDGs.

Mr. F. BURBANO (Ecuador) said that Ecuador had a national development plan which incorporated the SDGs as well as a multiparty parliamentary group responsible for them. Furthermore, Ecuador would soon assess its legal framework to ensure it was fit for purpose on SDG implementation. Countries must have the necessary institutional infrastructure to implement the agenda. He had proposed to his Parliament that a department be established to evaluate laws in accordance with the SDGs.

Ms. C.L. CREXELL (Argentina), *panellist*, responding to the question from Morocco, said that Argentina had a federal system with both a central government and many local governments. Each local government had its own legislature which dealt with certain issues devolved to it. Although local governments were implementing the SDGs, it would be helpful to replicate the same evaluation tools locally and then convert the findings into a national register. Some topics dealt with at local level were also national issues. In such cases, it was necessary to coordinate action across different levels of government. Responding to the question from Bangladesh, it was important to move from talk to action. Although the SDGs were a global effort, the work started at home. It was valid to listen to the experiences of individual countries since many had been successful.

Mr. M. MIJATOVIC (Serbia), *panellist*, said that his goal had been to present the progress that Serbia had made so far. The country's progress consisted mostly of raising awareness of the 2030 Agenda and its evaluation process. The evaluation tool from Argentina was valuable. It was also important to assess the resources required to implement the SDGs. The focus group he had described above was currently working on providing free high school education in Serbia.

Mr. P. PUSKA (Finland) asked Ms. N. Isler whether she had any useful examples of how national parliaments had organised support for the SDGs.

Ms. M. NURZHAN (Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament—PNND) said that disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, was vital to achieving sustainable peace and sustainable development. Countries should redirect the billions of dollars spent on nuclear weapons towards the SDGs. The upcoming High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament was paramount. Parliamentarians must strive towards a safer and more peaceful world. In doing so, she encouraged parliamentarians to use the *Parliamentary Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World* released at the 137th IPU Assembly.

Ms. N. ISLER (SDG Lab), *panellist*, said that it was important to share concrete tools whilst also recognising that there was a local, national, regional and global context. It was not possible to operate at national level in isolation from the broader context. The United Nations High-level Political Forum served as a platform to facilitate interactions between countries at all the different levels and thereby bring about policy coherence.

She agreed with the need to engage all citizens, including youth and women. The United Nations Office at Geneva had recently launched a campaign entitled "You need to know". Not only did the campaign raise awareness about the SDGs, but it also encouraged citizens to engage concretely in the agenda. Unless countries engaged youth, the agenda had no future.

In response to the comment from Morocco, many countries had trouble ensuring coherence between policy and budget. There were a number of different initiatives in that respect. For example, the Millennium Institute had developed some simple software which used national data to set up hypothetical scenarios. The tool calculated the positive and negative collateral impacts of investing in certain sectors, particularly the impact on other sectors.

In response to the delegate from Finland, the SDG Lab was in the process of gathering good practices but did not have them all yet. It was necessary to illustrate good practices at both governmental and parliamentary levels. Communication was key. All stakeholders should share good practices in a format that was useful. It would also be helpful to know the ingredients of any success story.

The 2030 Agenda was just as much a peace agenda as a development agenda. If the international community reached every target, there should be no further cause for conflict.

**Panel discussion on the main theme of the 2018 High-level Political Forum:
*Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies***

THE PRESIDENT said that the second part of the discussion would centre around the main theme of the 2018 UN High-level Political Forum: "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies". The theme was closely related to five SDGs in particular. The present discussion would touch on some of those issues, including sustainable consumption and production patterns, sustainable management of water and sanitation, sustainable energy and sustainable cities and ecosystems.

He introduced the panellists. First, Mr. M. Wackernagel (Founder and CEO, Global Footprint Network) would speak about the concept of the ecological footprint and its related calculator which he and his group had pioneered. The ecological footprint referred to the balance between what countries could safely take from nature and what they were actually using. The footprint calculator was an effective way to measure progress towards sustainable development particularly in conjunction with other measures of human development, such as the UNDP human development index. Second, Ms. H. Liadal (Norway) would draw on her own country's experience in relation to the theme. Third, Mr. A. Sinmaleza (Ecuador) would discuss the concept of *buen vivir*, as championed by his country. *Buen vivir* was the idea that development could not be based exclusively on economic growth but must also focus on human well-being and harmony with nature. Fourth, Mr. S. Stone (Director, Economic and Trade Branch, United Nations Environment Programme—UN Environment) would look at the economic underpinnings of the debate.

Mr. M. WACKERNAGEL (Global Footprint Network), *panellist*, said that the Global Footprint Network viewed the sustainability challenge in terms of "one-planet prosperity" which was not a metaphor, brand or goal, but a context which recognised that all human beings lived on one planet. As the world was getting smaller, emissions were getting bigger. Under the Paris Agreement, countries had committed to limiting the global temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius which was equivalent to 450 parts per million (ppm) of greenhouse gas emissions. Currently, global emissions stood at 408 ppm with more than 2 ppm being emitted per year. At such a rate, only 20 years remained before the Paris Agreement was breached. Countries could therefore continue at the current rate or they could slow down their emissions. The overall aim was to achieve zero net emissions by 2050.

Many reports showed that it was entirely possible to achieve the abovementioned aim. It would, however, require significant effort and a rethinking of many aspects of life. For example, countries would have to consider everyday tasks such as how to produce food without fossil fuels. To achieve the aim, it was important to change a few misconceptions. First, it was not true that resources did not matter. A World Bank study entitled *The Changing Wealth of Nations 2018*, had shown that natural capital only represented nine per cent of global wealth. Yet, natural capital was essential to how the world operated. Second, the amount that humanity took from the earth was 70 per cent higher than what the earth could renew. However, it was not enough to boost supply from the earth to tackle the matter. Managing demand from humanity was also essential. Third, the majority of countries not only used more than they could regenerate but also had an income that was less than the world average. As a result, they could not afford to obtain those resources from elsewhere. It was therefore in the self-interest of countries to act on resources issues. Resource security was necessary to make development last.

Earth Overshoot Day marked the date when humanity's demand for ecological resources in a given year exceeded what the earth could regenerate. The date changed every year depending on the activities of countries. If countries were able to move the day forward by five days every year, for instance by cutting carbon emissions, the world would be back to using the resources of just one planet by 2050.

There were four main factors affecting resource management. First, countries should consider how they built their cities. Compact cities used three to four times less resources per person than cities that were sprawled out. Second, they should think about how they generated power, for instance, by choosing solar energy over coal. Third, countries should ensure that food was produced in ways that limited food waste. Fourth, they should consider population growth. Smaller families lead to increased well-being, including better health and educational outcomes.

Countries must always ask themselves whether the decisions they were making would increase resource security and create value. "One-planet prosperity" was about applying sustainable development in a self-serving way by living well within the context of planetary constraints. It would work as long as countries committed to their own success.

Ms. H. HAUKELAND LIADAL (Norway), *panellist*, said that the international community must transform its energy systems to accommodate a growing world population. That transformation process had already started. The world was already moving towards sustainable infrastructure, shifting investments from fossil fuels to renewable sources and creating jobs in renewable energy.

The changing energy landscape would have a profound impact on geopolitics. As a result, the Norwegian Government, in conjunction with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Germany and the United Arab Emirates, had recently established the Global Commission on the Geopolitics of Energy Transformation. The Commission aimed to better understand the changing dynamics and ensure that policymakers received the information they needed.

A number of actions were necessary to achieve SDG 7. Stakeholders must increase funding, make bolder policy commitments, increase energy productivity and adopt an integrated approach that embraced centralised and decentralised solutions. They must also increase the share of renewables in the energy mix, develop effective institutions to manage energy systems and phase out fossil fuel subsidies. Furthermore, the energy transition must be a just transition. It must therefore focus on the most vulnerable groups and countries, particularly the least developed countries and small island developing States. The competitiveness of the sector was dependent on the ability to attract a diverse pool of talent, including women. The energy industry remained one of the sectors where the gender gap was most pronounced. Closing the gender gap was not only a moral and social imperative, it also made good business sense.

Norway had either achieved the SDG 7 targets or aligned it with national policies. The share of renewable energy in the country's total energy consumption, including transport, was 69 per cent. Almost all of the electricity produced was from hydropower. Norway had also reduced emissions of greenhouse gases in a cost efficient way through strict environmental regulations, carbon pricing and an emissions trading system. It was spending one per cent of its GDP on development cooperation, including on sustainable energy.

By achieving SDG 7, the international community would be able to reach many of the other SDGs, such as poverty, food, education, gender equality, sustainable cities and climate change. Without energy, there could be no sustainable development.

Mr. A. SINMALEZA (Ecuador), *panellist*, said that the current system of development was not sustainable nor did it work for the majority. It therefore threatened human relationships, social stability and the environment. Countries must fight for a fairer and more sustainable way of life.

The global ecosystem was both a source of material resources as well as a dumping site for wastage. However, its capacity for regeneration was limited. The current model of development was going beyond the limits of the ecosystem, leading to problems such as desertification, pollution and global warming. There was too much of a focus on physical resources and GDP.

Development could only be sustainable if the international community paid attention to two groups in particular: future generations and people living in poverty. As such, countries must strike a balance between what was needed presently and what would be needed in the future. They must also reduce economic inequalities.

Ecuador had challenged the dominant model of development through the ancestral Andean concept of *buen vivir*, or *sumak kawsay*, as enshrined in the country's constitution. *Buen vivir* had led to dramatic economic, political and cultural change in the country. It was a paradigm for development which was based on individuals, families and communities and which promoted solidarity, community, inclusion, cooperation, reciprocity and diversity. Citizens were granted life-long collective rights, including the right to health and education, and assigned responsibilities such as the responsibility to consume in a socially responsible way. *Buen vivir* embraced a people's economy. Citizens were involved, both collectively and individually, in managing, preparing and implementing national plans. There was also a recognition of different forms of economic organisation and production, from communities and cooperatives to public and private entrepreneurs to households. The concept of *pacha mama* was also key under *buen vivir*. *Pacha mama* endowed nature with its own rights and therefore required humanity to respect the environment. In general, *buen vivir* could be summarised as having a harmonious relationship with nature, other living beings and oneself.

Mr. S. STONE (UN Environment), *panellist*, said that the global GDP stood at US\$77 trillion. However, GDP measured income and transactions rather than the wealth that countries were managing. To increase income, countries must manage wealth. It was important to look at inclusive wealth, including produced capital, natural capital and human capital. Since human capital represented the largest amount of wealth, investment in education was especially valuable.

SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production was a particular concern. The global economy consumed 90 billion tonnes of raw materials per year, more than half of which was regenerated as waste. Countries must reshape their economies by managing and investing their wealth in more efficient ways. One of the indicators under SDG 12 was procurement. Given that countries spent up to 40 per cent of their budget on procurement, they could catalyse a huge change in the economy just by switching to green and sustainable procurement.

Mr. S. MOHAI (South Africa) said that the international community must accelerate progress if it wished to meet the SDGs on time. In particular, it should strengthen the Global Partnership for Development. Africa required a total of US\$7.8 trillion to fully implement the SDGs. However, domestic resources were difficult to mobilise due to low economic growth and low levels of sustainable industrialisation. Developed countries should therefore provide much of the funding. Developing countries must also contribute to financing the SDGs by effectively addressing illicit financial flows.

South Africa was implementing the SDGs through its national development plan which tackled such issues as poverty, inequalities and climate change. So far, the Government had established that 74 per cent of the national development plan was aligned with the SDGs. South Africa planned to work more closely with the UN country team through reports, programmes and advocacy work. At the centre of the 2018 agenda was job creation, particularly for youth. The Government would be launching an initiative to place unemployed youth in paid internships.

Ms. B. SAMPATISIRI (Thailand) said that the sufficiency economy philosophy (SEP) remained the key guiding principle of Thailand's sustainable development efforts. It had put Thailand on a steady path of growth for decades and allowed people to enjoy improved and sustainable livelihoods. The philosophy was embedded in the constitution, national development plan as well as in the budget for the SDGs. Thailand was willing to share best practices in areas such as community development, agriculture and forestry. The country was currently working with several countries, such as Lesotho, to implement development programmes based on the sufficiency economy philosophy. She encouraged other countries in the south to participate in development cooperation through Thailand's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) for SDGs Partnership.

Ms. S. ALHASHIM (Kuwait) said that parliamentarians must pressure governments to adopt the SDGs, including those on clean energy. They should also monitor actions to ensure that governments implemented policies and laws. Kuwait must move towards solar energy instead of being dependent on oil. It must also re-evaluate the use of ethylene and polyethylene which was negatively affecting the environment. It was important to build a culture, particularly among youth, which encouraged eco-friendly attitudes.

Ms. M. O'SULLIVAN (Ireland) said that the biggest challenge of SDG implementation was policy coherence. Although over 190 countries had committed to the SDGs, there were many contradictions in the decisions of those countries. For example, some countries had taken decisions which would have catastrophic effects on the environment and climate change. Other countries were refusing to tackle tax injustice which was a major driver of inequality. Some were also selling arms and thus exacerbating conflict. It was particularly important to consider people with disabilities, both physical and intellectual, in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

BARONESS G. HOOPER (United Kingdom) said that the United Kingdom had drawn up a government plan for the SDGs and organised coordination among government departments. There was also an all-party parliamentary group on the SDGs which monitored progress and held the government to account. The United Kingdom had a special relationship with the commonwealth countries on climate change, including with the Pacific small island developing States. The country currently generated 20 per cent of electricity from renewables but aimed to reach 30 per cent by 2030.

It was important to resolve problems that arose as a result of the energy transition. For example, women in Chad no longer had wood for cooking after a prohibition on wood cutting was introduced to sustain forests. Renewable energy projects could be both big and small. They could be as simple as installing a small wind turbine or solar panel on every house. Countries must also intensify efforts on energy efficiency, for instance, through education and private sector involvement.

Mr. F. AL HUSSEIN (Sudan) said that Sudan had renewable and clean energy resources. However, the country did not have enough partnerships to make renewable energy a sustainable alternative, particularly at community level. It was particularly important to involve the private sector. The panellists should clarify the incentives that would encourage the private sector to invest in renewable energy. Industrialised countries must develop initiatives to protect the environment since it was them that had caused the damage.

Mr. M. BEN SOUF (Tunisia) said that parliamentarians must honour their international obligations on SDG implementation. In particular, they must hold governments to account on the development budget. The SDGs were a priority for Tunisia. Under the 2016 Constitution, Tunisia would set up a body responsible for implementing the SDGs and ensuring compliance with international conventions and programmes.

Ms. S. RAFI (President of the Board of Directors, Air Quality Asia) said that her organisation worked on the clean air related SDGs, namely, SDG 3.9, 11.6, 12.4 and 7. One of key areas which required further attention was the cost of air pollution in relation to GDP. So far, there was only one global report by the World Bank on the matter. The report estimated that the global cost to GDP was US\$5.11 trillion. The cost ranged from 3 to 9 per cent of GDP in different countries depending on how polluted the air was. Parliamentarians must encourage governments and international institutions to update the data every year for all countries. It would be helpful to have statistics that measured the cost of air pollution to the economy and not just the health impact.

Mr. A. TOUMI (Morocco) said that he agreed with the need to measure both natural capital and human capital. Indeed, Morocco had recently undertaken an exercise, in collaboration with the World Bank, which measured the country's overall wealth. The findings were surprising but currently served as the basis for the country's policy on economic development. He encouraged other institutions to carry out similar evaluations.

It was important to revisit a model for renewable energy generation which involved small and medium enterprises. Under such a model, small businesses would install solar panels and refeed surplus energy back into the grid in exchange for income. Morocco aimed to generate 50 per cent of its energy through renewables by 2030. It had also set up the Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy which oversaw all structures in energy production.

Mr. A. MOTTER (Senior Adviser, Economic and Social Affairs, IPU) said that the international community must re-evaluate the present operating system which assumed that more material wealth led to progress and human well-being. Although wealth and GDP were significant, countries should also take other factors into account, such as the environment. Currently, there were no breaks in the system to ensure that countries did not consume too much of the world's resources. The ecological footprint could serve that purpose. Parliamentarians must consider how to make the ecological footprint an official government statistic which was calculated next to GDP. By changing the metrics, people would change their mindset and in turn change the operating system. Mr. S. Stone (UN Environment) should explain whether a green GDP, which discounted growth that was not environmentally friendly, would also work as an effective measure.

Mr. M.H. MNYAA (East African Legislative Assembly—EALA) said that the private sector must be given incentives to engage in renewable energy at national level. People should know that incentives to change were not just economic but that there were benefits to change such as improved health, job creation and poverty reduction. Partner countries of the EALA must introduce policy and legal reforms which promoted renewable energy particularly at community level. They must harmonise policy, legislation and regulations, and ensure appropriate budget support. An inventory of viable renewable resources must also be available in each partner State. Tariff system reforms were necessary to encourage private sector engagement. Although East African countries had a great deal of gas, citizens could not afford to buy gas cookers and were forced to use firewood.

Mr. A. SINMALEZA (Ecuador), *panellist*, said that countries must consider the effects of environmental protection measures, such as how a wood cutter would live if there was a ban on wood cutting. It was also crucial to limit consumption when it was destroying nature, as promoted in Ecuador. Although Ecuador was an oil producing country, it was making progress on hydropower. The country was also encouraging farmers to install induction stoves instead of destroying the woodland.

Mr. M. WACKERNAGEL (Global Footprint Network), *panellist*, said that sustainable development was about building wealth. However, countries were managing the economy as if it were a business in liquidation and generating income at the expense of wealth. The ecological footprint was not a way of limiting growth but a way of ensuring a thriving life for all. The Global Footprint Network had helped at least 10 countries to manage natural resources. It was also building a global network of universities to calculate progress made on resource management worldwide. Earth Overshoot Day had about 1.5 billion media impressions and was thus an important opportunity to send the message out. He encouraged countries to share their ideas for the day. The message must be told in a way which could be understood by all.

Mr. S. STONE (UN Environment), *panellist*, said that there had been many discussions on how to measure the success of SDG 8 on economic growth. Finally, it had been decided that a seven per cent increase in GDP would be considered successful in low income countries. For most countries, however, it was not enough to measure GDP. Under SDG 17 on partnerships, there was an indicator on alternatives to GDP which had not yet been resolved. Countries therefore had a space to state their preference for the ecological footprint. It was important that countries were focused on growing their wealth. An adjusted, green GDP did not reflect that.

The PRESIDENT said that governments should include parliamentarians in their delegations at the 2018 UN High-level Political Forum. The IPU would organize a side event on 16 July 2018.

Any other business

The PRESIDENT said that the Committee must elect a new President. By the principle of regional rotation, the next president must come from the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Bureau had nominated Mr. J.C. Romero (Argentina).

The nomination was approved by acclamation.

Mr. J.C. ROMERO (Argentina) said that he was grateful for the support he had received. The IPU would continue to build on the good relationship it had established with the United Nations. He called on delegates to work together to fulfil the ideas and projects of the Committee. The sitting at the 140th IPU Assembly in Argentina would be a valuable opportunity to collaborate.

The sitting rose at 1 p.m.

Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU

SITTING OF SUNDAY 25 MARCH

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.40 p.m. with Ms. R.B. Itamari Choque (Plurinational State of Bolivia), member of the Board of the Forum, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda (FYP/138/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Country updates on youth participation

Ms. Z. HILAL *Secretary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU*, said that youth participation in national parliaments was important for a number of reasons. First, it encouraged inclusivity. Half of the world population was under 30 yet young people were excluded from decision-making processes. Their voices must be heard or they would become disillusioned and disinterested. Second, youth participation would lead to better governance. The more inclusive parliaments were, the more effective they would be in producing laws and policy which took into account the needs of different populations. Third, youth participation would bring about democratic rejuvenation. Young people were at the forefront of new ideas and technologies. They were also key to building a healthy democracy that met the changing dynamics of society. Parliamentarians should use the above-mentioned arguments in advocacy work in their home countries. They should also consider the outcome of the general debate of the 134th IPU Assembly in Lusaka which was on youth participation.

The IPU had changed the meaning of youth participation. Previously, it had been understood as consulting youth. Presently, it meant youth representation in parliaments and governments. Young people in politics faced several key challenges. For instance, electoral laws in 73 per cent of countries set a high age of eligibility to stand for election. It meant that there was a big gap between the voting age and the age of eligibility. They were also confronted with major financial challenges, limited access to existing networks and cultural views which deemed them too inexperienced. In addition, young people often considered politics as being corrupt and violent and therefore did not always find it appealing. Young women faced double discrimination because of their age and gender.

The IPU was the first institution to research youth participation in parliaments. Its research showed that youth were severely underrepresented, especially in upper houses. Many more young members of parliament were elected under a proportional representation system, particularly when it was combined with a quota. Women were less represented than men in all age groups. While 56 per cent of voters were aged between 20 and 44, only 26 per cent, 14.2 per cent and 1.9 per cent of parliamentarians were under 45, 40 and 30 respectively.

National parliaments should take a number of measures to encourage youth participation. They must introduce appropriate policies and legislation, including quotas and proportional representation systems. They should rethink age restrictions and align the voting age with the age of eligibility to stand for election. Political parties must feed more young candidates into the system. There needed to be specific strategies for young candidates and women. Countries should also conduct research to inform advocacy efforts.

Mr. P. UWILINGIYIMANA (Rwanda) said that Rwanda had made significant progress on youth participation. The country had redefined youth as people up to the age of 30 instead of 35. It had also introduced a National Youth Council which operated nationally and locally. There was a national quota system in which two seats within parliament were elected exclusively by young people to represent young people. The majority party also had a youth wing. Many parties had youth representatives in the Executive Committee.

Ms. U. SAREN (India) said that it was important to engage youth to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 7 on energy. Youth must be attentive to the needs of sustainable development. Young people would bring innovation and hard work to the table. They would be instrumental in developing supply chain networks for ecological goods and utilising modern technologies to enhance the standard of living of local populations.

Mr. G. BORIC (Chile) said that there had been an important student movement in 2011 which had changed the course of politics in Chile. Senators and congressmen had listened to the students but refused to let them participate in implementing the changes. As a result, the students had formed a new coalition to dispute the main political players. Young people must fight for their voice since those in power would not hand it to them easily. Chile had seen some good results, with youth participation improving significantly over the past five years. However, a great deal still remained to be done.

Ms. R. AL MANTHARI (Oman) said that her Government consulted higher education institutions where young people were represented. Countries would resolve the challenges that young people faced in parliaments not through a system of quotas, but by following their ideas closely. The belief that experience only came with age was false. Young people must present themselves in a way which instilled confidence in society.

Ms. O. SOTNYK (Ukraine) said that it was important to have a professional career before becoming a politician. Although age should not matter, career and skills did. As the leader of the youth wing of her party, she hoped to empower youth by providing political education and teaching practical skills and habits, such as how to fight for a cause. She was also pushing the message that it was impossible to talk about youth without youth. The IPU should hold hearings and even prepare a draft resolution on systematic policies to engage youth. Without creative, innovative young people, countries would not develop efficient policies.

Ms. F. MELES (Ethiopia) said that Ethiopia was one of the fastest growing countries in the world because of the hard work of young people who were participating in many aspects of society. For example, they were helping to implement a reproductive health package which addressed child and maternal mortality. Millions were also receiving an education. They participated in political issues at all levels, including in poverty eradication and technology transfer. They were also getting increasingly more involved in small and medium enterprises despite facing large amounts of bureaucracy.

Ms. M.J. CARRIÓN (Ecuador) said that Ecuador had made great progress on the participation of youth and women in politics. Under the 2008 constitution, 16 to 18 year olds had the option to vote. As a result, the participation of young people had increased both in the national and local parliaments. Furthermore, the country had removed high age restrictions for certain posts in Parliament. Ecuador had also introduced scholarships to encourage youth participation in politics through educational institutions.

Mr. B.E. NGAMBILI IBAM (Congo) said that young people were a strength, not a weakness. Young people in the Congo had fought to change the constitution so that it allowed people to vote at 18. During the latest elections, a youth movement had toured the country to demonstrate why young people must be present in decision-making spheres. As a result, many young people had put themselves forward as candidates. In the end, 10 people under 30 had been elected to Parliament. Young people had not achieved those successes through quotas but by fighting for what they believed in. However, it was essential that young people were not infantilized once they reached decision-making positions. They must address issues affecting the whole population and not just young people alone.

Mr. A. EBRAHIMI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that young people must participate in the development process, including in socio-political, cultural and economic areas. The Islamic Republic of Iran had introduced a number of policies in that regard. For instance, it had upgraded the national youth organization to the Ministry of Sports and Youth and introduced socio-political and cultural bodies into universities. By increasing their understanding, youth would be more likely to participate in socio-political activities. Parliaments must develop procedures which encouraged youth participation.

Mr. A. CHIBAYA (Zimbabwe) said that Zimbabwe had assigned 20 per cent of seats in Parliament to youth. Young people ran against each other to select youth candidates. The IPU must come up with a percentage for youth participation in parliaments. By doing so, it would enhance inclusivity and lead to better governance.

Mr. O. ALTABTABAE (Kuwait) said that all members of parliament must consider the needs of all young people living with HIV or AIDS. They must also address the suffering of young people in countries such as the Syrian Arab Republic and Palestine. Talk was not enough. It was necessary to take action. Countries should not marginalize or isolate young people, but invite them to contribute in whatever ways they could.

Mr. M. HLENGWA (South Africa) said that South Africa welcomed the update from the Secretariat and would consider the findings in its parliamentary work. Youth representation must extend beyond parliaments and into the different spaces of society. It was for that reason that the South African youth parliament not only included members of parliament but also students, young people in employment and others. There was therefore a better understanding of the prevailing realities on the ground. South Africa was currently developing the modalities of a parliamentary youth caucus. It had also involved young people in the development of its most recent youth policy. Youth activism had the potential to deliver the desired outcomes for young people. For example, young people in South Africa had persuaded the Government to reduce tuition fees after launching a campaign entitled *#FeesMustFall*. Young parliamentarians must not be armchair politicians. They must take the parliament to the people and vice versa.

Mr. K. WIJESEKERA (Sri Lanka) said that there were many people under 35 in the central government and two people under 35 in the cabinet in Sri Lanka. There used to be a 25 per cent quota for young people in the local councils, but the quota was removed in favour of a women's quota. The IPU must address that problem in forthcoming meetings. The Forum should also come up with a universally accepted age for youth.

Mr. M.R. KALAAJI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the Syrian constitution had two articles on young people and their participation in political and social life. The legal voting age was 18, while the legal age of eligibility for election was 25. Although Syrian youth had the knowledge to participate in decision-making, they faced major challenges, such as terrorism. The country must develop a national action plan based on human rights to keep young people away from radicalism. The plan must provide Syrian youth with guidance, build their capacities and facilitate their participation in political life. There was also a need for legislation ensuring participation of youth and women in all political parties.

Mr. M. RENAS JANO (Iraq) said that many people were suffering across the globe in countries such as Palestine. He and his fellow parliamentarians had been persecuted for demonstrating on the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan. Countries must bring about change if they wished to move forward. Young people were often the instigators of change.

Ms. H. SIBUNGO (Namibia) said that Namibian youth had struggled to get into Parliament for years. However, they currently represented 35 to 40 per cent of people in executive positions, such as ministers or deputy ministers. The Government made sure that youth candidates were considered for every available position.

Mr. F. ALDHABBAHI (United Arab Emirates) said that the United Arab Emirates had established a national strategy aiming to build capacities among youth and make them a driving force for the future. It had also created the position of Minister for Youth and put in place national advisors on youth issues.

It was important to strengthen the status of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU. The Forum should consider the needs and ideas of young people more thoroughly. It should hold training sessions to facilitate the political participation of young people, and workshops to allow an exchange of information. The Forum should discuss topics that were different to those of the standing committees. It should strengthen its action plan and engage young people, particularly through social media. The Forum would then be able to find solutions that were viable, lasting and evidence-based.

Mr. Y.A. AHMDAI (Sudan) said that youth participation was improving in Sudan. The constitution enshrined the concept of youth participation. The voting age was 18 and the age of eligibility for election was 21. Young people made up 10 per cent of parliamentarians and many had filled high level positions even in the ministries. However, Sudan had not introduced a quota for young people in political institutions.

Mr. D. NAMARA (East African Legislative Assembly) said that the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community ensured that young people were represented in the elections of all its Partner States. In some Partner States, youth representation was very high. In Uganda, for example, 70 per cent of members of parliament were young and every committee, operating both locally and nationally, was obliged to have a youth representative. The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) hoped to harmonise laws across the region to ensure young people were mainstreamed in all government activities.

Mr. L. TUITUBOU (Observer,* Fiji) said that the Ministry of Youth and Sports in Fiji delivered non-formal education to young people. It was particularly proud of its physical education programmes which provided young people with the necessary facilities and training. There were also two young parliamentarians responsible for schools and universities. In general, the national youth policy aimed to create an enabling environment for youth development. It was vital to interact directly with young people to gauge their needs. Countries must start with their children if they were to achieve peace. Youth would be more likely to participate in politics if they were understood.

Ms. J. NASSIF (Observer,* Bahrain) said that, in Bahrain, parliamentarians were considered young up to the age of 35 in the lower chamber and 40 in the upper chamber. People had the right to vote at the age of 20. Parliamentarians under 45 made up 48 per cent of the total number in the lower chamber. Bahrain was therefore ranked 12th out of 128 countries in the official statistics of the IPU. The Parliament had a commission for young people and sport which reviewed all legislation on young people and cooperated with different parliamentary committees.

Mr. O. HAMAYEL (Observer,* Palestine) said that Palestine was seeing no progress on youth because of the Israeli occupation. Young people in Palestine faced many challenges, including the provocative decision of the United States of America to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The IPU should help young people in Palestine by ending the occupation and making a stand on Jerusalem.

Contribution to the work of the 138th Assembly

The CHAIR said that the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security was considering a resolution entitled *Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development*. Delegates should indicate how young parliamentarians could contribute to the concept of sustaining peace through the SDGs.

Ms. K. OTSUJI (Japan) said that the international community could not sustain peace without addressing the root causes of conflict. It was important to eliminate poverty, inequalities and discrimination, as well as to establish political and economic rights. There should also be an emphasis on human security which aimed to protect individuals from threats, build their capacities and give them autonomy. The SDGs therefore went hand in hand with sustaining peace. Japan had helped to address root causes through its overseas development aid. However, young people still faced many challenges, including unemployment and diseases such as HIV and AIDs. Many were living in fear and without dignity. All assistance towards sustaining peace must be universal, participatory, inclusive, transparent and open. It was also necessary to engage all stakeholders, including NGOs and local communities. Her delegation endorsed the draft resolution.

Mr. G.B. DJIWANDONO (Indonesia) said that countries could not achieve the SDGs without the involvement of youth in all aspects of development, including in politics. Young people must acquire the proper education to enable them to compete in a globalised environment. The IPU should consider a resolution on involving youth in politics, for instance, by setting a reasonable age requirement to stand for election. In Indonesia, the minimum age was 21 for legislators, 25 for mayors and 30 for governors. The financial system must empower youth by allowing them to receive loans. Countries would then increase entrepreneurship among young people which would boost economic growth, promote social development and reduce poverty.

Young people were also needed to maintain peace. Youth must value differences and have respect, trust and understanding towards others. Governments must ensure that religious schools taught respect towards people of different faiths. Host countries must also give young migrants more attention, including proper education and health care. His delegation supported the draft resolution on sustaining peace as well as the draft resolution on energy.

The CHAIR said that the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade was discussing a resolution entitled *Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy*. She invited delegates to comment.

Ms. K. OTSUJI (Japan) said that Japan had suffered an earthquake followed by a nuclear disaster in 2011. Vast farmland and residential areas had been radioactively contaminated with many people being forced to leave their homes. The damage caused was irreparable and would have an impact on generations to come. Nuclear power was not a driver of sustainable development since it was associated with safety problems, accidents and radioactive waste. As a

result, her party had introduced a zero nuclear bill. By reducing electricity demand and increasing renewable energy production, it was possible to put an end to nuclear power. One way to extend renewable energy production was through citizens' energy initiatives. Japan must move away from the current government policy which was focused on large companies. Young people must be involved in developing policies on the SDGs, including on energy.

Ms. M.J. CARRIÓN (Ecuador) said that Ecuador had enshrined the rights of nature in its 2008 constitution. By doing so, Ecuador could transition from an economy based on natural resources such as oil, to a knowledge-based economy which embraced science and technology. As such, the country had introduced a green tax to incentivize companies to reduce pollution. It had encouraged investment in relevant areas and reduced certain tariffs. It was also keen to train young people on sustainable development. The automobile industry was encouraged to introduce vehicles that did not use oil or diesel. In fact, Ecuador was pushing for a global policy to keep all oil reserves underground.

Mr. G. BORIC (Chile) said that sustainable peace went beyond nuclear weapons. Most Latin American countries did not have nuclear weapons yet were engaged in conflicts. Nationalism was also on the rise which was very dangerous. Chile was currently engaged in a dispute with Bolivia. As a result, many Chileans were calling for an increase in military spending. However, military spending budgets were a waste of money since they did not achieve anything. Young parliamentarians should put together a declaration opposing potential increases in military spending.

Ms. Z. HILAL *Secretary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU*, said that the 2016 Third IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Lusaka had discussed the role of young members of parliament in SDG implementation. One of the recommendations was to shift budgetary allocations from the military to other sectors such as education, well-being, health and employment.

Mr. B. PRASAD (Observer, * Fiji) said that Fiji understood the importance of including the private sector in the development of renewable energy sources. However, private sector participation, including public private partnerships, had limitations in small and vulnerable nations such as Fiji. There was a danger that programmes could end up burdening the same people they sought to serve. Countries must develop specific policies to prevent such a situation.

Ms. M. NURZHAN (Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament) said that disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, was vital to achieving sustainable peace and sustainable development. Young people could help to reach that goal. Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) had raised its concerns with regard to peace, security and development at the most recent International Youth Conference in Prague. It had also highlighted the importance of the UN High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament to be held in May 2018. She called on governments to attend and to include young people in their delegations. Young parliamentarians could significantly contribute to creating a safe, peaceful and sustainable world free of nuclear weapons. In doing so, they should make use of the *Parliamentary Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World 2017-2020*.

The CHAIR said that the topic of the General Debate was *Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees: The need for evidence-based policy solutions*. Young parliamentarians had a significant role in the ratification and implementation of international instruments which protected the human rights of migrants and refugees. They were responsible for ensuring that young migrants and refugees had access to the relevant services, including health care, education and employment. It was also necessary to promote entrepreneurship among migrants and refugees as well as to tackle discrimination, abuse and gender-based violence. All policy should be evidence-based. Delegates would discuss the topic extensively in other sittings of the Assembly.

Next, the Committee would discuss the amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules that the Forum had proposed. The amendments aimed to strengthen youth participation within the organization. It would be a historic moment for the Forum as well as for the global youth movement as a whole if the Assembly adopted the amendments.

Ms. Z. HILAL *Secretary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU*, said that the Forum and its elected Board had proposed some amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules. The amendments called for countries to include at least one young parliamentarian in their delegations to IPU assemblies. If delegations did not comply, they would not be penalized. Instead, there would be an incentive for those that did comply in the form of extra speaking time at the General Debate. However, the extra speaking time must go to a young parliamentarian. The Executive Committee had already approved the amendments. Next, they would go to the Governing Council and the Assembly for adoption. Although parliaments would have until 2020 to organize themselves, the rules would apply from the 139th Assembly onwards.

Mr. R.N. IGBOKWE (Observer,* Nigeria) said that all young parliamentarians should make their delegations aware of the amendments so that they were more likely to be adopted at the Governing Council and the Assembly.

The CHAIR said that she invited all delegates to support the proposal. She also encouraged young parliamentarians to apply for vacancies within other IPU bodies so that there was a youth perspective throughout the Organization.

Update and discussion on the Forum's workplan and activities (2017-2018)

Ms. Z. HILAL *Secretary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU*, said that the Fourth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians had taken place in Ottawa, Canada, in November 2017. The theme of the conference was *Young parliamentarians as drivers of inclusion*. The conference focused on three main factors of inclusion: migration, economic empowerment and political participation. Participants had come up with some innovative strategies to promote inclusion of young people in society, especially those of migrant origins. One particularly interesting idea on economic inclusion was to introduce a basic income for young people.

The Forum was currently preparing its next report on youth participation in national parliaments. It had been gathering data and statistics from national parliaments across the world, but also planned to carry out interviews with young parliamentarians. The interviews would give the IPU a better sense of the experiences, challenges and perspectives of young parliamentarians. In particular, the Forum wished to know their views concerning a potential target for youth participation in parliaments. Currently, there was no universal, internationally accepted target for young parliamentarians. So far, research had shown that, even among the few countries applying youth quotas, there was no unity on the matter. The types of quotas varied from reserved seats to legislated quotas to party quotas. The targeted age differed greatly—30, 35, 40 and 45. The proportions were also diverse with some countries implementing targets above 30 per cent and others below 30 per cent. The IPU wished to come up with one global target for youth participation using the above research.

Other upcoming activities included the above-mentioned amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules. The IPU was also promoting the Not Too Young to Run campaign. The campaign had been initiated in Nigeria under the supervision of the IPU delegate, Mr. R.N. Igbokwe, and a civil society organization. They were working on revising the existing legal framework to align the age of candidacy with the voting age. She encouraged delegates to join the campaign. Under the campaign, delegates would receive information on the 73 per cent of countries which restricted young people from running for office. They would also receive facts and figures on the global population of youth and young parliamentarians. The IPU could support delegates in increasing youth participation in their countries. For instance, it could help to organize training for newly elected young parliamentarians, craft mentorship programmes, launch national campaigns, set up youth caucuses or offer expertise.

Question and Answer session on policy reform related to HIV and youth

Ms. H. BARCLAY (International Planned Parenthood Federation), *panellist*, said that she represented both the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and Pact. The latter was a global coordination of youth-led and youth-serving organizations from across the globe which aimed to provide a unified youth voice on addressing HIV. The present session would focus on challenging harmful laws and policies in order to end AIDS by 2030 with an emphasis on youth. It was an opportunity to bring together different stakeholders and discuss solutions. The most important aspect of the session was that it was organized with young people, by young people and for young people. The session would consist of presentations from panellists followed by a discussion. She introduced the rest of the panellists which included one speaker from UNAIDS and two young activists.

Ms. P. NYKANEN-RETTAROLI (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS), *panellist*, said that world leaders had set a target to end AIDS by 2030 within the context of the SDGs. It was an ambitious, but achievable target. There had been huge successes in recent years in the HIV response. Over half of people living with HIV were currently receiving antiretroviral treatment. There had also been a 30 percent decrease in AIDS-related deaths as well as a 16 per cent decrease in new HIV infections annually. The international community had all the tools and science needed to end the epidemic. It would not mean that HIV would go away, but it would no longer be a significant public health threat. Ending the epidemic was not just about health sector policies, but required a multisectoral approach. Parliamentarians had a valuable role to play in ensuring that the legal framework had a positive impact on HIV responses, including on prevention and treatment.

Out of 36.7 million people worldwide living with HIV in 2016, 4 million had been young people aged between 15 and 34. Every day, 1,700 young people were newly infected with HIV. Young women aged between 15 and 24 were disproportionately affected especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Every 12 minutes a young person died of AIDS-related causes. In 2015, AIDS had still been among the top 10 causes of death for adolescents aged between 10 and 16 globally. Certain populations were more likely to be affected, including drug users, sex workers, men who had sex with men and transgender people. It was therefore important to address the social determinants of health which impacted on the ability of people to protect themselves from HIV. It would at times require sensitive issues to be addressed.

There were a number of laws which were harmful to the HIV response. Criminalization of key affected populations, such as men who had sex with men and sex workers, caused them to hide rather than seek services. Countries that had decriminalized some aspects of sex work had more effective prevention programmes with fewer new infections. Laws which criminalized HIV transmission or imposed travel restrictions on people living with HIV did not have any public health benefit. Parental consent laws tended to restrict access to sexual and reproductive health services especially for adolescents and young people. HIV rates were lower in countries which implemented harm reduction services, such as clean needles distribution. Studies also showed that criminalization of drug use had a negative effect on HIV prevention. Equally, there was no compelling evidence that decriminalization led to increased drug use. Countries where drug use had been decriminalized, either partially or fully, recorded tangible impacts on addiction as well as on drug-related deaths and HIV transmission. For example, Portugal had been very successful in reducing HIV transmission through the decriminalization of drug use.

Comprehensive sexuality education was also paramount in HIV prevention. It was not just about educating young people about sex and sexually transmitted infections. It also required the teaching of skills and values which helped them to make healthy choices and develop respectful relationships. Unfortunately, however, such interventions were rare.

When young people were fully involved in policymaking and budget distribution, more effective programmes were implemented. The 2016 High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS had produced a political declaration which included several commitments concerning young people, HIV and legislation. Countries explicitly called for a review of laws which prevented young people from accessing HIV services, including parental consent laws and laws related to HIV non-disclosure, exposure and transmission.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) wished to give a number of recommendations to young parliamentarians. First, young parliamentarians should increase their outreach to young people living with HIV as well as to those populations with a higher risk of infection. They should raise awareness of the legal, health and human rights aspects of HIV. Second, young parliamentarians should reform laws and law enforcement practices that negatively impacted the HIV response. It was also crucial to promote laws and regulations that prohibited discrimination and supported access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. Third, young parliamentarians should encourage the participation of young people in the review of policies and laws that affected their health.

Ms. H. BARCLAY (IPPF), *panellist*, said that some of the above-mentioned issues, including youth participation, could be challenging. Pact had therefore designed a series of policy briefs to help decision makers address barriers.

Mr. D. STOLBUNOV (Teenergizer Network), *panellist*, said that 71 young people were infected with HIV every hour and 5 young people died of AIDS every hour. The biggest barrier to ending AIDS was a lack of synergy between those who made decisions and those who were affected by decisions. The lack of synergy was the root cause of all other problems, including

discrimination and stigma. Pact had recently launched the #uproot campaign to end AIDS by 2030. The campaign aimed to track harmful laws, promote youth participation in HIV responses and build strategic partnerships within the youth sector as well as with other stakeholders. Under the campaign, young people had produced a set of policy briefs which laid out the impact of discriminatory policy on young people's access to HIV services. The policy briefs were about legislative reforms, sexual and reproductive health, spousal consent, access to harm reduction, youth inclusion in decision-making and the age of consent. The #uproot campaign showed that young people were ready to work with high level decision makers globally. Adolescents needed the support of adults and adults needed the support of adolescents. However, there was a lack of political will to implement the campaign. He urged delegates to help.

Ms. H. BARCLAY (IPPF), *panellist*, said the stark statistics showed that, although the discussion was related to policy and laws, it was in fact about real lives. Under the #uproot campaign, Pact hoped to close the gap between those who made decisions and those who were affected by decisions.

Ms. L. NUZHNA (Teenergizer Network), *panellist*, said that she would speak about the experience of Eastern Europe and Central Asia but the same issues affected all countries around the world. Teenergizer Network had launched a campaign in Ukraine, Georgia and Russia which was entitled #questHIVTest. Under the campaign, activists had conducted research in which they had monitored and evaluated HIV services using a youth-friendly application. The research showed that there were many problems with HIV service providers despite large funds being available for that purpose. For example, some were charging for HIV tests that should be free under the law. Others were refusing to test people under 18 which was also illegal. In some countries, people could take a test at 14 but would not receive the results until they were 18. It was clear that politicians had not been paying attention to such problems. The reason that services were so poor had to do with the law. There were many gaps in legislation which allowed service providers to take advantage of loopholes. It was important to remove the loopholes, harmonize laws on the age of consent for HIV testing and monitor the implementation of legislation. Furthermore, politicians must create channels of communication with society, including with HIV positive teenagers and activists. Activists and politicians tended to live within their own bubbles which prevented issues from being addressed. It was necessary to burst those bubbles and bring people together.

Ms. H. BARCLAY (IPPF), *panellist*, said that people stayed in their own bubbles, not necessarily because they did not want to interact but because they did not know how to do so. The present session was an opportunity to explore how to break those barriers. Although the discussion so far had focused on the challenges that youth faced, there were also challenges that politicians faced. She invited delegates to highlight those challenges and any other reflections on the topic.

Ms. P. MABE (South Africa) said that it was critical for politicians to truly reflect on who was benefiting from HIV policies. It was also high time that the international community held pharmaceutical companies accountable. It was not enough to hear about statistics. The Forum must start a campaign to find a cure.

Mr. R. DESEYN (Belgium) asked whether decriminalization of drugs, as implemented in Portugal, was an official recommendation of UNAIDS. Decriminalization of drugs was very controversial in Belgium with most parties being against it. He asked for more information on the link between decriminalization of drugs and decreasing rates of HIV. The working group on sexual and reproductive health in the Belgian Parliament had given a great deal of attention to HIV. It was important to continue giving it attention.

Mr. G. BORIC (Chile) said that Chile had seen the highest increase in HIV transmission of all Latin American countries. It was a topic that was rarely discussed in the country. If discussions did occur it became a moral issue rather than one of life or death. In addition, right wing parties and the church refused to provide sexual education. He asked whether the #uproot campaign could come to Chile.

Ms. K. OTSUJI (Japan) said that there had been an increase in infections among gay people in Japan. She asked the panellists for their views on the balance between medicalization and social intervention. The 90-90-90 target focused too much on medicalization. It was paramount to reach out to key affected populations. She asked what initiatives Japan could take in that regard.

Ms. P. NYKANEN-RETTAROLI (UNAIDS), *panellist*, said that evidence showed that decriminalization of drugs had a positive effect on diseases transmitted through needle sharing. It was true that decriminalization was a controversial issue. However, many countries had found ways of dealing with the problem without decriminalizing drugs. The most important policy was to provide harm reduction services for drug users, such as clean needles and opioid substitution therapy. Where drugs were criminalized, governments should work with the police to ensure that drug users could access harm reduction services without being harassed or arrested. Following decriminalization, Portugal had seen new infections among drug users fall from 1,575 in 2000 to 78 in 2013. Similarly, AIDS cases had fallen from 626 to 74. At the same time, there had been no rise in drug use or drug-related crimes. In fact, drug use had even decreased among some populations.

Ms. L. NUZHNA (Teenergizer Network), *panellist*, said that there was a big difference between legalization and decriminalization. She did not know of any country that had legalized drugs completely. Decriminalization in Portugal meant that there was simply no strict punishment for drug use.

South Africa had hosted the International AIDS Conference in 2016 which had been very successful. It was a good source of information to follow. The same conference would be held in Eastern Europe in 2018.

Mr. D. STOLBUNOV (Teenergizer Network), *panellist*, said that the website of the European AIDS Treatment Group was a good source of information about ongoing research for a cure. However, it would be better to spend money on creating more efficient HIV programmes than on finding a cure.

Ms. H. BARCLAY (IPPF), *panellist*, said that one way to ensure that HIV was continuously on the agenda was through parliamentary groups on HIV, population or development. Pact would be rolling out the #uproot campaign globally and would be happy to partner up with Chile. HIV responses must be based on medicalization and social intervention together. The best way to target the needs and requirements of people affected by HIV was to consult them directly as individuals and human beings.

Ms. P. NYKANEN-RETTAROLI (UNAIDS), *panellist*, said that all countries regardless of their income level must have a policy which brought together elements of medicalization and social intervention. UNAIDS placed a great deal of emphasis on ensuring access to treatment. While that emphasis must continue, it was also necessary to allocate resources to reducing stigma and discrimination as well as to targeting key affected populations. Some countries had had successful experiences in measuring decriminalization and stigma. For example, Germany had done so using a tool called the "People Living with HIV Stigma Index". The country had discovered a great deal of discrimination in dental health services and were then able to design relevant programmes to address such discrimination. Stigma and discrimination were often born out of fear or lack of knowledge.

Ms. M.J. CARRIÓN (Ecuador) said that Ecuador had a public policy which provided free access to medicines, including specialized HIV programmes. She invited the panellists to participate in discussions in the Ecuadorian Parliament. It was particularly important to discuss prevention policies.

Mr. D. STOLBUNOV (Teenergizer Network), *panellist*, said that he and his colleagues would be happy to engage with Ecuador. The simplest way to organize the details would be to send an e-mail via the Teenergizer Network website.

Ms. L. NUZHNA (Teenergizer Network), *panellist*, said that she was delighted that delegates from different countries were interested in engaging. HIV was a global issue, not a personal one.

Ms. P. NYKANEN-RETTAROLI (UNAIDS), *panellist*, asked delegates whether they had come across HIV issues in their work. They should also clarify key challenges in addressing the above-mentioned points, including parental consent laws, access to sexuality education and decriminalization of certain activities.

Mr. M. HLENGWA (South Africa) said that the pandemic was being addressed in ways that were faulty. South Africa had a big antiretroviral programme. However, it was better to focus on prevention rather than cure. In addition, there was not enough talk or education about sex since it was a cultural taboo. The international community must continue talking about HIV and AIDS despite advancements in the area. There was a particular need for a dialogue about young girls who were consistently being preyed upon. All discussions should be carried out with a view to raising awareness around the realities of HIV. The young people on the panel should know that they were not alone in their fight against HIV. HIV was the responsibility of everybody.

Ms. P. NYKANEN-RETTAROLI (UNAIDS), *panellist*, said that Ecuador was a member of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board. Such linkages should be maintained. The most important point was to listen to young people themselves to get to know their HIV needs, as well as to configure the role of parliamentarians in the epidemic. It was not possible to end HIV through the health sector alone. It must be a cross-sectoral initiative. Parliamentarians should also look at challenging issues that were at the root of the epidemic.

Ms. M. ALSHFIKH AMEEN (Syrian Arab Republic) said that her country had an awareness raising programme and gave free treatment to those affected. It was important to have an international plan to prevent the spread of AIDS and to treat people free of charge.

Ms. H. BARCLAY (IPPF), *panellist*, said that NGOs, parliamentarians, UN agencies and activists must work together in partnership to end HIV. She encouraged parliamentarians to use the above-mentioned policy briefs which would be available online. Parliamentarians should also reach out to youth in their own countries to find out the situation on the ground, regarding services, barriers and loopholes.

Preparations for the 139th Assembly (October 2018)

The CHAIR said that the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights would present a draft resolution at the 139th IPU Assembly. The draft resolution would be entitled *Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians would present the rapporteurs with a report containing a youth perspective on the resolution. Delegates should send their ideas by 20 April 2017. The Bureau had nominated Mr. O. Altabtabaee (Kuwait) to prepare the report.

The nomination was approved.

Any other business

Mr. R.N. IGBOKWE (Observer,* Nigeria) said that the *Not Too Young To Run* bill was making tremendous progress in Nigeria. The bill had received the approval of the national Parliament and of two thirds of the regional parliaments. All that was left was for the President to give his consent. The Regional Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of Africa was a good booster to IPU assemblies and should be held biannually. He had just been elected to the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security to which he hoped to give a youth perspective. The Nigerian Forum of Young Parliamentarians had been helping Ghana to set up such a forum there. The IPU should give additional institutional support to Ghana.

The sitting rose at 6.10 p.m.

- (*) According to Rule 4 of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, the Members of the IPU shall be represented at the meetings of the Forum by their delegates who are below the age of 45 years. Other delegates interested in youth issues may also attend the meetings in an observer capacity.

Interactive session with regional and other parliamentary assemblies and organizations on the implementation of the SDGs

SITTING OF TUESDAY, 27 MARCH

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 4.40 p.m. with Ms. H. Haukeland Liadal (Norway) in the Chair.

Opening of the session

Ms. P. TORSNEY (Head, Office of the Permanent Observer of the IPU to the United Nations), opening the interactive session, said that parliaments had a key role in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by working with their constituents and civil society to raise awareness, passing legislation, budgeting to implement the Agenda and holding governments to account. Since so many other organizations worked with parliamentarians to those ends, the aim of the interactive session was to share information about ongoing activities and cooperation experiences.

Presentations

Ms. P. TORSNEY (IPU) said that the IPU had advocated for parliamentary involvement in the Sustainable Development Agenda under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16. The 17 SDGs were aspirational; there was no plan for attainment. Each country must therefore develop its own approach to meeting the goals. Parliaments had a crucial role in that regard. The IPU had created high expectations for parliamentary capacity for SDG attainment and had issued a handbook to help parliamentary committees understand how legislation could contribute to implementing the 2030 Agenda.

The focus on developing countries in the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had led to the misconception that the SDGs were not relevant to developed countries. That was not the case; progress could still be made in even the most prosperous country. The IPU, together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had therefore produced a parliamentary toolkit for self-assessment to assist all parliaments in understanding what further measures needed to be taken to meet the SDGs. It had also facilitated the sharing of experiences and best practices between parliaments and had organized regional seminars, to address region-specific priority issues, and the measures that parliaments could take to contribute to progress. Several Member Parliaments had requested IPU's assistance for self-assessment. UNDP was also working to support parliaments to ensure that they were fit for purpose and able to fulfil their role.

The IPU had also run two side meetings at the annual United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, both of which had been very well attended and had provided an opportunity to engage parliamentarians some of whom were not familiar with IPU's work. The IPU would continue to encourage parliamentary participation in national delegations to the High-level Political Forum. The IPU Standing Committees on United Nations Affairs and on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade would also continue to work to promote efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda.

Ms. S. RAFI (President and Convenor, Air Quality Asia) said that her organization, Air Quality Asia, was working to address a very specific aspect of the SDGs. Air pollution constituted the largest environmental health risk in the world. Asia, as the region with the highest economic growth, was also the region with the highest pollution levels through carbon emissions caused by the intensive use of fossil fuels. Some 10 per cent of global deaths were caused by air pollution, and 87 per cent of the world's population lived with particulate matter (pm) 2.5 μm or above, which was higher than the World Health Organization's (WHO) recognized safe level. Air pollution did not respect international borders. The impact was not only on health; there was a huge economic cost, estimated at US\$ 6.9 trillion globally for 2017.

Air Quality Asia had been launched in January 2017 as a campaign bringing together parliamentarians, municipal government officials and United Nations representatives, green finance and leading NGOs, to work on air quality with the primary geographic focus on Asia. The words, "the right to clean air" had been used for the first time in an IPU meeting by the Parliament of Pakistan. Parliamentarians had negotiated, in parallel to the negotiations on the Paris Agreement,

to include that language in the SDG targets. Air quality had become a key focus as it was more easily measured – and therefore could be more closely monitored – than climate change in general, and could thus be used as a barometer for climate change.

Asia was the key region in need of major change: if Asia's energy economy did not transfer to renewable in the coming three years, the global carbon budget would be blown, and the Paris Agreement would have failed. The biggest emissions impact would be if China reduced its emissions and the United States continued its downward trend and if India started to move away from high-carbon fossil fuels. India's carbon emissions were currently growing. Strategy meetings had been held in the context of the World Bank spring meetings, and at the national level to: understand the health impact of air pollution on respiratory diseases and several other major non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including stroke and heart disease; calculate the economic cost of air pollution; and consider industry and transport emissions regulations and how to move to renewable solutions.

In the United States, the adoption of the Clean Air Act in the 1970s had shown the effectiveness of legislation, resulting in industry standards being set and lawsuits being initiated against polluters. Over 30 years, the air in New York had been cleaned. Investing in national air pollution monitoring schemes with annual real-time data updates that were easily accessible had proven effective in raising public awareness and thus increasing pressure on legislators. National targets and timelines for air quality improvement with an accountability programme had also had a positive impact, as had legislation to tighten emissions standards for power plants, industry and transport, which had been shown to have had a direct impact on reducing the number of hospital emergency department visits.

Transport was in the hands of parliaments and municipalities. Moving to clean, sustainable transport was essential: 100 per cent conversion to electric vehicles would have a particularly significant impact. In China, steps had been taken to increase the amount of clean public transport. Consumer subsidies for fossil fuel and combustibles currently equated to 20 per cent of the cost of switching to sustainable energy. Redirecting those subsidies could therefore have a significant impact. Renewables, as a proportion of the energy sector as a whole, remained small, and the conversion would take time. Legislators had a key role to play, as did municipal authorities. Although a significant proportion of pollution was caused by industrial production in Asia, the market driving that production was elsewhere. The desire to consume cheap products made without respect for international standards would only contribute to further air pollution and climate change. Consumer habits must therefore also be targeted.

Ms. S. TERRON (Public Affairs Manager, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development—OECD) said that although the OECD had only 35 Member Countries, it was engaged with more than 100 countries. While that engagement was usually with governments, parliamentarians were also involved through the OECD Global Parliamentary Network. Parliamentary engagement with the OECD was not through formal membership of committees, but rather through gatherings where participants would be briefed on OECD's areas of work and links to aspects of the SDGs, and through which parliamentarians could be heard and their reform experiences shared.

Ms. E. DOHLMAN (Head of the Policy Coherence for Development Unit, OECD) said that the OECD was structured similarly to a national government, with directorates working on a variety of policy areas that were increasingly being viewed through an SDG lens. A "distance to SDG targets" methodology had been developed, to be piloted in 13 volunteer countries, which had identified 131 indicators covering 98 targets. The methodology looked into the attainment of individual targets, rather than interlinkages between them. Efforts were therefore also being made to raise awareness among national governments about the tools that existed for assessing the synergies and trade-offs that might occur between the targets at both the national and international levels. Governments were also being encouraged to consider the potential transboundary implications of decisions taken at the national level, and their intergenerational long-term effects.

The OECD was taking measures to understand which institutional mechanisms were required to break down silos and had identified eight such mechanisms, including policy coordination mechanisms and policy integration mechanisms, which would be necessary to successfully implement the 2030 Agenda and work towards the SDGs in a coherent manner. The results of voluntary national reviews were being used to identify country priorities. Parliaments should take similar steps to break down their own silos. Having one ministry responsible for the SDGs was not effective. The OECD therefore recommended that two or three ministries should be

collectively responsible or that responsibility should lie at the centre of government to ensure a policy-neutral approach to budget allocation.

The CHAIR said that in Norway, a whole-of-society approach was taken to SDG reporting; even children in kindergarten knew about the goals.

Ms. M. DE BLONAY (Parliamentary Engagement, Legislators' Forum, International Renewable Energy Agency—IRENA) said that her Agency, which had been established in 2011, currently had 156 Member States and 24 States in accession, making it the youngest, yet fastest-growing, international agency. That growth demonstrated the clear momentum for renewable energy. The Agency, which had been created at the initiative of the German Bundestag, was mandated to help governments adopt enabling policies for renewable energy deployment, and to facilitate knowledge sharing and technology transfers. The Agency's headquarters were in Abu Dhabi; it had an innovation and technology centre in Bonn, and was a permanent observer to the United Nations with a small office in New York.

IRENA had been engaging systematically with parliamentarians for three years, focusing on knowledge sharing and becoming a platform for exchange between members of parliament, experts, private sector and industry representatives and other stakeholders. The IRENA Legislators' Forum met annually, prior to each session of the IRENA Assembly. Legislators had a full day of discussion and were invited to participate in the Assembly as observers and to report back to Member States. A periodic brief on renewable energy was issued to make the Agency's knowledge and findings publicly accessible. Each issue focused on a specific theme, such as solar energy, job creation, or the climate change—energy nexus. Efforts were also being made to engage members of parliament through social media, to inform them about IRENA's latest publications and give them access to infographics, events, videos and webinars. Information that could be used in parliamentary debates was also available on LinkedIn and Twitter.

Evidence showed that by doubling the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency by 2030, carbon dioxide emissions could be reduced by 95 per cent, and that the use of renewables would lead to economic growth, improve employment opportunities for women, and alleviate the burden for women in rural areas who spent long hours collecting wood for fires, thereby allowing them to be more productive in other ways. That notwithstanding, significant additional efforts would be needed to meet Goal 7 on affordable and clean energy. IRENA had collaborated with the IPU Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade on its resolution on engaging the private sector for Goal 7 attainment, which would be presented to the current Assembly for adoption. IRENA was one of the custodians of Goal 7 indicators, and had contributed to policy briefs to be issued by the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in preparation for a review of Goal 7 due to take place in July 2018.

The Agency had also produced a range of general, thematic, global and regional studies, all of which contained policy recommendations. A strong emphasis was placed on the socioeconomic benefits of renewable energy, including an annual review of employment and job creation and an annual cost study, as well as a series on how to leverage local capacity for economic growth. Specific work was being carried out on policy trends and renewable energy auctions, all of which was available on the IRENA website. A global database on renewable energy policy and measures was also accessible online. Country-specific analysis of renewables readiness, containing legislative recommendations, were produced in close cooperation with Member States. IRENA had also developed two digital tools, the first of which was the sustainable energy market place which helped to connect projects and investors. As public funds would not be sufficient to reach SDG 7; the full engagement of the private sector was essential. The second digital tool was a project navigator tool which offered comprehensive advice for creating bankable renewable project proposals.

Discussion

Mr. R. MACHINGURA (Zimbabwe) said that different approaches needed to be taken in different regions. The energy problems faced in China, for example, differed significantly from those in sub-Saharan Africa. Africa lagged behind in industrialization. In moving forward and developing their industry, African countries would need support and training to ensure that the correct energy sources were used and that industrialization was environmentally and economically sustainable.

Ms. M. DE BLONAY (IRENA) said that a particular focus would be placed on Africa at the next session of the IRENA Legislators' Forum. She encouraged Mr. Machingura to attend that session.

The CHAIR asked whether IRENA subsidized the participation of parliamentarians in its meetings.

Ms. M. DE BLONAY (IRENA) said that although the budget for subsidizing meeting participants was limited, it might be expanded to assist with participation in the forthcoming Legislators' Forum, owing to the focus on Africa.

Ms. J. KABILA (Pan-African Parliament—PAP) asked whether IRENA worked with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and whether the Agency had considered cooperation with the Pan-African Parliament's committee on renewable energy and transport.

Ms. M. DE BLONAY (IRENA) said that IRENA did indeed work with NEPAD and was seeking to cooperate with the Pan-African Parliament.

Mr. K. BALLA (Chad) said that his Government was currently experimenting with the use of solar energy in a project that would also provide employment for young graduates. A parliamentary committee on the SDGs had been established, comprising 21 deputies and 8 expert assistants, which aimed to collect and analyse data on SDG attainment, to be presented to the Bureau of the National Assembly and draw the Government's attention to areas where progress was being made and where gaps persisted and funding was needed. Efforts were being made to raise the awareness of all deputies with regard to the SDGs. A national development plan, "Vision 2030: The Chad We Want", had been developed and a five-year plan was being presented to donors. While energy issues were at the centre of development efforts, water, which was highly problematic in sub-Saharan Africa, remained the top priority. The Parliament of Chad was trying to catch up on development with the support of the IPU; the toolkit for self-assessment was particularly useful in that regard. His Parliament was engaged in discussions on development with the Government, and was encouraging the alignment of the national development plan with the SDGs.

Mr. F. BURBANO (Ecuador) asked what could be done to better position the SDGs in the media, since development issues tended not to make front page news. Despite efforts to include the SDGs in Ecuador's national development plan, the public remained unaware of the goals. Citizen engagement was, however, essential if the goals were to be met. Communication must therefore be a priority. The economic situation in developing countries, which had been worsened considerably by the recent drop in oil prices, meant that it could be particularly difficult to secure State funding for renewable energy owing to the high cost of implementation. A new law on energy efficiency was currently being debated in Parliament in Ecuador and consideration was being given to how to improve investment in renewables.

Ms. P. TORSNEY (IPU) said that the SDGs provided a good opportunity for parliamentarians in established democracies to enter into dialogue with their constituents through roundtables to present both the global situation and the efforts being made at the national level. That would provide a bridge to the community and increase the momentum behind development efforts. Parliaments had a key role in encouraging dialogue and public participation, and moving beyond political conversation towards real issues that affected real people. Efforts to meet the SDGs also provided an important opportunity to conduct a gender analysis and ensure that new development programmes redressed any ingrained gender imbalances.

Ms. S. RAFI (Air Quality Asia) said that the media was a particularly important tool for sharing information. Air Quality Asia partnered with communications organizations in India and Indonesia to make the data provided by experts "media-friendly" and publicize it, thereby enabling members of parliament to access information and evidence easily and use them in policy-making. Media and interview training was also being provided for parliamentarians, who were often interviewed on television. Media partners were also working with Air Quality Asia to train doctors to talk on television about what they saw in their medical practices with regard to the health impacts of air pollution. There was no longer a gap between media capacity in developed and developing countries; social media was globalized and it was evident that they could be used to bring the SDGs to public attention.

Ms. P. TORSNEY (IPU) said that the SDGs also gave parliamentarians an opportunity to go into schools and talk about something that was not political as such, to explain what was happening on the world stage and get ideas from young people, who would be the change-makers in society.

The CHAIR invited participants to share information on specific tools, training delivery methods and partnerships that could be useful examples to others.

Ms. S. RAFI (Air Quality Asia) said that development commitments in the United Nations system were not legally binding and therefore could be viewed as having less weight than other agendas, such as disarmament or human rights. It could therefore be more difficult to motivate government action. In India, focus was therefore being placed on the concept of rights, such as the right to breathe, which in Pakistan had been recognized as part of the right to life, as enshrined in the Constitution. If there were no repercussions for not delivering on development, the whole system would be weakened. Parliaments must therefore legislate, such as through clean air acts, to give more legal weight to development issues and strengthen implementation.

Mr. F. BURBANO (Ecuador) said that following a drinking water crisis in the city where he lived, he had initiated an investigation at the institutional level, which had shown that the central agency regulating water supply had not been subject to sufficiently rigorous oversight. He had therefore taken measures to rectify that situation, and had been able to demonstrate that his city's water supply problems were not only an issue in that municipality but were part of a broader issue. A regular State report on water supply was now produced to encourage investment. That example showed the importance of effective policy control and oversight.

Mr. W. WILLIAM (Seychelles) asked how essential capacity-building and education on the SDGs could be provided for parliamentarians in Small Island Developing States where resources were extremely limited.

Ms. M. DE BLONAY (IRENA) said that scarce resources were indeed an obstacle. IRENA was therefore organizing webinars to share information and build capacity, but technological impediments to access could pose a problem. Representatives of the Agency could attend regional meetings to share information at the invitation of organizing parliaments.

Ms. P. TORSNEY (IPU) said that the IPU-UNDP self-assessment toolkit could provide guidance to Member Parliaments, and United Nations country offices could also provide support. Member Parliaments were welcome to request support from the IPU. With regard to communicating information about the SDGs to the wider community, the United Nations Foundation had produced large amounts of material, including graphics, which were available online. Civil society organizations were often able to assist with education programmes.

The CHAIR thanked all participants and encouraged them all to work together to make the world's air cleaner, leaving no-one behind.

The sitting rose at 6.10 p.m.

Adoption of Resolutions, final documents and reports

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY 28 MARCH

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 6.20 p.m. with Ms. G. Cuevas Barron (Mexico), President of the IPU, in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT said that the deliberations of the Assembly had been very productive. There had been an excellent level of participation. A total of 148 national parliaments had attended which was the highest number of any Geneva Assembly. However, she reminded parliaments that delegations should be gender-balanced.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on the theme *Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees: The need for evidence-based policy solutions*

(A/138/3-DR)

The PRESIDENT said that the IPU had produced a declaration entitled [*Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees: The need for evidence-based policy solutions*](#). The declaration captured the key messages from the deliberations as well as from a parliamentary survey on migration and refugees conducted by the IPU in advance of and during the Assembly. The declaration was a balanced document which reflected the general gist of the debate while also taking into account specific views and concerns, as well as the various avenues for parliamentary action. The declaration sent a clear message that parliamentarians were fully committed to managing migration in a responsible way. That would mean looking at the facts and not the politics of the matter. It would also mean listening to all stakeholders, including migrants and refugees themselves, to devise solutions that worked for all people. The declaration made it clear that a more coordinated international system was needed to make the most of migration. Countries must go beyond ad hoc unilateral responses and instead work together in more practical ways. The drafters of the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees would receive a copy of the declaration. The IPU would also make sure that the role of parliaments was duly reflected in the global compacts. In general, the debate on migrants and refugees must harness people's strengths, dreams and aspirations, build bridges and restore hope. She invited delegates to share their thoughts about the declaration and the debate more generally.

The representative of CHILE said that he was pleased that the declaration incorporated the fears, misgivings, concerns and commitments of States. It was both broad and detailed at the same time. All countries, rich and poor, must commit to finding a solution. They must overthrow myths, show solidarity and acknowledge the wealth and wisdom that different cultures could bring to a society. Throughout history, Chile had received migrants from all over the world. Those migrants had contributed greatly to the economic and cultural development of the country. It was important to implement the declaration to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration.

The representative of ANGOLA said that the migration crisis required concerted action from all States. The IPU must support the discussion on the global compacts at the United Nations. It was up to parliamentarians to safeguard the rights of migrants and refugees through legislation, monitoring and budgeting. It was particularly vital to pay attention to women and children since they were the most vulnerable. It was of the utmost importance that countries continued to draft international instruments that prevented violence and collateral damage. Solutions must be evidence-based. Angola supported the declaration.

The representative of SUDAN said that countries must safeguard the human rights of migrants. The international community, including international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), must make scientific and evidence-based decisions. It was also important to cooperate with partners when looking for a solution. The declaration must make a clear distinction between refugees, displaced people and migrants. In general, the IPU was headed in the right direction in terms of serving the people of the world.

Mr. D. MCGUINITY (Canada) said that the current global regime for migration did not always harness the potential benefits of migration nor did it do enough to ease the pressures. Migration was particularly beneficial for the private sector which needed to draw on all talent available. As a

result, the declaration must mention partnerships with local authorities, civil society and private enterprises. Private enterprises were first in line to respond to migrants and refugees who would be searching for jobs. They were proof that migrants contributed to societies and economies. The experience of the private sector therefore contradicted the dangerous narrative of "us versus them" which fostered intolerance and led to hate. Instead, their experience showed that diversity was a strength. The declaration also reminded the world that migration was a common responsibility.

The representative of GHANA said that the declaration must draw attention to the suffering of migrants and refugees particularly women and children.

Ms. R. ALITWALA KADAGA (Uganda) said that her country supported the declaration but wished to add some additional points. Many countries in Africa were countries of origin, transit and destination which meant that there was a lot of movement. Furthermore, European countries often pushed refugees back to "safe third countries" which meant that no one was responsible for them. The IPU must address the above-mentioned points.

The PRESIDENT said that the IPU would do its best to respond to the above-mentioned comments. Her own country, Mexico, was also a country of origin, transit and destination, as well as one of returns. It was important to prevent and manage the suffering of millions of people.

Ms. M.J. CARRIÓN (Ecuador) said that the IPU should consider the progress that Ecuador had made both on its constitution and its election process. The country had six people in parliament which represented Ecuadorian migrants abroad. The representatives had been migrants themselves who had both suffered and benefitted from migration. When migrants were represented in parliament, their overall situation improved. Migration was no longer seen as a distant issue but one which affected many people. She called on the IPU to include the topic in the next meeting.

The PRESIDENT said that the IPU could not reference individual countries in the declaration. She referred the delegate from Ecuador to the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights which would be addressing migration further.

The declaration was endorsed by acclamation.

Item 4 of the agenda

Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development

(Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)

(A138/4-DR)

Mr. K. ALBAKKAR (Jordan), Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee, said that the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security had adopted the draft resolution entitled [Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development](#). However, China had expressed a reservation on operative paragraph 18 which referred to the Rome Statute. The topic had attracted a great deal of interest, with 18 parliaments and the Forum of Women Parliamentarians submitting a total of 136 amendments. The draft resolution took a comprehensive, coherent, inclusive and long-term approach which married together the notion of sustainable peace with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It stated clearly that it was, first and foremost, a national responsibility to implement the SDGs and ensure sustainable peace. The draft resolution defined a number of concrete measures through which parliaments could contribute to the implementation process, such as preventing the flow of arms in conflict-affected societies and regions, avoiding the use of children in armed conflict, engaging against climate change and its consequences, or promoting the participation of women in peace processes. The resolution also underscored that parliaments were powerful agents of change, responsible for allowing the ratification of international agreements to ensure sustainable peace and development and their translation into enforceable national laws. It invited parliaments to engage with governments, international organizations such as the United Nations, as well as the private sector and civil society to ensure implementation of international commitments and treaties, prevent violence and support national reconciliation in conflict-affected countries. Sustaining peace and the SDGs were two sides of the same coin.

The resolution was adopted by acclamation.

Item 5 of the agenda**Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy**
(Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade)
(A/138/5-DR)

Mr. A. GRYFFROY (Belgium), *co-Rapporteur*, said that the co-rapporteurs had prepared a draft resolution and an explanatory memorandum entitled [Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy](#). The rapporteurs had presented the draft resolution and invited the Committee to engage in a debate in which 25 speakers took the floor. The Committee had considered 150 proposed amendments in two plenary sessions and concluded the final draft. It had adopted the text unanimously on 27 March 2018.

It was the first time that the IPU was considering a resolution on clean, affordable and sustainable forms of energy. About 1.1 billion people worldwide lacked access to an electrical grid. Instead they were using unhealthy wood stoves, hazardous kerosene lanterns and loud and environmentally unfriendly diesel generators. Such forms of energy were costly and labour intensive. Yet, it was not viable to develop high voltage distribution networks in remote areas. The alternative was therefore to install small windmills or solar power systems in villages. The draft resolution urged parliaments to raise public awareness of the issue and ensure equal access to clean energy for all members of society, including the vulnerable. Parliaments must also engage the private sector in SDG implementation, particularly on Goal 7. For example, they must promote public private partnerships and incentivize the private sector to invest, particularly in small projects. The draft resolution also called on parliaments to cooperate with organizations and forums that specialised in renewable energy, such as the Climate Parliament and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). In doing so, they would establish knowledge networks and build platforms to share best practices, including on policy, technology and finance.

The resolution was adopted by acclamation.

Item 7 of the agenda**Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and for the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade at the 140th IPU Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs**
(A/138/7-R.1)

The PRESIDENT said that the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security had proposed the following subject item for its next one year cycle: *Non-admissibility of using mercenaries as a means of undermining peace and violating human rights*. The Committee had nominated Mr. K. Al-Bakkar (Jordan) and Mr. B. Tarasyuk (Ukraine) to be co-Rapporteurs.

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade had proposed the following subject item for its next one year cycle: *The role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation*. The Committee had nominated Ms. S. Raskovic Ivic (Serbia) and Mr. J. Wilson (Australia) to be co-Rapporteurs. The IPU had also identified a third co-Rapporteur from Africa: Mr. H. Iddrisu (Ghana). Mr. H. Iddrisu had had a rich political career during which he had served as minister of trade and industry in his home country.

The subject items and nominations for rapporteurs were approved.

Item 8 of the agenda**Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules**
(A/138/8-P.1.rev)

The PRESIDENT said the Forum of Young Parliamentarians had proposed amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules which the Governing Council had already approved. She invited the Assembly to approve the amendments as well.

The amendments were approved.

Item 6 of the agenda

**Reports of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs and the
Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights**

Ms. B. SAMPATISIRI (Thailand), member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, speaking on behalf of Mr. A. Avsan (Sweden), the Committee's President, said that the sitting of the Committee had taken place on 27 March 2018. The sitting had consisted of two parts which focused on the role of parliaments in SDG implementation. Attendance had been good with 60 parliaments represented and over 20 interventions made.

The first panel had considered the approaches and initiatives that parliaments had taken to institutionalize the SDGs and oversee implementation. Best practices included setting up focus groups in parliament and reviewing institutional capacities for the SDGs using the IPU-UNDP self-assessment toolkit. Some parliaments had also held public debates to raise awareness among citizens, civil society and entrepreneurs, and supported multi-stakeholder consultative platforms. Others had created parliamentary observatories to evaluate legislative proposals from an SDG perspective.

The second panel had helped prepare parliamentarians for the debate of the 2018 UN High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development which would focus on the environmental pillar of the SDGs. The discussions had emphasized the need to reverse unsustainable consumption and production patterns and shift energy production towards renewable sources. Currently, global production and consumption was equivalent to a GDP of US\$77 trillion which surpassed considerably the regenerative capacities of the environment. While economies were growing in dollar terms, they were also undermining their own source base and causing irreparable damage to the environment. The concept of the ecological footprint and its related calculator effectively demonstrated how current consumption patterns demanded more of nature than it could deliver. Most of the ecological deficit was attributed to unsustainable lifestyles in developed countries. The discussion exposed the shortcomings of GDP as a measure of economic and social progress. The ecological footprint was an ideal counterweight to GDP. While GDP assumed that economic growth could be potentially infinite, the ecological footprint showed the limits of growth in environmental terms.

The Committee had also elected eight new members to the Bureau, including the new President, Mr. J.C. Romero (Argentina).

The Assembly took note of the report.

The PRESIDENT said that Mr. M. Teixeira (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) would present the work of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights in place of Ms. B. Tshireletso (Botswana). Ms. B. Tshireletso had decided not to give the presentation since she had felt humiliated at the 137th IPU Assembly in St. Petersburg. Delegates must not interact in such a way at the IPU.

Mr. M. TEIXEIRA (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights had had two sittings. First, the Committee had discussed the topic of migration in preparation for the resolution to be adopted at the 139th IPU Assembly. The debate had been introduced by the two co-facilitators of the Global Compact for Migration, Ambassador J. Lauber (Switzerland) and Ambassador J.J. Gómez Camacho (Mexico) who had given an update on the preparations. The Committee had also approved the co-rapporteurs of the forthcoming resolution: Mr. J.I. Echániz (Spain), Ms. K. Sosa (El Salvador) and Mr. A. Touizi (Morocco).

One of the main ideas emerging from the debate was the need to change the narrative on migration. Evidence showed that most migration took place within the same region. It also showed that migrants contributed to nine per cent of global GDP. Most of those economic benefits went to the country of destination. Political leaders had a responsibility to ensure that the debate on migration was underpinned by good data. They must also make sure that the migration policy took into account the human rights of migrants. A total of 35 parliamentarians had taken the floor during the debate. The rapporteurs therefore had a strong basis from which to prepare the resolution. They would also take into account the outcome of the general debate on migration.

Second, the Committee had given further consideration to the proposal to hold a debate on ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The Committee had worked in an atmosphere of mutual respect. In total, 28 delegates from all geopolitical groups had taken

the floor. To avoid any possible doubt on the outcome, the Committee had held a roll-call vote to decide whether to hold the debate at the 139th IPU Assembly. The Committee had voted in favour of holding the debate. The debate would not lead to a resolution. The Committee had also elected 10 new members to the Bureau as well as its new President, Mr. A.Y. Desai (India). It had decided to vote on the new Vice-President at the 139th Assembly when the new Bureau had had a chance to meet.

The PRESIDENT said that, given the very late hour, interpretation was no longer available. The Assembly would continue only in French and English since they were the official languages of the organization.

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that the Assembly was obliged to provide interpretation in English, French, Arabic and Spanish. However, the interpreters had strict working hours. Usually it was possible to conclude the work of the Assembly within those hours but the current Assembly had unexpectedly overran. There was no other way forward but to continue in English and French alone, as an exception. He apologized for the inconvenience.

The representative of JORDAN said that the set up was unfair. Those that did not understand English or French would not be able to follow or participate in any discussions or votes. The President should close the sitting immediately.

The PRESIDENT said that all that was left was for the Assembly to take note of the report by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights and hear the concluding remarks from the geopolitical groups. It had already completed its work on issues that required a vote.

Ms. R. ALITWALA KADAGA (Uganda) said that one of the points in the report of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights was about the proposal for a debate on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people. Many delegates had expressed opposition to the issue of LGBTI rights at the 137th IPU Assembly. The Ugandan delegation would boycott the next Assembly and withdraw from the IPU if the issue was smuggled forward. The matter must not come for discussion since it would divide the organization. Furthermore, it was not fair to continue the present sitting if there was no interpretation.

Ms. T. MORAIS (Portugal) said that the IPU must not discuss the proposal for a debate on LGBTI rights again. There had already been a second discussion followed by a democratic vote in which the majority had decided to proceed with the debate. The main debate must therefore go ahead.

The PRESIDENT said that, although there had already been a second discussion, Uganda had raised a motion to reject the agenda item again. In such cases, Rule 26 of the Rules of the Assembly required there to be a procedure in which one person spoke in favour of the item and one person against. The Assembly would then take a final decision. She asked delegates whether they were happy to go forward with that procedure.

Mr. D. MCGUINTY (Canada) said that the Committee had already discussed and voted on the proposal. Many delegates would not be able to follow any further discussions at present due to a lack of interpretation. That was unfair. In addition, there was no quorum in the room. The President should therefore adjourn the meeting as soon as possible.

The representative of MOROCCO said that there was no point in discussing a topic if there were delegates who could not participate. The Assembly should have discussed the issue earlier.

Mr. A. GRYFFROY (Belgium) said that the proposal on LGBTI rights was for a panel debate and not a resolution. As a result, the matter should stay within the Committee. It should not come to the Assembly.

The PRESIDENT said that, under Rule 26, the Assembly must prioritize the adjournment of the debate. There was no quorum nor would there be any real communication without interpretation.

Mr. A. GRYFFROY (Belgium) said that the Assembly would not note the report of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights if the President adjourned the meeting. That could not be.

The PRESIDENT said that Canada had presented a motion to adjourn the meeting which must take priority. The Secretary General would explain the rules.

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that, under Rule 26, the procedural motion on adjourning the meeting took precedence over any other motion. There must be a mover for the motion and a mover against the motion. The Assembly must then make a decision on whether to adjourn the meeting. If the meeting was adjourned, it would not be possible to go into the substance of the issue at stake. However, there was no quorum to conduct the procedure.

The PRESIDENT said that the Assembly was facing many problems to end the sitting. There were problems with language, quorum and the topic concerning LGBTI rights. She urged delegates to meet half way and start the next assembly with a consensus. No decisions would be taken at present.

Mr. M. WATERS (South Africa) asked the Secretariat to clarify the point raised by the delegate from Belgium. Since the proposal was for a debate within the Committee and not a resolution, perhaps it should not come for approval at the Assembly. If that was indeed the case, the debate could go ahead at the next Assembly. Furthermore, the Assembly had not had a quorum for a large part of the sitting and therefore many of the previous decisions would not be valid.

The representative of PORTUGAL said that a quorum was not necessary since there was nothing to decide. The Committee had already made a decision. There must not be another vote. The debate must go ahead at the next Assembly.

The representative of FRANCE said that the Committee must only inform the Assembly of its decision. The Assembly did not have to make any decisions itself. It was important to respect and implement the decision of the Committee.

The representative of SUDAN said that it was the Assembly, not the Committee, which had the final say on the proposal. However, there must be a quorum to make a decision. Although the Assembly had not had a quorum when it had made its previous decisions, those decisions should be accepted since there had not been any objections. The geopolitical groups should make their concluding remarks as soon as possible. The Assembly should then be adjourned.

Mr. A. GRYFFROY (Belgium) said that Rule 15.2 of the Rules of the Assembly and Rule 6 of the Rules of the Standing Committees were important. The rules implied that the Committees were free to decide their own agenda except when the Assembly or Governing Council placed items onto their respective agenda. In the present case, it was the Committee itself, not the Assembly or Governing Council, that had proposed the agenda item. Since the agenda item was for a panel debate and not a resolution, it remained within the Committee with no influence from the Assembly or Governing Council.

The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN said that there had not been consensus on the matter at the previous Assembly. Many Islamic and non-Islamic countries had opposed the issue because it was not recognised in any international instruments nor was it in line with their national values. It would not be constructive to retain the issue. The Committee itself could not decide upon the issue in question.

The PRESIDENT said that Rule 15.2 of the Rules of the Assembly and Rule 6.4 of the Rules of the Standing Committees were important. However, they needed further clarification and interpretation. Furthermore, the Assembly could not make any decisions, not even about the procedural motion, since there was no quorum. As a result, the present sitting of the Assembly could not continue. She suggested that the proposal for a debate on LGBTI rights be carried forward to the 139th IPU Assembly and be discussed as the first item of business. It was clear that the issue was going to divide the IPU. Whatever the outcome, some members of the IPU would not be satisfied. Delegates should look for a common solution before the next Assembly. It was not her wish to impose any agenda but to ask delegates to be open for dialogue with each other. The IPU stood for diversity. It had managed to resolve many difficult issues where other organizations were unable to. For example, it had unanimously adopted the joint declaration on migration despite concerns that it would not be possible. She urged delegates to do the same again. When it was about protecting human rights, it was important to look for places of understanding.

She asked whether it would be possible to at least listen to the geopolitical groups before she adjourned the present Assembly.

A representative said that the geopolitical groups should give their remarks at the next Assembly since there was presently no quorum.

The PRESIDENT said that it might be too much in terms of the agenda if the remarks of the geopolitical groups were postponed until the next Assembly.

The representative of UGANDA said that it did not make sense for the geopolitical groups to give their remarks at present since there was no interpretation. The geopolitical groups should wait until the next Assembly.

The representative of SUDAN, speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, said that he was thankful to the President and the Secretary General for the work they had done during the session.

The representative of CHILE said that the problem could have been foreseen. The President should not prioritize the problem of quorum over the issues at hand. The IPU was losing an opportunity to give important news to the world. However, the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) would support the decision to postpone the discussion until the next Assembly.

Mr. W.W. SIMINA (Federated States of Micronesia), *President of the Asia-Pacific Group*, said that it was the first time that Micronesia had chaired the Asia-Pacific Group and would continue to do so at the next Assembly. The country had discovered that countries had many core values in common, including peace and democracy. It had appreciated the willingness of countries in the group to compromise when necessary, including their willingness to withdraw candidacies for the sake of working together. Micronesia would also be pleased to work with friends outside the group who were interested in establishing ties.

The representative of UGANDA said that it was not in order to continue with the discussion if there was no quorum or interpretation. The sitting should be adjourned immediately.

The PRESIDENT said that delegates were simply giving their farewells. There would be no more decisions, votes, procedures or debates.

The representative of BURUNDI said that it would be best if the President gave her closing speech. Delegates would then reflect on the matter over the next few months and return to it at the next Assembly. It was important to pay attention to the point of the delegate from Uganda since it was a sensitive issue.

The PRESIDENT said that she would give her own remarks together with the geopolitical groups at the next Assembly. The results of the present Assembly were good. She congratulated delegates on their hard work.

Mr. A. GRYFFROY (Belgium) said that the Secretariat must provide a clear interpretation of the rules of the General Assembly and of the Standing Committees. It must do so before the next Assembly or the same problems would arise.

The PRESIDENT said that the Secretary General would provide the delegate from Belgium with a clear interpretation of the rules.

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that he had taken note of the request from the delegate from Belgium. However, what was important was that the President had taken the decision to move the matter forward for further consideration at the next Assembly.

The sitting rose at 8.05 p.m.

Declaration on *Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees: The need for evidence-based policy solutions*

*Endorsed by the 138th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 28 March 2018)*

At the end of a week-long debate on strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees, and with the added input of survey responses (in Annex), of the outcome of the 2018 annual Parliamentary Hearing at the UN, entitled *Towards a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration: A parliamentary perspective*, and of the insights gained from the interactive debate with the heads of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), we, parliamentarians from around the world, issue the following declaration.

Migration has been a feature of human civilization and interaction from time immemorial. Properly managed, it contributes to greater human well-being and collective wealth. It expands knowledge and strengthens the bonds of human solidarity.

Likewise, the flight of refugees from persecution and conflict is not new. When refugees flee, those who provide them with the protection and assistance that they need contribute to the cause of humanity and should be supported in their efforts by the international community.

Over and beyond national differences, people everywhere aspire to the same things: a decent life, good health and education, a safe environment, strong democratic institutions and, above all, peace.

Yet today's global regime for migrants does not always harness the potential benefits of migration, nor does the international refugee regime do enough to ease the pressures on those who host large numbers of refugees. Too often, both regimes fail to protect increasing numbers of migrants and refugees from discrimination, exploitation, or other kinds of abuse. The human and economic costs of this failure are enormous and run counter to our common vision for a prosperous, sustainable, and peaceful world.

A large portion of refugee and migration policy today remains ad hoc, with countries devising their own solutions to a host of common problems. We need a more coordinated system that brings countries together around practical solutions that work for all. As this is one of the most important issues facing our countries, we welcome wholeheartedly the United Nations initiative to forge two Global Compacts – one for safe, orderly and regular migration, and another on refugees – which governments will formally adopt later this year.

While acknowledging important legal distinctions between *migrants* and *refugees*, we see many commonalities between these two large groups in terms of their need for basic services and their fear of discrimination or unlawful persecution. We affirm that all people on the move – voluntary and involuntary, regular and irregular, economic migrants, displaced people and refugees, regardless of their individual drivers to move to other countries – are entitled to the full enjoyment of their human rights pursuant to the relevant international treaties and covenants. We should not condone discrimination against migrants or refugees based on culture, gender, race, ethnicity, religion or other differences. We should support enhanced protection for the most vulnerable migrants and refugees, beginning with women, children and people with disabilities.

Our challenge, as policy-makers and opinion leaders and as representatives of the people, is to reconcile our short-term national interests with this long-term world view that seeks to reap the benefits of human mobility in an orderly fashion. We strongly believe that migration policies and the public debate about migrants and refugees must be more balanced and based on empirical evidence of what works and what does not. We recognize that diversity makes our countries stronger, not weaker. We condemn the worrying trend of holding foreigners responsible for home-grown problems not of their making. We affirm our duty, as trustees of the common good, to avoid language that stokes the flames of xenophobia and racism.

Most importantly, we have a responsibility to work resolutely to address the root causes of refugee situations (including persecution and armed conflict) and the drivers of migration, be they economic, social or environmental. Doing so will affirm the right to leave as well as the right to stay in one's home country. In a world of extreme income and wealth inequality, climate change, and weakening democratic institutions, a sense of deep insecurity on the part of growing numbers of people is both a reason why people move and a prime cause of the negative response to migrants and refugees in many countries. The response must be an all-encompassing one that seeks to support the well-being and prosperity of all people – citizens and non-citizens alike – everywhere.

We reiterate our pledge to work for the implementation of the UN-approved 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and attendant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs provide a clear road map for inclusive and sustainable prosperity for all. By empowering all countries economically and institutionally, and by strengthening the foundations of peace between and within countries, the SDGs will help to address the root causes of refugee movements and help to achieve a better balance between the benefits and the costs of migration, such as the benefit of remittances and the costs of brain drain to developing countries. The implementation of the SDGs will also support a fairer sharing of the responsibility all countries have toward migrants and refugees.

Combined, all of these actions will allow people to move by choice, not through necessity, thus largely containing the potential disruption that can come from large, unpredictable movement of persons related to society-wide shocks. At the same time, we recognize that the integration of migrants and refugees is not an event but a process requiring time and effort. Unlike inanimate capital and goods that can move quickly across borders, people have emotional ties and personal needs. We must be sensitive to this from the perspective both of host communities and of the migrants and refugees themselves by adopting proactive policies for social cohesion. That said, we find that by and large integration is possible and is working as it should in the majority of our countries.

As the statistics clearly show, only a tiny fraction of migrants and refugees has ever posed a threat to national security. While this is paramount to all of us, we commit to help dispel the misconceptions in the media and in the public discourse that migrants and refugees present a heightened risk. At the same time, we commit to ensuring that border controls and admission procedures are designed to detect and filter out potential terrorists and elements of organized crime.

We recognize that putting up artificial obstacles to the migration of people will generate needless human suffering and social tensions. The response to growing irregular migration is to generate more regular pathways for people to work and live in destination countries in mutually beneficial ways. Not all migrants seek permanent residence. Many of them can be accommodated through temporary arrangements and through policies that will facilitate their return to their home countries. At the same time, countries of origin need to do more to allow their people to return.

The Global Compacts

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees need to be mutually reinforcing, creating a comprehensive practical framework to manage all types of human mobility more effectively at national, regional and global levels. They need to embed the key principle of shared responsibility between countries of origin and destination as well as between countries and the international community.

For the compacts to be effective, they must first articulate a clear definition of migrant as a distinct category from refugee, which will be particularly useful in targeting policy at mixed flows, emerging new categories such as people fleeing the consequences of climate change, or displaced people whose status as migrants or refugees is not always easy to determine. The compacts need to reaffirm all relevant human rights treaties and conventions, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

The compacts need to establish strong review mechanisms to hold governments to account for their commitments. The role of parliaments as key stakeholders, particularly with regard to the implementation of both compacts, needs to be specifically acknowledged in the text. As for the legal status of the compacts, as our survey shows, the possibility of a legally binding regime should not be discounted altogether.

Our debate demonstrated high support for the following specific provisions to be articulated in both compacts:

- More and better data on migrants and refugees must be generated and exchanged at all levels nationally and globally to inform public debate as well as relevant national policies;
- Partnerships with local authorities, civil society organizations and private enterprises that are first in line to respond to the flow of migrants and refugees should be encouraged;
- Birth registration of all children of migrants and refugees needs to be enforced to ensure their rights are protected;
- An international standard of practice for countries dealing with vulnerable migrants, including unaccompanied children, needs to be established;
- Human trafficking must be brought to an end through stronger bilateral and multilateral cooperation as well as stronger enforcement of existing laws;
- National security policies should not single out migrants and refugees, and should instead aim at a comprehensive approach to detect and prosecute criminal elements in our societies at large;
- Public services such as health and education, housing and food support, should be provided to all refugees and migrants, along with a firewall protecting them from law enforcement
- Hate speech should be sanctioned and hate crimes clearly defined in the law, with law enforcement and social services departments provided with the tools to combat and punish such crimes;
- More support from the international community is needed to help countries cope with large inflows of migrants and refugees.

Migrants

With regard specifically to regular and irregular migrants, we are supportive of the following provisions to be reflected in the Global Compact for Migration:

- Countries of origin, transit and destination need to cooperate more closely to facilitate the movement of migrant workers, including by facilitating the accreditation of academic and professional credentials, by allowing the portability of social security benefits, and by lowering the cost of remittances;
- Vulnerable groups such as women, children and people with disabilities should be given special protection in migration policies and in the law against exploitation and abuse;
- National migration policies need to include input from migrants themselves, ensuring that migrants are not passive subjects but active participants in the societies in which they live;
- National quotas of labour migrants can contribute to greater predictability of migration flows, although it remains up to each country to decide whether to establish a quota or not;
- Migrants should generally be granted the right to participate in political decision-making in their host countries only upon the obtainment of citizenship, though some provision for the participation of permanent residents should be considered.

Refugees

With regard to the Global Compact on Refugees, we welcome the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and its four key pillars to ease pressure on countries receiving large numbers of refugees, to provide for a dignified life for all refugees, to facilitate third-country resettlement, and to prepare for the return of refugees to their home countries when conditions so allow.

We further recommend that the following provisions should be reflected in the completed, final document:

- People fleeing conflict should enjoy legal protection as refugees under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees;
- To the extent possible, countries should be incentivized to give long-term refugees permanent residence, while no refugee should be denied the right to return to the homeland;
- The freedom of movement of refugees in their host countries must be upheld in all circumstances;
- The return and resettlement of refugees requires their consent and needs to be carefully coordinated between host countries, countries of origin or third countries;
- The return of refugees to countries of origin can only take place when all fundamental freedoms and personal safety can be guaranteed;
- More funding for the accommodation of refugees in host countries should be channeled to developing countries where the vast majority of refugees live;
- All countries that have yet to join the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol should be encouraged to do so.

The way forward

Along with governments and the United Nations, including in particular IOM and UNHCR, parliaments will have a key role to play in the implementation of the global compacts.

Our task as parliamentarians is to hold governments accountable for their commitments and to see to it that laws and budgets are consistent with those commitments. To that end, we encourage the international community and the IPU, as our world organization, to continue to work closely with our parliaments, strengthening our institutional capacities to design relevant policies for migrants and refugees and to oversee such policies effectively.

More importantly, we commit to stimulating a debate on migrants and refugees that builds on people's strengths, their dreams and aspirations, regardless of their differences.

Where there are walls, we will work to build bridges; where there is fear, we will seek to restore hope.

* * * * *

Parliamentary Survey on Migrants and Refugees

To ensure maximum parliamentary input in the present Declaration that would go beyond the official statements made during the general debate of the 138th Assembly, all participating MPs were invited to respond to an online survey questionnaire prepared in cooperation with First Contact, a polling firm specializing in public policy. The questionnaire was also made available to participants in the 2018 Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations (22-23 February 2018) and in the Parliamentary Meeting at the UN Commission on the Status of Women (13 March).

Two hundred and thirty-nine (239) delegate surveys, representing 84 countries, were analysed. Respondents were about equally divided between members of governing parties and opposition/independent parliamentarians. Sixty-four percent (64%) of respondents identified as men, 33 per cent as women and 3 per cent as another gender or declined. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of respondents believe their views are broadly aligned with those of members of their political party. The average tenure of parliamentarians answering the survey was 8.2 years.

Respondents described their country either as a country of origin (24%), transit (43%), destination (65%) or none of these (12%), totalling 144 per cent, and reflecting the multiple roles each country can play in the migration phenomenon. The survey found a high level of support for a Global Compact on Migration and a Global Compact for Refugees, with 86 per cent of respondents being strongly in favour, or in favour. Respondents reported a lower level (67%) of familiarity with a proposed Compact.

Ninety-one percent (91%) of respondents believe there should be an international standard of practice when dealing with vulnerable migrants, including women and children. Ninety-four per cent (94%) believe countries should act to protect migrants from exploitation and human rights abuses. In both cases, respondents who support both Global Compacts were strongly supportive of these measures.

Support for a Global Compact was positively correlated with familiarity; respondents who reported being very familiar or somewhat familiar were more likely to be supportive than those who were unfamiliar. Similarly, respondents who reported that migration was viewed positively in their country were more likely to support a Global Compact, although only 45 per cent reported migration being viewed very positively or somewhat positively. Seventy per cent strongly agreed or agreed that their country needed a more balanced, evidence-based debate on the migration issue.

Fifty-one percent (51%) of respondents believe a Compact should be legally binding, while 36 per cent believe it should be voluntary and 14 per cent were undecided. A minority of respondents expressed support for adopting a quota of migrants to be admitted, with 15 per cent strongly agreeing and 26 per cent agreeing.

When asked when migrants should become involved in political decision-making in their country, 68 per cent said when they become citizens, 27 per cent when they have permanent status and 5 per cent when they arrive.

Taken together, the above suggests that although there is broad support for a Global Compact, some of the support expressed may be socially conditioned, and there is less support for specific binding measures on individual countries or measures that would give migrants equal participation with citizens. Further research may reveal that opponents of a Global Compact responded as undecided or unfamiliar rather than state opposition or lack of focus on migration and the Global Compact. Building awareness through continued education of parliamentarians will positively impact the debate.

Seventy-three per cent (73%) of respondents report that migration is one of the most important issues facing their country, while only 31 per cent say their country is well prepared to deal with the issue. Respondents from Africa reported being the least prepared (14%) to deal with migration, while Western Europe reported the highest level of preparedness (52%). By contrast, 56 per cent of respondents report that their countries are doing a good job of integrating migrants.

Seventy-five percent (75%) of delegates believe the migration issue is equally the responsibility of the individual country and the international community, while 13 per cent believe it is primarily the responsibility of the individual country and 12 per cent believe it is primarily the responsibility of the international community. Respondents from transit countries and countries that were less prepared to deal with migration were more likely to believe responsibility for the migration issue is the responsibility of the international community or the international community and the host country.

Respondents' predictions about the numbers of future migrants had little impact on their perception of the importance of the issue or their support for a Global Compact. Just under half of respondents (48%) believe that the number of migrants arriving in their country will increase in the future, while 29 per cent believe the number will stay the same and 23 per cent believe the number will decrease. By contrast, 72 per cent of respondents expect the number of global migrants to increase in the future, while 9 per cent believe the number will stay about the same and 19 per cent believe the number will decrease.

Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development

Resolution adopted unanimously by the 138th IPU Assembly (Geneva, 28 March 2018)

The 138th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Reaffirming that, according to its Statutes, working for peace and cooperation among peoples is one of the main purposes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling the IPU resolutions entitled *The prevention of conflicts and the restoration of peace and trust in countries emerging from war; the return of refugees to their countries of origin, the strengthening of democratic processes and the hastening of reconstruction* (99th Inter-Parliamentary Conference, Windhoek, 1998), *Achieving peace, stability and comprehensive development in the world and forging closer political, economic and cultural ties among peoples* (103rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference, Amman, 2000); *Ensuring respect for and peaceful co-existence between all religious communities and beliefs in a globalized world* (116th Assembly, Nusa Dua, 2007); *Promoting and practising good governance as a means of advancing peace and security: Drawing lessons from recent events in the Middle East and North Africa* (126th Assembly, Kampala, 2012); *Enforcing the responsibility to protect: The role of parliament in safeguarding civilians' lives* (128th Assembly, Quito, 2013) and *The role of parliament in respecting the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States* (136th Assembly, Dhaka, 2017),

Also recalling the IPU outcomes of general debates, namely the Quito Communiqué (128th Assembly, Quito, 2013), the Hanoi Declaration (132nd Assembly, Hanoi, 2015) and the St. Petersburg Declaration (137th Assembly, St. Petersburg, 2017), containing, among other things, the parliamentary community's action towards implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

Also recalling the determination to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purpose and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Further recalling that sustaining peace has been defined in the substantively identical resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly (70/262) and the United Nations Security Council (2282 [2016]) adopted on 27 April 2016 "as a goal and a process to build a common vision of a society, ensuring that the needs of all segments of the population are taken into account, which encompasses activities aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, addressing root causes, assisting parties to conflict to end hostilities, ensuring national reconciliation, and moving towards recovery, reconstruction and development, and emphasizing that sustaining peace is a shared task and responsibility that needs to be fulfilled by the government and all other national stakeholders, and should flow through all three pillars of the United Nations' engagement at all stages of conflict, and in all of its dimensions, and needs sustained international attention and assistance",

Welcoming the renewed mandate these United Nations resolutions give to the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Fund and the Peacebuilding Support Office within the context of the Sustaining Peace Agenda,

Also welcoming the prioritization of prevention of violent conflict by the Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Fully supporting United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security which emphasizes the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, as well as United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015) on youth, peace and security which recognizes the positive role of youth in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security,

Recognizing these resolutions and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) as crucial steps towards more coherence among the three pillars of the United Nations, namely peace and security, development and human rights,

Mindful that the 2030 Agenda recognizes the need for sustaining peace and ensuring security and includes them as cross-cutting issues,

Recognizing that the SDGs apply to all States, while acknowledging that their implementation shall be adapted to the uniqueness of each and every State and that each State shall have the right to determine its priorities concerning the SDGs depending on its prevailing circumstances and needs,

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda calls on governments, parliaments and other stakeholders to design and deliver laws and programmes that meet the needs of the people, break down policy silos, uphold human rights, and leave no one behind,

Underlining that there is a link between peace and the promotion and protection of all human rights, included in, but not limited to, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and *recognizing* the will of the United Nations General Assembly to continue examining the issue of the promotion and protection of the right to peace,

Also underlining that, in view of the mutually reinforcing nature of development, human rights, peace and security, the strengthening of democracy and good governance, inclusive development, the promotion and protection of human rights, the eradication of poverty and the reduction of inequalities, the elimination of all forms of discrimination, the reduction of illicit financial and arms flows, effective, accountable and inclusive institutions and equal application of the law to all people are among the most effective ways to sustain peace and security and prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflicts,

Emphasizing that peace and security are not only political issues defined by the absence of violence and war but also the freedom from fear, and that they encompass political, cultural, economic, social, environmental, educational and humanitarian issues,

Recognizing that violence is increasingly driven by domestic political instability and that one out of every two people in the world has been affected by or lives in proximity to political violence (OECD report *States of Fragility 2016*),

Convinced that parliaments can significantly contribute to sustaining peace, and *highlighting* both the constructive and preventive nature of parliamentary diplomacy in enhancing democracy and human rights, including its capacity to reduce tensions and mitigate and resolve conflicts by peaceful means,

Reaffirming that parliaments must guarantee inclusiveness through the representation and empowerment of women, the respect of the rights of children, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups, including ethnic and religious groups and those of LGBTI sexual orientation, and the expression of all their interests through parliamentary representation to ensure peace among all community members,

Also reaffirming that parliaments must guarantee that the situation and particular needs of migrant, refugee and displaced women and girls are taken into account, as well as the protection of their rights, their security, economic and social integration and their empowerment,

Recognizing that climate change has direct and indirect implications for peace and security, mainly affecting those in the most fragile and vulnerable situations, exacerbating the threat of social and political unrest, increasing environmental pressures and disaster risks, and causing the migration of populations that can be the source of conflicts,

Underlining the importance of enhancing national and regional initiatives, with international support, to address the negative consequences for sustainable peace, security and development of all aspects of the extraction and exploitation of mineral resources,

Noting with concern the plight of children in conflict situations, in particular the phenomenon of the recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflicts, as well as other violations and abuses committed against children, and *stressing* the need for the protection of children in armed conflicts and for ensuring that the protection and rights of children in armed conflicts are integrated into all peace processes,

Recognizing that sustaining peace and achieving sustainable development requires regular, predictable and adequate financing and that innovative solutions must be pursued to increase the financial contributions made by non-traditional stakeholders, including the private sector,

Emphasizing the importance of the equal participation and inclusive involvement of all citizens of the nation, and of ethnic, religious and linguistic and other minorities, such as persons with different sexual orientations and persons with disabilities in national efforts towards sustaining peace, and *also emphasizing* the acknowledgement of the rights of all community groups and minorities, as principal partners in the attainment of peace,

Stressing the importance of addressing the socioeconomic dimension of youth unemployment, as well as of facilitating the enhanced participation of youth in decision-making processes, with a view of addressing social, political, cultural, and economic challenges, and *welcoming* in this regard the adoption of the United Nations Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth aimed at addressing youth unemployment,

Also stressing the need to accelerate the process of adoption of national plans of action for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security while ensuring the full participation of parliaments in their drafting, oversight of their implementation and financing,

Highlighting the contribution of civil society in ensuring sustaining peace and the implementation of the SDGs, and *welcoming* mutually beneficial interaction with it in order to build linkages to enhance citizens' well-being,

Reaffirming the principle of national ownership and leadership in sustaining peace which is understood as a broadly shared responsibility by the parliament, the government, the judiciary and all other national stakeholders,

Recognizing the contribution of regional actors, governmental and non-governmental, regional parliamentary assemblies, local bodies, and other regional forums, to sustaining peace and the implementation of the SDGs,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption by consensus of the substantively identical resolutions on sustaining peace by the United Nations General Assembly (70/262) and the United Nations Security Council (2282 [2016]);
2. *Calls on* all parliaments to contribute to the implementation of the concept of sustaining peace and the SDGs, and to identify specific measures of implementation in accordance with their national contexts;
3. *Stresses* the importance of national ownership and leadership in sustaining peace, and that the primary responsibility for identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies and activities for sustaining peace and the implementation of the SDGs lies with national parliaments and governments;
4. *Underlines* that, in this regard, inclusiveness and diversity are crucial to ensuring that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account, and *acknowledges* inclusiveness itself as a means of conflict prevention;
5. *Calls on* all parliamentarians to bear in mind the notion of sustaining peace in the implementation of the SDGs as well as in their daily parliamentary work, and to include conflict prevention and the implementation of peacebuilding strategies in their parliamentary relations agenda, without prejudice to the principle of State sovereignty;
6. *Also calls on* all parliaments to use the preventive potential of the parliamentary process fully as a way of mitigating and resolving conflict, including through monitoring of human rights protection, inclusive dialogue processes, and mediation to peacefully address the needs of all segments of society;
7. *Encourages* parliaments to collaborate with the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission in their conflict prevention efforts and *recommends* that their national governments seek inclusion of their country's situation on the Commission's agenda where appropriate;

8. *Invites* parliaments to adopt enabling legislation, including key budget laws in order to advance both the SDGs and sustaining peace agendas, including measures that promote increased financial support from national stakeholders, notably the private sector;
9. *Also invites* parliaments to apply all generic parliamentary functions to hold governments accountable for the effective implementation of the sustaining peace framework and the SDGs, including the relevant law-making, oversight, budget, representative and elective functions and sustainable development agendas informed by the work of independent oversight bodies such as audit institutions, ombudsman institutions and national human rights institutions;
10. *Calls on* parliaments to partner with civil society more regularly in order to build trust among the general public, including the marginalized sections of society, to ensure inclusiveness and representation of a variety of needs and enable more effective access to decision-making processes, according to the national legislations;
11. *Recommends* parliamentarians to engage with governments, international organizations and civil society to promote gender equality, bearing in mind the impact of conflict on women and children, as well as the women, peace and security agenda of the United Nations, and to further promote the participation of women in peace processes, particularly, in mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities, as well as in education, health care and promotion of a culture of peace; moreover, *urges* parliaments to work towards concrete measures to promote gender equality and to protect the rights of children such as encouraging gender responsive budgets and the provision of adequate funding of human rights components in UN peacekeeping operations;
12. *Calls on* parliaments to adopt national plans of action for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, and to oversee their implementation and adequate financing;
13. *Recommends* parliamentarians to work with governments, international organizations and civil society in order to guarantee the protection of children from conflict at all times, and to avoid the use of children in armed conflict;
14. *Insists* that national parliaments and the international community, in accordance with the Paris Agreement on climate change, put in place legislative and financial provisions based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and *calls on* them to engage against climate change and its consequences, in particular on people who have to move and should be guaranteed a bedrock of international inalienable rights;
15. *Calls on* parliaments to ensure implementation of international commitments and treaties by the government, including the 2030 Agenda and human rights obligations, and *stresses* that a signed treaty is binding upon its signatories, who are obliged to implement it without any preconditions;
16. *Acknowledges* that particular attention must be paid to the prevention of violence in the context of elections, as pivotal moments of the political cycle, since politically stable situations provide an environment that is conducive to sustainable development and sustaining peace;
17. *Recognizes* the responsibilities of political parties and associations in this regard and the important role of free and fair elections and supporting institutions such as an independent electoral commission, the judiciary and free media;
18. *Urges* parliaments of conflict-affected countries to exert more efforts in supporting national reconciliation and transitional justice, the establishment of the truth, and in dealing with the past; *acknowledges* the important role of parliaments and national human rights institutions in national reconciliation; *underlines* the importance of bringing perpetrators to justice, and *calls on* parliaments to ratify the Rome Statute;

19. *Encourages* parliamentarians to legislate and collaborate with governments, international organizations and civil society, in accordance with international law, and international humanitarian law, to prevent the flow of arms in conflict-affected societies and regions;
20. *Declares* that an effective implementation of the SDGs not only contributes to preventing the outbreak of conflict but also supports the sustainability of peace and development by significantly reducing all forms of violence;
21. *Looks forward* to the High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace on 24 and 25 April 2018 convened by the President of the United Nations General Assembly;
22. *Acknowledges* that cultural diversity has significant importance for achieving sustainable development and *invites* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to organize with the United Nations a world conference on the interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue with the participation of the Heads of States, Parliaments and leaders of world religions;
23. *Encourages* ever-closer cooperation among parliaments and regional parliamentary organizations and local bodies within the Inter-Parliamentary Union with a view to contribute to sustaining peace and the implementation of the SDGs;
24. *Recommends* that governments of developed countries carry out their responsibilities in maintaining international peace and security in developing countries and promote the sustainable development process they originally initiated;
25. *Emphasizes* parliament's role in sponsoring active dialogues among various community members from different backgrounds to ensure sustaining peace and tolerance within communities.

Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy

*Resolution adopted unanimously by the 138th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 28 March 2018)*

The 138th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Reaffirming its commitment to effectively implementing United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, which laid the foundations for an inclusive sustainable development agenda with the involvement of all stakeholders, including the private sector, and set forth Sustainable Development Goal 7 on energy, in which the necessity of renewable energy development is affirmed,

Stressing that the Hanoi Declaration of 1 April 2015, adopted by the 132nd IPU Assembly, recognized parliament's role in mobilizing finance from both private and public sources to attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and stated that the environment for private investments should be strengthened in ways that directly support sustainable development; and *reaffirming* the IPU resolution on *Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the SDGs, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development*, which was adopted by the 136th IPU Assembly and calls for enhancing women's entrepreneurship and access to financial resources,

Referring to United Nations General Assembly resolutions A/RES/69/313 of 27 July 2015, entitled *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development*, and A/RES/71/233 of 21 December 2016, entitled *Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all*, and to the outcomes of the United Nations Private Sector Forum 2017, the 2017 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development on progress towards the implementation of Goal 7, the 2017 IPU Regional Seminar on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals for the Parliaments in the Asia-Pacific Region, the 2017 IPU Regional Seminar on the Sustainable Development Goals for the Parliaments of Sub-Saharan Africa, which recognized that the SDGs will have a disproportionate effect on the younger generations, in Africa and around the world, which should be included in the planning and implementation of development policies, and the 26th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum,

Asserting that sustainable development is the common goal of society and that among the interconnected and indissociable 17 Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 7 is a significant linchpin for the success of the others, especially those relating to poverty reduction, education, health and environmental protection in response to climate change,

Emphasizing that the development of renewable energy sources and access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy sources have a significant contribution to make in ensuring energy security, minimize inequalities in energy access, both within and between countries, create jobs and improve people's livelihoods, including those of youths and women in society,

Recognizing the urgent need to ensure full and equal access of women to renewable energy as a means to enhance their economic empowerment, as well as women's potential, given their key role in producing and using energy in households and communities, particularly in developing countries,

Observing that renewable energy technologies have experienced remarkable cost reductions over the last decade, exhibiting lower unit costs than traditional thermal power plants in many regions, and that similar developments are envisaged for generation and storage technologies in the foreseeable future,

Recognizing that the contribution of the private sector to development goes beyond capital provision and employment creation and that the private sector can be a true development agent which drives technology development and innovation, makes smart investment in key areas, facilitates technology transfer and participates in the transition towards sustainable production, operation and consumption, and that the active involvement of the private sector and the strategic partnership between the private sector and the public sectors, civil society and local communities are critical, especially in the field of renewable energy,

Emphasizing the responsibility of private sector entities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the surrounding community in which they operate their businesses, including in terms of environmental preservation and human rights protection,

Stressing, however, that it continues to lie primarily within the State's responsibility to assure and steer the SDG implementation process, not least because private investments tend to flow into middle-income countries and/or countries with a certain level of reliability in their respective investment structures which, in turn, results in a further disadvantage for the group of LDCs and thus for the countries that are the most dependent on support by the international community in implementing the 2030 Agenda,

Acknowledging that the organization and operation of the private sector are diverse, ranging from multinationals, cooperatives, small and medium enterprises, microenterprises, social enterprises and households to the informal sector, and that the modalities and scale and scope of public-private partnership vary from country to country and there should be institutional frameworks for these partnerships,

Affirming the need for countries to support small and medium enterprises through policies that support the creation of synergies between domestic companies and foreign actors,

Cognizant of the fact that developing countries are particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change, and that although technology advancement has offered a reduction in renewable energy cost, developing countries are at a disadvantage when it comes to the technology and finance required for easier access to renewable energy,

Underscoring the indispensable role of parliaments in institution-building and sovereign oversight of the Government in effectively executing policies on engagement of the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially in terms of renewable energy,

Wishing to promote international and national legal institutions where there is alignment between the interests of the private sector and poverty eradication and sustainable development, especially renewable energy,

1. *Strongly urges* parliaments to raise public awareness about the need for the engagement of multi-stakeholders in SDG implementation, especially renewable energy, by increasing the number of educational and awareness-raising campaigns and activities reaching out to all members of society in order to equip them with enhanced knowledge on sustainable development, and also to incorporate sustainable development content into curricula at all education levels, especially undergraduate and graduate courses in investment, production, business and commerce in order to change the business mindset towards SDG implementation;
2. *Calls on* parliaments to support gender-responsive legislation, policies and budgets aimed at ensuring equal access of youth, women and men to science and technology, education and training, capacity-building programmes for women, especially in rural areas, and equal opportunities to engage in all stages of the renewable energy value chain, including entrepreneurship opportunities, jobs and careers, as well as equal participation in local, national and international decision-making processes in the renewable energy sector;
3. *Also calls on* parliaments to support capacity-building programmes for poor and vulnerable sections of the population, and promote legislation and policies with a view to reducing energy poverty for vulnerable consumer groups;

4. *Urges* State agencies to recognize the important role of the private sector and simultaneously enlighten the private sector on its own important part and responsibility in SDG implementation, especially renewable energy, and to further promote entrepreneurship for sustainable development, boost corporate social responsibility and support social enterprise development so that the private sector is encouraged to integrate sustainable development concerns into its respective core business areas;
5. *Welcomes* the joining of hands by parliaments with governments to adopt national development strategies with mid-term and long-term sustainable development targets in which the engagement of the private sector as a stakeholder in SDG implementation is identified and SDGs are built into innovative and sustainable investment programmes;
6. *Appeals* to parliaments to build, and supervise governments in following, the road map to accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy, increase the share of renewable energy in the national energy mix, mitigate environmental pollution, implement solutions for efficient-effective energy usage and the use of renewable energy, develop green technologies and new environment-friendly materials as well as to develop domestic industries and infrastructure supporting renewable energy production, distribution and use;
7. *Also appeals* to parliaments together with governments to reorient financial markets to advance sustainability and consider suitable risk-sharing partnerships, such as innovative blended public-private finance mechanisms for funding sustainable development that ensure transparency and accountability and the balancing out of returns on private capital with social impacts;
8. *Urges* parliaments to establish, and support the development of, a transparent and competitive electricity market that will ensure that the production of electricity from renewable energy sources is self-supporting;
9. *Suggests* that parliaments safeguard policy space for investment into off-grid renewable energy and encourage private investment into off-grid renewable energy technology, including small-scale electricity generators converting power from renewable energy sources and mini-grids, through support to building risk management tools for such investments and an enabling regulatory and institutional framework and by preparing reliable long-term rural electrification road maps that mitigate the risks of grid extension interfering with private mini-grid and off-grid markets;
10. *Exhorts* parliaments to allocate appropriate budgets for investment and stimulate private investment into research and development (R&D) and innovation, and prioritize investment into essential infrastructure for renewable energy development;
11. *Urges* technologically advanced States to lead research in the practical application of technical solutions for storing and utilizing hydrogen produced from renewable energy, thereby making this technology a powerful option for the effective utilization of renewable energy;
12. *Calls on* parliaments to support the establishment of transparent and reliable databases for potential private investment in sustainable development, especially pipelines of small projects, the setting up of broader investor networks in the field of sustainable development, performance indicators, reporting systems for joint monitoring and evaluation on investment impacts, and standards for sustainable products and technologies, as well as the organization of multi-stakeholder forums allowing for constructively sharing knowledge, technical know-how, success stories, causes of failure and lessons learned in sustainable investment, production, operation and consumption;
13. *Also calls on* parliaments to continue their efforts to build economic institutions which foster an enabling business climate for the private sector to engage in SDG implementation and ensure the participation of the private sector and other stakeholders in policymaking and assessment;

14. *Further calls on* parliaments to support regulations for comprehensive, detailed and real-time energy measurements to facilitate cost-reflective billing and transparent revenue models;
15. *Recommends* that each parliament issue suitable incentive policies for the private sector, particularly small investment in small projects, in accordance with the respective socioeconomic conditions of the country in its own development period and without distorting functioning markets;
16. *Invites* parliaments, governments, international and regional organizations to identify and deliberate on new generation international investment agreements that focus on the promotion of sustainable development policies, bearing in mind the implementation of existing climate funding mechanisms;
17. *Proposes* more exchanges and enhanced cooperation between countries in order to promote the transfer of high-end technologies with more incentives, build policies that widen access to environmentally sound technologies, strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development as set forth in SDG Goal 17;
18. *Encourages*, in particular, the participation of parliaments and their members in specialized organizations and forums on renewable energy, such as the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and the establishment of networks of parliamentarians, including between parliaments, parliamentary organizations and parliamentarians, to facilitate exchanges on best practices and enable knowledge transfer, including on policy, technology and finance; and *invites* the IPU to cooperate with these bodies with a view to enhancing parliamentary support for the SDG Goal 7 renewable energy targets.

Report of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

*Noted by the 138th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 28 March 2018)*

Preparatory debate on the next resolution: *Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*

The debate took place on Monday 26 March with the Committee President Ms. B. Tshireletso (Botswana) in the chair. The Committee approved the appointment of three Rapporteurs for the next resolution, Mr. J. Echániz (Spain), Ms. K. Sosa (El Salvador) and Mr. A. Touizi (Morocco). The debate was introduced by the two co-facilitators of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, Ambassador J. Lauber (Switzerland) and Ambassador J. Gomez Camacho (Mexico), followed by the three Rapporteurs.

The co-facilitators outlined the consultation and negotiation processes that should lead to the adoption of the Global Compact on Migration in December 2018. They briefed the Committee on the structure of the current draft, and welcomed the input of parliamentarians to this process. The co-facilitators underlined the need to change the narrative on migration. Most migration takes place within the same region - for example, Africans moving within Africa, Latin Americans within Latin America. Evidence was now available that showed that the economic contribution of migrants was around USD 7 trillion or nine per cent of global GDP. Most of these economic benefits stayed in the country of destination. Migration policy, and indeed the entire debate on migration, needed to be informed by evidence and respect for the human rights of people on the move.

The Rapporteurs shared their views on the key issues that the IPU resolution on this theme could address in order to support the development of common standards in the area of migration. During the debate, 35 delegates from all geopolitical groups took the floor. Delegates highlighted the need for a well-informed debate, including information on the push and pull factors of migration, on the various forms it took, as well as on the challenges and benefits it brought. Migration contributed to economic development. No country was exclusively a country of origin, transit or destination.

Delegates raised a number of priority issues. These included the development of comprehensive legislation that protects the rights of migrants, the need to address the root causes of migration, and the imperative to combat discrimination and xenophobia in the context of migration. Disaster-related migration required stronger responses that provided adequate protection for people who were forced to move. There was also a need to support migrants' participation in development and political decision-making, both in host countries and in countries of origin. Parliaments had a crucial role to play in all these areas, and in ensuring that gender equality and the rights of children were protected in all aspects of migration. The IPU could and should support them in this endeavor.

The President invited all Members to assist the Rapporteurs in drafting the resolution by providing written contributions by the deadline of 20 April 2018.

Consideration of the proposal for a debate on the theme *The role of parliaments in ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and ensuring respect for the human rights of LGBTI persons*

On Tuesday 27 March, the Committee gave further consideration to the proposal to hold a debate, which would not lead to a resolution, on the role of parliaments in ending discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. On the occasion of the 137th Assembly in October 2017, that proposal had been approved by the Committee without a vote. However, in light of opposing views on the matter, the President of the 137th Assembly subsequently referred the matter back to the Committee for further consideration at the 138th Assembly.

At the session on 27 March, the Committee worked in an atmosphere of mutual respect, where all delegates were able to give their views on the proposal and listen to the views of others. The proposal was presented by Belgium, then 28 delegates from all geopolitical groups took the floor to express their position. In order to avoid any possible doubt about the decision, the Committee held a roll call vote and voted in favour of holding this debate at the next Assembly.

Elections

The Committee elected new members to its Bureau.

The Committee elected Mr. A. Desai (India) as its new President. It reserved the decision of who will become vice-president until the 139th Assembly, when the new Bureau will meet for the first time.

Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

*Noted by the 138th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 28 March 2018)*

The President of the Committee, Mr. A. Avsan, opened the meeting. He noted that since his term as president was coming to a close, a new president would be elected at the end of the meeting.

Seven new members of the Bureau were confirmed: Ms. S. Alhashim (Kuwait), Mr. A. Al-Amri (Oman), Mr. M. Ben Souf (Tunisia), Mr. B. Llano Ramos (Paraguay), Ms. M.J. Carrión (Ecuador), Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland) and Ms. D. Nazarbaeva (Kazakhstan). Ms. L. Crexell (Argentina) resigned from the Bureau and was replaced by Mr. J.C. Romero (Argentina).

The President explained that the sitting was meant to provide a bridge to the session of the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF) for sustainable development in July 2018 and that it had two primary objectives: to take stock of parliamentary action for the SDGs, and to prepare parliamentarians for the debate to be held at the HLPF.

Panel discussion on the parliamentary follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Presenters: Mr. M. Mijatovic, MP (Serbia), Ms. L. Crexell, Senator (Argentina), Mr. E. Saravanpavan, MP (Sri Lanka), Ms. N. Isler, Director, SDG Lab, Geneva.

The discussion highlighted various initiatives taken by parliaments to institutionalize the SDGs and to oversee their implementation. Best practices included: setting up a focus group of MPs; reviewing institutional capacity for the SDGs using the IPU-UNDP self-assessment toolkit; holding public debates to raise awareness among citizens, civil society organizations and entrepreneurs; supporting multi-stakeholder consultative platforms; creating an observatory within parliament to evaluate legislative proposals from an SDG standpoint; and requiring each new piece of legislation to clearly indicate an SDG that would be advanced by it.

Some of the most common risks associated with parliamentary work for the SDGs were also discussed. They included: the tendency of most MPs to be conditioned by short-term electoral pressures more than the long-term vision of the SDGs; the tendency of governments and parliaments to only focus on those SDGs that were seen as critical to their countries, ignoring that the SDGs were all interlinked; the difficulty of setting policy priorities within a complex framework where virtually all issues mattered; the relative disadvantage of developed countries that were only now learning ways of pursuing global goals.

Looking at ways to improve the implementation of the SDGs across regions, it was noted that while the collection of quality data remained critical, an even bigger challenge was finding ways to ensure that all relevant data informed the policymaking process. A second challenge was finding an optimal balance between raising additional resources to finance and support the SDGs and making the best use of the resources that were already available. A third, common problem was the difficulty of breaking up policy silos in order to improve policy coherence among the goals. There was also a need to better articulate the vaguely defined "private sector" so that different actors such as transnational corporations, small and medium enterprises, and family-run businesses could be engaged more effectively in SDG implementation.

The particular role of youth was underscored. In the relatively long lifespan of the SDGs, today's youth would be tomorrow's voters, taxpayers and decision-makers who would need to carry the SDGs through to the end. It was important therefore that parliaments work particularly closely with young people, including by ensuring that the SDGs were part of the school curriculum at a very early stage. Parliaments and MPs, along with governments and other stakeholders, also needed to do a much better job of publicizing the SDGs in language that everyone could understand.

As much of the responsibility for the SDGs lay with the governments that held executive power, the UN would continue to play a critical role in supporting the relevant efforts by its Member States. It had a unique convening power to bring governments together, the means and the moral authority to raise difficult questions for which innovative solutions were needed, and the ability to provide a repository of good practices for governments to learn from. With the help of the IPU, parliaments too could benefit from all that the UN had to offer with regard to SDGs implementation.

Panel discussion on the main theme of the HLPF: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies.

Presenters: Mr. A. Sinmaleza, MP (Ecuador), Ms. H. Haukeland Liadal, MP (Norway), Mr. M. Wackernagel, President and CEO (Global Footprint Network), Mr. S. Stone (United Nations Environment Programme).

The discussion focused on the environment as one of the pillars of sustainable development. The challenge of reversing unsustainable consumption and production patterns and of shifting energy production toward renewable sources (green energy) to combat climate change was deemed the most immediate threat to the planet.

Global consumption and production was now well above the environment's regenerative capacities. While economies might be growing in monetary terms, they were also undermining their own resource base and causing irreparable damage to the environment. The concept of the ecological footprint and its attendant calculator very effectively demonstrated how current consumption and production patterns demanded more of nature than nature could deliver. That was evidenced in particular by rising carbon emissions and their impact on climate change. Most of the ecological deficit could be attributed to unsustainable lifestyles in developed countries.

The discussion exposed the shortcomings of GDP as a key measure of economic and social progress. GDP assumed that material wealth was tantamount to human well-being, when in fact the latter depended on many other factors, such as education, health, culture, free time, friendship, community and a clean environment. Health care expenditure related to environmental pollution was counted towards GDP, as a benefit to the economy, when in fact it should count as a liability. The ecological footprint therefore provided the ideal counterweight to GDP: whereas GDP assumed potential infinite economic growth, the ecological footprint showed the limits of growth in environmental terms.

Energy was vital to all human activity. As carbon emissions linked to fossil fuels were the principle cause of the current environmental deficit, massive investments in renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power were urgently needed. However, that required urgent action against illicit capital flows and tax evasion, as well as increasing levels of public finance, so that more funds could be allocated to help developing countries.

In addition to scaling up green energy, other factors would prove decisive in the conversion toward environmental sustainability: urban design, so that cities were more compact and more efficient in their use of energy and other inputs; sustainable food production, which required more efficient agriculture and land use; and policies to contain population growth.

At the end of the session, the President encouraged participants to join their national delegations to the upcoming HLPF, from 9 to 18 July, in New York. He further announced that the IPU would hold an event on 16 July as an opportunity for parliamentarians to take stock of the main messages of the HLPF.

The Committee proceeded to formally endorse the nomination of Mr. J.C. Romero as its President, and the sitting was then closed.

Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

*Adopted by the IPU Governing Council at its 202nd session
and by the 138th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 28 March 2018)*

(a) Statutes

Article 10.2, add at the end of the paragraph: "**A Member Parliament may register one additional delegate if at least one young parliamentarian² is part of the delegation, on condition that the delegation is composed of both sexes and the Member is not in arrears in the payment of its assessed contributions**".

(b) Rules of the Assembly

Rule 22.1, amend as follows: "~~No more than~~ Two representatives of each delegation may speak during the General Debate. ~~For this Debate, every delegation shall be entitled to eight minutes' speaking time unless the Steering Committee decides otherwise. When two speakers from the same delegation are registered for this Debate. They shall share the speaking time~~ **as they deem fit in the most appropriate way. An additional MP from each delegation may address the General Debate, provided he/she is a young parliamentarian³.**"

Delete Rule 22.2

~~2. With a view to ensuring the normal running of the debates, the Steering Committee may adjust the above-mentioned speaking time to suit the circumstances.~~

(c) Practical modalities of the rights and responsibilities of Observers at IPU Meetings

Paragraph 7, amend as follows: "In the General Debate of the Assembly, the speaking time of observers will be limited to **three** ~~five~~ minutes. Some flexibility will be shown to executive heads of organizations of the United Nations system who wish to address the IPU.

Explanatory note

The 8-minute speaking time referenced in the Rules has not been applicable for several years now. In 2014, the format of IPU Assemblies changed from a five-day event to four days, with the consequent reduction of time allocated to the General Debate (as compared to the 18 hours devoted to the Debate prior to 2014, only 13-14 hours were available in 2017). Moreover, IPU membership has grown considerably (from 108 Members in 1987 to 178 Members now), which has also led to the reduction in speaking time.

As part of the modalities to enhance youth participation at IPU Assemblies, the Governing Council agreed that a list of speakers shall be opened and reserved exclusively for young MPs. Therefore, it is suggested that an additional two minutes be given to delegations registering a young MP as a third speaker in the General Debate, on condition that the additional time is used by a young MP.

Consequently, it is proposed that the speaking time in the General Debate be modified as follows:

List A	High-level segment (Presiding Officers)	7 minutes
List B	First speakers from delegations	6 minutes
List C	Second speakers from delegations	Time remaining (up to a total of 7 minutes for two speakers)
List D	Young parliamentarians	2 minutes

² In these Statutes, whenever the words "young parliamentarians" are used, they should be construed as referring to parliamentarians who are below the age of 45 years.

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

In case of need and depending on the number of speakers, the Assembly Steering Committee may decide to further reduce the speaking time. As usual, Members and Associate Members have the right to divide their speaking time between two speakers from the same delegation (majority-opposition, male-female, etc.). Observer delegations will have three minutes' speaking time and will normally speak at the end of List B. Heads of Organizations will be included in the usual drawing of lots for the order of speakers.

Repercussions of Iran's malign activities, led by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and its Quds Force, in core arenas in the Middle East, including Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen, and in the Palestinian arena

Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Israel for the inclusion of an emergency item

R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes.....	118	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	613
Negative votes	495	Two-thirds majority.....	409
Abstentions	841		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan	<i>Absent</i>			Germany	12		7	Paraguay	<i>Absent</i>		
Albania	<i>Absent</i>			Ghana	<i>Absent</i>			Peru	<i>Absent</i>		
Algeria		16		Greece		3	10	Philippines	<i>Absent</i>		
Andorra			10	Guatemala	<i>Absent</i>			Poland		15	
Angola			14	Guinea	<i>Absent</i>			Portugal			13
Argentina	<i>Absent</i>			Guyana	<i>Absent</i>			Qatar		11	
Armenia	<i>Absent</i>			Hungary			13	Republic of Korea			17
Australia			14	Iceland			10	Republic of Moldova	<i>Absent</i>		
Austria			12	India			23	Romania			14
Bahrain		11		Indonesia		22		Russian Federation			20
Bangladesh		20		Iran (Islamic Republic of)		18		Rwanda			12
Belarus	<i>Absent</i>			Iraq			14	San Marino			10
Belgium			13	Ireland			10	Saudi Arabia		14	
Benin		12		Israel	12			Serbia			12
Bhutan			10	Italy			17	Seychelles	<i>Absent</i>		
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)		12		Japan			20	Singapore			12
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<i>Absent</i>			Jordan		12		Slovenia			11
Botswana			11	Kazakhstan			13	Somalia		13	
Brazil			22	Kenya	<i>Absent</i>			South Africa			17
Bulgaria	<i>Absent</i>			Kuwait		11		South Sudan			10
Burkina Faso		13		Lao People's Dem. Republic			12	Spain			15
Burundi		12		Latvia			11	Sri Lanka	<i>Absent</i>		
Cabo Verde			10	Lebanon		11		Sudan		15	
Cameroon			13	Lesotho	<i>Absent</i>			Suriname			10
Canada	15			Liechtenstein			10	Sweden		13	
Chad			13	Lithuania	11			Switzerland			12
Chile		9	4	Madagascar			10	Syrian Arab Rep.		13	
China			23	Malawi	<i>Absent</i>			Thailand			18
Colombia			10	Maldives	<i>Absent</i>			The fYR of Macedonia	<i>Absent</i>		
Costa Rica	<i>Absent</i>			Mali		13		Timor-Leste			11
Côte d'Ivoire	<i>Absent</i>			Malta	<i>Absent</i>			Togo	<i>Absent</i>		
Croatia	<i>Absent</i>			Mexico			20	Tunisia		13	
Cuba		13		Micronesia (Fed. States of)			8	Turkey		18	
Cyprus			10	Monaco			10	Uganda			15
Czech Republic	13			Mongolia			11	Ukraine	10		7
DPR of Korea		12		Montenegro	<i>Absent</i>			United Arab Emirates		11	
DR of the Congo			17	Morocco		15		United Kingdom	12		6
Denmark			12	Mozambique		13		Uruguay	3	8	
Ecuador		5	8	Namibia		11		Uzbekistan	<i>Absent</i>		
Egypt		19		Netherlands			13	Vanuatu	<i>Absent</i>		
El Salvador	<i>Absent</i>			New Zealand			11	Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	15		
Equatorial Guinea			11	Nicaragua	<i>Absent</i>			Viet Nam			19
Estonia			11	Niger	<i>Absent</i>			Yemen		11	
Ethiopia			19	Nigeria			10	Zambia			13
Fiji	<i>Absent</i>			Norway	12			Zimbabwe			13
Finland			12	Oman		11					
France	3		15	Pakistan		21					
Gabon			11	Palestine		11					
Georgia	<i>Absent</i>			Panama	<i>Absent</i>						

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

Violence against women in the workplace, in particular in parliaments, in the wake of the #MeToo movement

Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Sweden for the inclusion of an emergency item

Results

Affirmative votes.....	830	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	1,128
Negative votes	298	Two-thirds majority.....	752
Abstentions	326		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan	<i>Absent</i>			Germany	19			Paraguay	<i>Absent</i>		
Albania	<i>Absent</i>			Ghana	<i>Absent</i>			Peru	<i>Absent</i>		
Algeria		16		Greece	13			Philippines	<i>Absent</i>		
Andorra	10			Guatemala	<i>Absent</i>			Poland	5	10	
Angola			14	Guinea	<i>Absent</i>			Portugal	13		
Argentina	<i>Absent</i>			Guyana	<i>Absent</i>			Qatar		11	
Armenia	<i>Absent</i>			Hungary	13			Republic of Korea	17		
Australia	14			Iceland	10			Republic of Moldova	<i>Absent</i>		
Austria	12			India			23	Romania	14		
Bahrain		11		Indonesia			22	Russian Federation			20
Bangladesh		20		Iran (Islamic Republic of)		18		Rwanda	12		
Belarus	<i>Absent</i>			Iraq		14		San Marino	2		8
Belgium	13			Ireland	10			Saudi Arabia		14	
Benin			12	Israel	12			Serbia	12		
Bhutan	10			Italy	17			Seychelles	<i>Absent</i>		
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)			12	Japan	20			Singapore	12		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<i>Absent</i>			Jordan		12		Slovenia	11		
Botswana	11			Kazakhstan			13	Somalia		13	
Brazil	22			Kenya	<i>Absent</i>			South Africa	17		
Bulgaria	<i>Absent</i>			Kuwait		11		South Sudan	10		
Burkina Faso	3		10	Lao People's Dem. Republic	6		6	Spain	15		
Burundi			12	Latvia	11			Sri Lanka	<i>Absent</i>		
Cabo Verde	10			Lebanon		11		Sudan		15	
Cameroon	13			Lesotho	<i>Absent</i>			Suriname	10		
Canada	15			Liechtenstein	10			Sweden	13		
Chad	13			Lithuania	11			Switzerland	12		
Chile			13	Madagascar	10			Syrian Arab Rep.		13	
China	13		10	Malawi	<i>Absent</i>			Thailand	18		
Colombia	10			Maldives	<i>Absent</i>			The FYR of Macedonia	<i>Absent</i>		
Costa Rica	<i>Absent</i>			Mali			13	Timor-Leste	11		
Côte d'Ivoire	<i>Absent</i>			Malta	<i>Absent</i>			Togo	<i>Absent</i>		
Croatia	<i>Absent</i>			Mexico	20			Tunisia		13	
Cuba			13	Micronesia (Fed. States of)	8			Turkey		18	
Cyprus	7		3	Monaco	10			Uganda	15		
Czech Republic	7		6	Mongolia	11			Ukraine	17		
DPR of Korea			12	Montenegro	<i>Absent</i>			United Arab Emirates		11	
DR of the Congo			17	Morocco		15		United Kingdom	18		
Denmark	12			Mozambique			13	Uruguay			11
Ecuador	13			Namibia			11	Uzbekistan	<i>Absent</i>		
Egypt		19		Netherlands	13			Vanuatu	<i>Absent</i>		
El Salvador	<i>Absent</i>			New Zealand	11			Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	11		4
Equatorial Guinea	11			Nicaragua	<i>Absent</i>			Viet Nam	19		
Estonia	11			Niger	<i>Absent</i>			Yemen		11	
Ethiopia	15		4	Nigeria			10	Zambia	13		
Fiji	<i>Absent</i>			Norway	12			Zimbabwe			13
Finland	12			Oman		11					
France	18			Pakistan			21				
Gabon	11			Palestine		11					
Georgia	<i>Absent</i>			Panama	<i>Absent</i>						

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

The consequences of the US declaration on Jerusalem and the rights of the Palestinian people in Jerusalem in the light of the UN Charter and resolutions

Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of Palestine, Kuwait, Bahrain and Turkey for the inclusion of an emergency item

Results

Affirmative votes.....	843	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	964
Negative votes	121	Two-thirds majority.....	643
Abstentions	490		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan	<i>Absent</i>			Germany		10	9	Paraguay	<i>Absent</i>		
Albania	<i>Absent</i>			Ghana	<i>Absent</i>			Peru	<i>Absent</i>		
Algeria	16			Greece	9		4	Philippines	<i>Absent</i>		
Andorra			10	Guatemala	<i>Absent</i>			Poland	15		
Angola	14			Guinea	<i>Absent</i>			Portugal			13
Argentina	<i>Absent</i>			Guyana	<i>Absent</i>			Qatar	11		
Armenia	<i>Absent</i>			Hungary			13	Republic of Korea			17
Australia		10	4	Iceland			10	Republic of Moldova	<i>Absent</i>		
Austria			12	India	23			Romania			14
Bahrain	11			Indonesia	22			Russian Federation	10		10
Bangladesh	20			Iran (Islamic Republic of)	18			Rwanda			12
Belarus	<i>Absent</i>			Iraq	14			San Marino	8		2
Belgium			13	Ireland			10	Saudi Arabia	14		
Benin	12			Israel		12		Serbia	6		6
Bhutan			10	Italy	10	7		Seychelles	<i>Absent</i>		
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	12			Japan			20	Singapore			12
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<i>Absent</i>			Jordan	12			Slovenia			11
Botswana			11	Kazakhstan	13			Somalia	13		
Brazil			22	Kenya	<i>Absent</i>			South Africa	17		
Bulgaria	<i>Absent</i>			Kuwait	11			South Sudan	10		
Burkina Faso	13			Lao People's Dem. Republic	12			Spain			15
Burundi	12			Latvia		11		Sri Lanka	<i>Absent</i>		
Cabo Verde			10	Lebanon	11			Sudan	15		
Cameroon			13	Lesotho	<i>Absent</i>			Suriname	5		5
Canada		15		Liechtenstein			10	Sweden		13	
Chad	13			Lithuania			11	Switzerland	12		
Chile	11		2	Madagascar	10			Syrian Arab Rep.	13		
China	23			Malawi	<i>Absent</i>			Thailand	10		8
Colombia			10	Maldives	<i>Absent</i>			The FYR of Macedonia	<i>Absent</i>		
Costa Rica	<i>Absent</i>			Mali	13			Timor-Leste	11		
Côte d'Ivoire	<i>Absent</i>			Malta	<i>Absent</i>			Togo	<i>Absent</i>		
Croatia	<i>Absent</i>			Mexico	10		10	Tunisia	13		
Cuba	13			Micronesia (Fed. States of)			8	Turkey	18		
Cyprus	3	4	3	Monaco			10	Uganda	15		
Czech Republic		13		Mongolia			11	Ukraine			17
DPR of Korea	12			Montenegro	<i>Absent</i>			United Arab Emirates	11		
DR of the Congo	17			Morocco	15			United Kingdom		18	
Denmark	12			Mozambique	13			Uruguay	8		3
Ecuador		8	5	Namibia	11			Uzbekistan	<i>Absent</i>		
Egypt	19			Netherlands			13	Vanuatu	<i>Absent</i>		
El Salvador	<i>Absent</i>			New Zealand			11	Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	4		11
Equatorial Guinea			11	Nicaragua	<i>Absent</i>			Viet Nam	19		
Estonia			11	Niger	<i>Absent</i>			Yemen	11		
Ethiopia	19			Nigeria	10			Zambia			13
Fiji	<i>Absent</i>			Norway			12	Zimbabwe	13		
Finland			12	Oman	11						
France	18			Pakistan	21						
Gabon	11			Palestine	11						
Georgia	<i>Absent</i>			Panama	<i>Absent</i>						

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

The consequences of the US declaration on Jerusalem and the rights of the Palestinian people in Jerusalem in the light of the UN Charter and resolutions

Resolution adopted by consensus⁴ by the 138th IPU Assembly (Geneva, 27 March 2018)

The 138th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, including resolutions 181 (II) (1947), 242 (1967), 252 (1968), 298 (1971), 446 (1979), 465 (1980), 478 (1980), 1322 (2000), 2334 (2016), United Nations General Assembly resolutions and other relevant international documents,

Taking note of the final communiqué and resolutions adopted by the Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference and the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation held in Istanbul on 13 December 2017 and the Istanbul Declaration on "Freedom for Al-Quds",

Rejecting any unilateral decisions dealing with any changes to the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly and other international covenants dealing with the legal status of the city of Jerusalem, whether through governments of States or the Israeli occupation or otherwise,

Deploing and condemning the announcement by the US Administration of the transfer of its Embassy to occupied Jerusalem by mid-May, which coincides with the anniversary of the Nakba (15 May 1948),

Reaffirming its support for the right of the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle to end the Israeli occupation and to regain their rights to return and establish their independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital,

1. *Renews* its solidarity with and support to the Palestinian people in defending their just cause and their legitimate rights, including their historical and rooted rights in Jerusalem, guaranteed by the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy;
2. *Supports* all legal and peaceful steps taken by the Palestinian leadership at the national and international levels to consolidate the sovereignty of Palestine over the Holy City of Jerusalem and the Occupied Palestinian Territory;
3. *Affirms* its absolute rejection in its entirety of the recent US Administration's decision regarding Jerusalem and *considers* it null and void under international law;
4. *Calls on* all parliaments to urge their governments to recognize the State of Palestine along the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital in accordance with UN resolutions;
5. *Reaffirms* that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel to impose its law and measures on Jerusalem are illegal and have no legitimacy;

⁴ Delegations expressed their support for a two-State solution, but had concerns with some of the language and elements of the substance of the resolution. The following delegations expressed reservations on specific operative paragraphs: Finland, Italy and San Marino (para 2); France (paras 2 and 5); and Switzerland (paras 2, 4 and 5). France also expressed reservations on preambular paragraph 5. Furthermore Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Seychelles, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) expressed reservations on the resolution as a whole.

6. *Demands* that Israel cease all settlement-building activities and any other measures aimed at altering the status, character and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around Jerusalem, all of which have a detrimental impact on the human rights of the Palestinian people and on the prospects for a peaceful settlement;
7. *Expresses* grave concern at the restrictions imposed by Israel to impede access by worshippers to the holy sites in Jerusalem;
8. *Calls on* international organizations to take the necessary steps to preserve and maintain the historical heritage of Jerusalem;
9. *Emphasizes* the need to support the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to carry out aid programmes for the relief of the Palestinian refugees in line with UN General Assembly Resolution 302 (IV) of December 1949;
10. *Encourages* the relaunch of the peace process through a multilateral initiative in accordance with United Nations resolutions to achieve the existence of a two-State solution on the basis of the 1967 borders.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS ***LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS***

Ms./Mme Gabriela Cuevas Barron

President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Présidente de l'Union interparlementaire

Mr./M. Martin Chungong

Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Secrétaire général de l'Union interparlementaire

I. MEMBERS – MEMBRES**AFGHANISTAN**

⁴ IBRAHIMI, Abdul Raouf (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the House of the People
KHAN, Latif (Mr.)	Member of the House of Elders Chair of the International Relations Committee
NOWROZKHEL, Shafiqah (Mrs.)	Member of the House of Elders Chair of the Women Affairs Committee
TAREEN, Rana (Mrs.)	Member of the House of Elders Defence Committee
WAKILY, Mohammad Qais (Mr.)	Member of the House of Elders Complaints Committee
KOOFI, Fawzia (Mrs.) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians	Member of the House of the People Chair of the Women Affairs Committee
ERSHAH, Elay (Mrs.)	Member of the House of the People
FAHIMI, Mohammad Hossain (Mr.)	Member of the House of the People
HAMIDY, Farida (Mrs.)	Member of the House of the People
MUSLIM, Safiullah Mr. Adviser	Member of the House of the People
NASRAT, Khudai Nazar (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, House of the People
QAWIM, Temor Shah (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General for Parliamentary Affairs, House of Elders
GHALIB, Rahimullah (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General, House of the People
HUSSAINI, Samiullah (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Director of Relations with IPU, House of the People
HAYAT, Zabihullah (Mr.)	Director of Relations with World Parliaments, House of the People
SIRAJ, Nezamuddin (Mr.)	Senior Adviser to the Speaker of the House of the People
AZIZI, Sher Ahmad (Mr.)	Senior Adviser to the Speaker of the House of the People
OMER, Said Farooq (Mr.)	Chief of Staff of the Speaker of the House of the People
IBRAHIMI, Abdullah (Mr.)	Assistant to the Speaker of the House of the People
BAKHSHI, Fardin (Mr.)	Media Officer, House of the People

ALBANIA – ALBANIE

ULQINI, Musa (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Member of Parliament Parliamentary Committee on European Integration (<i>PS</i>)
BELLO, Vilma (Mrs.)	Member of Parliament (<i>PS</i>)
KOSOVA, Halim (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Committee on Work and Social Issues

(*PS: Socialist Party of Albania / Parti socialiste albanais*)

ALGERIA – ALGERIE

BENSALAH, Abedlkader (M.) Chef de la délégation	Président du Conseil de la Nation
BENBADIS, Fawzia (Mme) Membre du Comité exécutif et du Bureau des femmes parlementaires	Membre du Conseil de la Nation
MANI, Mohamed (M.)	Membre du Conseil de la Nation Commission juridique
BOUCHELAGHEM, Mohamed (M.)	Membre du Conseil de la Nation
LABIDI, Nadia (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale

DJELLAB, Mohamed (M.) Bureau de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce	Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale
CHIHEB, Seddik (M.) Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies	Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale
SLIMANI, Bachir (M.) Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général, Assemblée populaire nationale
BOUREGBA, Aïssa (M.) ACHOUI, Youcef (M.)	Chef de cabinet du Président du Conseil de la Nation Directeur du protocole du Président du Conseil de la Nation
REBAHI, Salim (M.)	Directeur de la communication et de l'information, Conseil de la Nation
SI BACHIR, Noureddine (M.) Secrétaire de la délégation	Chargé d'études et de synthèse, Assemblée populaire nationale
BENZIADA, Mounia (Mme)	Administrateur principal, Conseil de la Nation

ANDORRA – ANDORRE

MATEU, Vicenç (M.) Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Président du Conseil général (<i>DA</i>)
ALÍS, Gerard (M.)	Membre du Conseil général (<i>PS</i>) Commission législative de l'intérieur Commission législative des affaires sociales
CAMP, Joan Carles (M.)	Membre du Conseil général (<i>I</i>) Commission législative de l'aménagement du territoire
ARASA, Eva (Mme) Secrétaire de la délégation	Chargée du protocole, Conseil général
<i>(DA: Democrats for Andorra / Démocrates pour Andorre)</i>	
<i>(PS: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)</i>	
<i>(I: Independent / Indépendant)</i>	

ANGOLA

DOS SANTOS, Fernando (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly (<i>MPLA</i>)
DIAKITÉ, Josefina (Mrs.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>MPLA</i>)
DANDA, Raul (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>UNITA</i>)
TITO, Lindo (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>Casa-CE</i>)
VALENTE, Idalina (Mrs.) Member of the Executive Committee and of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the National Assembly (<i>MPLA</i>)
VAN-DÚNEM, Kilamba (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
CARDOSO, Maria (Ms.)	Adviser, National Assembly
BARRICA, Nildeice (Mrs.)	Adviser, National Assembly
DOMINGOS, Dilizia (Ms.)	Director of the President's Office, National Assembly
MEDEIROS, Maria (Mrs.)	Secretary General, National Assembly
NERI, Pedro (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	
VICENTE, Lázaro (Mr.)	Adviser, National Assembly
CORREIA, Apolinário (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
VARELA, Osvaldo (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
JAIME, António (Mr.) Diplomat	
EDUARDO, Manuel (Mr.) Diplomat	
GUIMARÃES, Alberto (Mr.) Diplomat	

GARCIA, Santos (Mr.)

Press

*(MPLA: Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola / Mouvement populaire pour la libération de l'Angola)**(UNITA: National Union for the Total Independence of Angola / Union nationale pour l'indépendance totale de l'Angola)**(Casa-CE: Convergence Angola Salvation Wide-Electoral Coalition / Convergence ample de sauvetage de l'Angola-Coalition électorale)***ARGENTINA – ARGENTINE**

PINEDO, Federico (Mr.)

President of the Group, Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation

MONZÓ, Emilio (Mr.)

CREXELL, Carmen Lucila (Ms.)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs

ROMERO, Juan Carlos (Mr.)

President *pro tempore* of the Senate (*PRO*)
Committee on AgreementsSpeaker of the Chamber of Deputies (*PRO*)Member of the Senate (*MPN*)

Committee on Fiscal Reform

Member of the Senate (*PJ*)

Budget and Finance Committee

National Economy and Investment Committee

Member of the Senate (*BUCR*)

Committee on the Monitoring and Control of the Procurement Management and of the Foreign Debt Payment

Committee on the Monitoring and Implementation of the New Penal Code

Committee on Mercosur

Member of the Senate (*PJ*)

Chair of the Committee on the Monitoring and Implementation of the New Penal Code

Committee on Agreements

Budget and Finance Committee

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (*PRO*)

Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship

Director General of Parliamentary Diplomacy, Senate

URTUBEY, Rodolfo (Mr.)

General Director International Relations,
Chamber of Deputies

Protocol Coordinator, Senate

Protocol and Hearings General Director, Senate

Parliamentary Secretary, Senate

LOSPENNATO, Silvia Gabriela (Ms.)

CHERNIAK, Carlos (Mr.)

BESTANI, Simon (Mr.)

Secretary of the Group

CINCUNEGUI, Juan De Dios (Mr.)

ARNEJO, Maria Laura (Ms.)

HAZAN, Laura (Ms.)

TUNESSI, Juan Pedro (Mr.)

Secretary of the Group

SCHUSTER, Paula (Ms.)

VACA, Patricia (Ms.)

ALBERTI, Sergio (Mr.)

Institutional Communication Director General, Senate

Deputy Director, Media, Senate

Assistant to the President *pro tempore* of the Senate*(PRO: Republican Proposal / Proposition républicaine)**(MPN: Neuquino Popular Movement / Mouvement populaire Neuquino)**(PJ: Justicialist Party / Parti justicialiste)**(BUCR: Bloque Unión Cívica Radical)***ARMENIA – ARMENIE**

BABLOYAN, Ara (Mr.)

President of the Group, Leader of the delegation

AVAGYAN, Karen (Mr.)

Speaker of the National Assembly (*HHK*)Member of the National Assembly (*HHK*)

Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

Member of the National Assembly (*PAP*)

Committee on European Integration

ISAYAN, Shake (Mrs.)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

NAZARYAN, Lena (Mrs.)

Member of the National Assembly (*CC*)

Committee on Territorial Administration

NIKOYAN, Samvel (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (*HHK*)

Finance-Loan and Budgetary Affairs Committee

SARDARYAN, Shushan (Mrs.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>HHK</i>) Committee on State and Legal Affairs and of Human Rights Defence
SAGHATELYAN, Ara (Mr.)	Secretary General, Chief of Staff, National Assembly
BABAYAN, Arsen (Mr.)	Head of the Public Relations Department, National Assembly
BIYAGOV, Victor (Mr.)	Head of the Foreign Relations Department, National Assembly
GHAZARYAN, Zabela (Mrs.) Secretary of the Group	Chief Specialist of the Foreign Relations Department, National Assembly
HOVHANNISYAN, Artak (Mr.)	Head of the Protocol Department, National Assembly
TOLMAJYAN, Hasmik (Ms.) Diplomat	
PETROSYAN, Lilia (Ms.) Diplomat	
MIRZOYAN, Lia (Ms.) Diplomat	
SAHAKYAN, Vardhui (Ms.) Diplomat	
GRIGORYAN, Arthur (Mr.)	
TOVMASYAN, Murad (Mr.) Press	

(*HHK*: Republican Party of Armenia / *Parti républicain arménien*)
(*PAP*: Prosperous Armenia Party / *Parti arménien de la prospérité*)
(*CC*: Civil Contract / *Contrat civil*)

AUSTRALIA – AUSTRALIE

MACDONALD, Ian (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Member of the Senate (<i>LPA</i>)
BILYK, Catryna (Ms.)	Member of the Senate (<i>ALP</i>)
WILSON, Josh (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>ALP</i>)
MATULICK, Toni (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	Committee Secretary, Senate
WILDE, Elizabeth (Ms.) Diplomat	
STRAHAN, Lachlan (Mr.) Diplomat	
PLAYFORD, Kevin (Mr.) Diplomat	
FERGUSON, Sarah (Ms.) Diplomat	
ALBLAS, Greer (Ms.) Diplomat	

(*LPA*: Liberal Party of Australia / *Parti libéral australien*)
(*ALP*: Australian Labor Party / *Parti travailliste australien*)

AUSTRIA – Autriche

LOPATKA, Reinhold (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Member of the National Council (<i>ÖVP</i>)
SCHERAK, Nikolaus (Mr.)	Member of the National Council (<i>NEOS</i>)
BAYR, Petra (Ms.) Vice-President of the Advisory Group on Health	Member of the National Council (<i>SPÖ</i>)
VELBERG, Sophie (Mr.) Secretary of the delegation	International Relations Department, Parliament

(*ÖVP*: Austrian People's Party / *Parti populaire*)
(*SPÖ*: Social Democratic Party of Austria / *Parti social démocrate*)
(*FPÖ*: Austrian Freedom Party / *Parti de la liberté*)
(*NEOS*: Neos – New Austria / *Neos – La Nouvelle Autriche*)

BAHRAIN – BAHREIN

ALMULLA, Ahmed (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the Council of Representatives
NASSIF, Jameela (Mrs.)	Member of the Shura Council
ALARADI, Ali (Mr.) President of the Committee on Human Rights for Parliamentarians	Member of the Council of Representatives
TAQAWI, Sawsan (Mrs.) Bureau of the Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the Shura Council Chair of the Youth and Sports Affairs Committee
ALSAMMAK, Jameela (Mrs.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Member of the Council of Representatives
FAKHRO, Jamal (Mr.)	Member of the Shura Council
HUSAIN, Saeed (Mr.)	Member of the Shura Council
ALJAWDER, Mohamed (Mr.)	Member of the Council of Representatives
ALDOSERI, Abdulla (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Council of Representatives
ALNASHABA, Jameela (Mrs.)	Press Supervisor, Council of Representatives
ALQATTAF, Ameera (Mrs.) Secretary to the delegation	Supervisor of Parliamentary Relations Development, Council of Representatives
MAJED, Sayed Husain (Mr.)	Adviser, Shura Council
ASFOOR, Suhair (Mrs.) Press	

BANGLADESH

FEROZ, A.S.M. (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Member of Parliament (AL) Chairman of the House Committee Business Advisory Committee Committee on Rules of Procedure
AZAD, Abul Kalam (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs	Member of Parliament (AL) Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Planning Library Committee
CHOWDHURY, A.B.M. Fazle Karim (Mr.) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians	Member of Parliament (AL) Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Railways Standing Committee on Ministry of Public Administration
NAWAZ, Dipu Moni (Ms.) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of Parliament (AL) Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Foreign Affairs Standing Committee on Ministry of Defence
MILLAT, Md. Habibe (Mr.) President of the IPU Advisory Group on Health	Member of Parliament (AL) Standing Committee on Ministry of Social Welfare
IBRAHIM, Hira Mohammed (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (AL) Standing Committee on Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
HAQUE BHUIYAN, Mohammed Shamsul (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (AL) Standing Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions
RAHMAN, Mahfuzur (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (AL) Standing Committee on Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment
WAHAB, A.T.M. Abdul (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (AL) Committee on Estimates

TANSEN, A.K.M. Rezaul Karim (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (<i>JSD</i>) Standing Committee on Ministry of Agriculture
MANNAN, Rowshan Ara (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (<i>JP</i>) Standing Committee on Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism
AHMED, Nazim Uddin (Mr.) Adviser	Member of Parliament
UDDIN, Salim (Mr.) Adviser	Member of Parliament
HOWLADER, Md Abdur Rob (Mr.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP	Senior Secretary
KHANAM, Sumia (Ms.)	Joint Secretary
ISLAM, Md. Rafiqul (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary
HOSSAIN, Md. Akbar (Mr.)	Personal Secretary to the Chief Whip
RAHMAN, Md. Mahabubur (Mr.)	Assistant Editor of Debate

(*AL: Bangladesh Awami League / Ligue Awami du Bangladesh*)
(*JSD: Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal*)
(*JP: Jatiya Party / Parti Jatiya*)

BELARUS

RAKHMANOV, Sergei (Mr.)	Member of the Council of the Republic Chair of the Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs and National Security
NAUMCHIK, Alla (Ms.) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the House of Representatives Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Commission on Environment, Natural Resources and Chernobyl Catastrophe

BELGIUM – BELGIQUE

VAN DEN DRIESSCHE, Pol (M.) Président du Groupe, Groupe de facilitateurs concernant Chypre, Chef de la délégation	Membre du Sénat (<i>N-VA</i>) Président de la Commission des matières transversales - Compétences communautaires Comité d'avis fédéral chargé des questions européennes
VIENNE, Christiane (Mme) Vice-Présidente du Groupe	Membre du Sénat (<i>PS</i>) Commission des matières transversales - Compétences communautaires Comité d'avis fédéral chargé des questions européennes
GROUWELS, Brigitte (Mme) Comité des questions relatives au Moyen-Orient	Membre du Sénat (<i>CD&V</i>) Commission des affaires institutionnelles Commission des matières transversales - Compétences communautaires
GRYFFROY, Andries (M.) Rapporteur de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce	Membre du Sénat (<i>N-VA</i>) Commission des matières transversales - Compétences régionales Comité d'avis chargé des questions européennes
LAHAYE-BATTHEU, Sabien (Mme)	Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (<i>Open VLD</i>) Vice-Présidente de la Commission de l'infrastructure, des communications et des entreprises publiques Commission de l'intérieur, des affaires générales et de la fonction publique Commission spéciale du règlement et de la réforme du travail parlementaire
CRUSNIÈRE, Stéphane (M.)	Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (<i>PS</i>) Commission des relations extérieures Commission des finances et du budget Commission spéciale chargée du suivi des missions à l'étranger

DESEYN, Roel (M.)	Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (<i>CD&V</i>) Vice-Président de la Commission de la comptabilité Commission des finances et du budget Comité d'avis des questions scientifiques et technologiques Secrétaire général, Sénat
VAN DER BIESEN, Gert (M.) Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire générale adjointe, Chambre des Représentants
DEBOUTTE, Reinhilde (Mme) Membre de l'ASGP	Directeur, Sénat
DE ROUCK, Marc (M.) Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation	Premier Conseiller de direction, Chambre des Représentants
PELEMAN, Martin (M.) Secrétaire adjoint du Groupe et de la délégation	Première Conseillère, Sénat
LANGENHAECK, Sonja (Mme) Conseillère de la delegation	
<i>(N-VA: New Flemish Alliance / Nouvelle alliance flamande)</i>	
<i>(CD&V: Flemish Christian Democrats / Démocrates chrétiens flamands)</i>	
<i>(Open VLD: Flemish Liberals / Libéraux flamands)</i>	
<i>(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)</i>	

BENIN

HOUNGBEDJI, Adrien (M.) Chef de la délégation	Président de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>PRD</i>)
BAKO, Arifari Nassirou (M.) Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>FCBE</i>) Président de la Commission des relations extérieures
AFIAVI PRUDENCIO, Claudine (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Membre du Parlement Panafricainkabilasirima
ALLADATIN, Orden (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>UN</i>)
HOUENOU LEGBA, Myriane (Mme)	Chargé du protocole du Président de l'Assemblée nationale
ZANNOU, Donald (M.)	Aide de camp du Président de l'Assemblée nationale
LAOUROU, Eloi (M.) Ambassadeur/Représentant Permanent	
<i>(PRD: Party for Democratic Renewal / Parti du Renouveau Démocratique)</i>	
<i>(FCBE: Cauri Forces for an Emerging Benin / Forces Cauris pour un Bénin Émergent)</i>	
<i>(UN: Build the Nation Union / L'Union fait la Nation)</i>	

BHUTAN – BHOUTAN

ZANGPO, Jigme (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly (<i>HDP</i>)
KINGA, Dasho Sonam (Mr.) RAPTEN, Phuntsho (Mr.)	Speaker of the National Council Member of the National Council Legislative Committee
WANGYAL, Dasho Tashi (Mr.)	Member of the National Council Economic Affairs Committee Foreign Relations Committee
DORJI, Karma (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>HDP</i>) Women, Children and Youth Committee Social and Cultural Committee
ZANGPO, Nidup (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>DPT</i>) Deputy Chairperson of the Social and Cultural Committee Good Governance Committee
OM, Kinley (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>HDP</i>) Deputy Chairperson of the Legislative Committee Deputy Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee
DUBA, Sangay (Mr.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, National Assembly

TSHERING, Chencho (Mr.)
Member of the ASGP
CHIMI, Lhaden (Ms.)
Secretary to the delegation

Secretary General, National Council

(HDP: *People's Democratic Party / Parti démocratique populaire*)
(DPT: *Druk Phunsum Tshogpa*)

BOLIVIA – BOLIVIE

MENDOZA FERNANDEZ, Edith (Mrs.)
Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Leader
of the delegation

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (*MAS-IPSP*)
Standing Committee on Supra-State Integration
Parliamentary Bodies
International Politics Committee

CHOQUE TARQUE, Heberth (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (*MAS-IPSP*)
Standing Committee on Supra-State Integration
Parliamentary Bodies

ZABALA MONTENEGRO, Mery Elina (Ms.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (*UD*)
Standing Committee on Supra-State Integration
Parliamentary Bodies

MORENO CUELLAR, Alberto (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (*MAS-IPSP*)
Standing Committee on Supra-State Integration
Parliamentary Bodies
International Politics Committee

ITAMARI CHOQUE, Ruth Betsaida (Ms.)
Forum of Young Parliamentarians

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (*MAS-IPSP*)

(*MAS-IPSP: Movement for Socialism / Mouvement pour le socialisme*)
(*UD: Democratic Unity / Unité démocratique*)

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA - BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE

TADIĆ, Ognjen (Mr.)

Speaker of the House of Peoples

LALIĆ, Nenad (Mr.)

Member of Parliament

Leader of the delegation

KOŽUL, Predrag (Mr.)

Member of the House of Representatives (*HDZ*)

SOKOLOVIĆ, Salko (Mr.)

Member of Parliament

NINKOVIĆ, Bojan (Mr.)

Secretary General of the House of Peoples

LIKOKUR, Milena (Ms.)

Secretary to the delegation

ISTUK PAVLOVIĆ, Dubravka (Ms.)

Interpreter

(*HDZ: Croatian Democratic Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina / Union démocratique croate de Bosnie-Herzégovine*)

BOTSWANA

TSHIRELETSO, Botlogile M. (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly (*BDP*)

President of the Standing Committee on Democracy
and Human Rights, Leader of the delegation

Chair of the Parliamentary Caucus on Women

BOKO, Duma G. (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (*UDC*)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Home and
Labour Affairs

Portfolio Committee on Governance and Oversight
Committee of Selection

GAOLATHE, Ndaba N. (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (*UDC*)

Portfolio Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic
Development

Finance and Estimates Committee

Public Accounts Committee

KENEWENDO, Bogolo J. (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly (*BDP*)

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Foreign
Affairs, Defence, Justice, Security and Government
Assurances / Parliamentary Caucus on Women

NFILA, Christopher Shimane (Mr.)
Secretary of the Group
SAUBI, Babui (Ms.)
Secretary of the Group
MONCHUSI, Loungo (Mr.)
Diplomat

(BDP: Botswana Democratic Party / Parti démocratique botswanais)

(UDC: Umbrella for Democratic Change / Collectif pour le changement démocratique)

Public Accounts Committee / Portfolio Committee on
Health and HIV/AIDS
Assistant Clerk, Policies, Practices and Procedures,
National Assembly
Principal Clerk Assistant II, Parliamentary Committees,
National Assembly

BRAZIL – BRESIL

LINS, Atila (Mr.)
Member of the Executive Committee,
Leader of the delegation
ANASTASIA, Antonio (Mr.)
OLIVEIRA DE ANCHIETA, Shéridan E. (Ms.)
CAJADO, Claudio (Mr.)
BACELAR, Joao Carlos (Mr.)
RODRIGUES, Maria Helena (Mrs.)
BARRETO, Mauro Limeira Mena (Mr.)
Member of the ASGP
CAETANO, João Pedro (Mr.)
TANCREDI, Marcio (Mr.)
ARAUJO, Silvia (Mrs.)
Secretary of the Group
LOUREIRO, Marcos (Mr.)
MARTINS, Victor (Mr.)
Diplomat

(PP: Progressive Party / Parti progressiste)

(PSDB: Brazilian Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate brésilien)

(PMDB: Brazilian Democratic Movement Party / Parti du mouvement démocratique brésilien)

(DEM: Democrats / Démocrates)

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(PSB: Brazilian Socialist Party / Parti socialiste brésilien)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (SDP)
International Relations Committee

Member of the Federal Senate (PSDB)
Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PSDB)
Member of the Chamber of Deputies (DEM)
Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PSB)
Deputy Secretary General, Chamber of Deputies

Under Secretary General, Senate
Management Director, Senate
Adviser, Federal Senate

Adviser, Chamber of Deputies

BULGARIA – BULGARIE

KARAYANCHEVA, Tsveta (Mrs.)
Leader of the delegation
DZHAFER, Nigyar (Mrs.)

MIHAYLOV, Georgi (Mr.)

NIKOLOVA, Hrizantema (Mrs.)
Member of the ASGP
GALABINOVA, Adriana (Mrs.)

TOCEVA, Antonia (Mrs.)
ALEXANDROVA, Stefka (Mrs.)
Administrative Secretary of the Group

GRIGOROVA, Youlia (Mrs.)
BELEV, Oleg (Mr.)
VASILEV, Todor (Mr.)

Speaker of the National Assembly (GERB)

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (DPS)
Healthcare Committee
Member of the National Assembly (BSP)
Foreign Policy Committee
Healthcare Committee
Secretary, National Assembly

Director International Relations, Protocol and
Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU,
National Assembly
Head of Cabinet, National Assembly
State Expert, International Relations, Protocol and
Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European
Union, National Assembly
Adviser to the Speaker, Doctor, National Assembly
Adviser to the Speaker, National Assembly
Adviser to the Speaker, National Assembly

(GERB: Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria Party / Citoyens pour le développement européen de la Bulgarie)

(DPS: Movement for Rights and Freedoms / Mouvement pour les droits et les libertés)

(BSP: Bulgarian Socialist Party / Parti socialiste bulgare)

BURKINA FASO

SAKANDE, Bala Alassane (M.) Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Président de l'Assemblée nationale
BAKYONO, Bienvenue (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>MPP</i>)
ABGA, Armand (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>UPC</i>)
NOMBRE, Alphonse (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>CDP</i>)
OUEDRAOGO, Ousmane (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>CDP</i>)
TAPSOBA, Tibo Jean Paul (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>MPP</i>)
OUATTARA, Lassina (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>MPP</i>)
ZOBILMA, Emma (Mme) Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire générale, Assemblée nationale
BAZIEMO, Emile (M.)	Conseiller spécial, Assemblée nationale
PARE, Noufou (M.)	Directeur du protocole, Assemblée nationale
TRAORE, Karamoko Jean Marie (M.)	Directeur de la diplomatie parlementaire, Assemblée nationale
ZONGNABA, Antoine (M.)	Conseiller spécial, Assemblée nationale
SAVADOGO, Thomas (M.) Aide de camp	
NACOULMA, Anatole (M.) Presse	
MOGMENGA, Oumarou (M.) Presse	

(*MPP*: *Mouvement du peuple pour le progrès / People's Movement for Progress*)
(*UPC*: *Union pour le progrès et le changement / Union for Progress and Change*)
(*CDP*: *Congrès pour la démocratie et le progrès / Congress for Democracy and Progress*)

BURUNDI

NYABENDA, Pascal (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly
NIYONGABO, Anicet (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Member of the Senate
NAHIMANA, Victoire (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
AHISHAKIYE, Gloriose (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly
CIMPAYE, Speciose (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly
NDIKUMANA, Pierre Celestin (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
NZIGAMASABO, Reverien (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
RWABAHUNGU, Marc (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, National Assembly
NICIMPAYE, Jean Nepos (Mr.)	Chief Protocol, National Assembly
NIYONZIMA, Renovat (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Senate
NDAYISENGA, Richard (Mr.)	Adviser, National Assembly
NDUWAYEZU, Marie Carlos (Mr.)	Secretary, National Assembly
BIMENYIMANA, Prosper (Mr.)	Adviser
NIYONZIMANA, Dieudonne (Mr.)	Adviser
TABU, Renovat (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	

CABO VERDE

TAVARES CORREIA, Austelino (M.) Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>MPD</i>)
LIMA GOMES, David (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>MPD</i>) Commission spécialisée de l'économie, de l'environnement et de l'aménagement du territoire
GOMES DA VEIGA, José Maria (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>PAICV</i>) Commission spécialisée des finances et du budget

GOMES, Joaquim Augusto (M.)
Secrétaire du Groupe

Technicien parlementaire, Assemblée nationale

(MPD: *Movement for democracy / Mouvement pour la démocratie*)

(PAICV: *African Party for the Independence of Cabo Verde / Parti africain pour l'indépendance du Cabo Verde*)

CAMEROON – CAMEROUN

FOTSO, Joséphine (Mme)
Chef de la délégation

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC)

EMAH ETOUNDI, Vincent (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC)

AHIDJO, Oumoul Koulthoumi (Mme)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UNDP)

MOUGNOL MEKENG, Mireille (Mme)

Directrice de l'Administration générale, Assemblée nationale

Secrétaire administrative

INDJECK, Daniel (M.)

Conseiller, Présidence de la République

(RDPC: *Cameroon People's Democratic Movement / Rassemblement Démocratique du Peuple camerounais*)

(UNDP: *National Union for Democracy and Progress / Union Nationale pour la Démocratie et le Progrès*)

CANADA

MCGUINTY, David (Mr.)

Member of the House of Commons (LPC)

President of the Group, Member of the Executive Committee, Leader of the delegation

ATAULLAHJAN, Salma (Mrs.)

Member of the Senate (CPC)

Committee on Middle East Questions, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

Deputy Chair of the Human Rights Committee
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Committee
Standing Joint Committee on Library of Parliament

DAWSON, Dennis (Mr.)

Member of the Senate (LPC)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs

Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade
Standing Committee on International Economy, Budgets and Administration
Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications

HARDCASTLE, Cheryl (Ms.)

Member of the House of Commons (NDP)

Vice-Chair of the Subcommittee on International Human Rights of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development

REMPEL, Michelle (Mrs.)

Member of the House of Commons (CPC)

Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration
Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration

RICHARDS, Blake (Mr.)

Member of the House of Commons (CPC)

Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs

Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs
Subcommittee on Private Members' Business of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs
Member of the House of Commons (LPC)

SPENGEMANN, Sven (Mr.)

Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security

Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

Standing Committee on National Defence

FORGE, Frédéric (Mr.)

Chief, Government, Industry and Finance, Library of Parliament, House of Commons

Advisor to the Group

MCTAGGART, Scott (Mr.)

Analyst, Library of Parliament

Advisor to the Group

RICHARDSON, Jessica (Ms.)

Association Secretary, Senate

Secretary of the Group

ROBERT, Charles (Mr.)
Member of the ASGP

Clerk of the House of Commons

(LPC: Liberal Party of Canada / Parti libéral du Canada)
(CPC: Conservative Party of Canada / Parti conservateur du Canada)
(NDP: New Democratic Party / Nouveau parti démocratique)

CHAD – TCHAD

KADAM, Moussa (M.)
Chef de la délégation

Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (MPS)

AYMADJI, Opportune (Mme)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPS)

Commission de la défense et de la sécurité

BALLA, Keda (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPS)

Rapporteur général de la Commission spéciale Objectifs
du développement durable (ODD)

GALI, Nghoté Gatta (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UFD/PR)

Président de la Commission de l'économie et du plan

NEATOBEI, Bidi Valentin (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PAP-JS)

MAÏNA, Tchari Madi (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDP)

HAMIDI, Béchir Issa (M.)

Assistant, Assemblée nationale

Secrétaire administratif

(MPS: Patriotic Salvation Movement / Mouvement patriotique du salut)

(UFD/PR: Union of Democratic Forces/Republican Parti / Union des Forces démocratiques/Parti républicain)

(PAP-JS: African Party for Peace and Justice / Parti africain pour la paix et la justice)

(RDP: Rally for Democracy and Progress / Rassemblement pour la démocratie et le progrès)

CHILE – CHILI

FLORES, Iván (Mr.)
Leader of the delegation

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PDC)

President of the Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and
Rural Development Committee on Fishing, Aquaculture
and Maritime Interests

Committee on Social Development, Overcoming Poverty
and Planning

COLOMA, Juan Antonio (Mr.)

Member of the Senate (UDI)

Finance Committee

Economy Committee

Challenges of the Future, Science, Technology and
Innovation Committee

LETELIER, Juan Pablo (Mr.)

Member of the Senate (PS)

President of the Transportation and Telecommunications
Commission

Foreign Relations Commission

Labour and Social Welfare Committee

ALVAREZ, Jenny (Mrs.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PS)

Housing and Urban Development Committee

Extreme Zones and Chilean Antarctic Committee

Committee on Public Works, Transportation and
Telecommunications

BORIC FONT, Gabriel (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (FA)

GARCÍA, René Manuel (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (RN)

Housing and Urban Development Committee

Committee on Public Works, Transportation and
Telecommunications

Account Reviewer Committee

NORAMBUENA, Iván (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (UDI)

LABBÉ, Mario (Mr.)

Secretary General of the Senate

Member of the ASGP

LANDEROS, Miguel (Mr.)

Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies

Member of the ASGP

PASCAL ALLENDE, Denise (Ms.)

Adviser

OSES, Juan (Mr.)

Adviser, Senate

PEILLARD, Jacqueline (Mrs.)

Director of International Affairs, Chamber of Deputies

FONTECILLA, Mariano (Mr.)

Diplomatic Adviser

*(PDC: Christian Democratic Party / Parti démocrate-chrétien)**(UDI: Independent Democratic Union / Union démocratique indépendante)**(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)**(FA: Frente Amplio / Front élargi)**(RN: National Renovation / Rénovation nationale)***CHINA – CHINE**

WU, Heng (Mr.)

Member of the National People's Congress

Leader of the delegation

WU, Ritu (Mr.)

Member of the National People's Congress

ZHENG, Gongcheng (Mr.)

Member of the National People's Congress

ZHOU, Min (Ms.)

Member of the National People's Congress

WANG, Wen (Mr.)

Director-General for Foreign Affairs, National People's Congress

Secretary to the delegation

SHEN, Zheyi (Mr.)

Deputy Division Chief, National People's Congress

QIN, Yong (Mr.)

Deputy Division Chief, National People's Congress

HU, Luyao (Mr.)

Staff Member, National People's Congress

HU, Zhongyue (Ms.)

Staff Member, National People's Congress

WANG, Aihua (Ms.)

Division Chief, National People's Congress

WANG, Yan (Ms.)

Staff Member, National People's Congress

ZHANG, Zhujun (Ms.)

Staff Member, National People's Congress

YANG, Yang (Ms.)

Staff Member, National People's Congress

XIE, Zhangwei (Ms.)

First Secretary, National People's Congress

ZHENG, Yi (Ms.)

Staff Member, National People's Congress

WEI, Xing (Mr.)

Diplomat

COLOMBIA – COLOMBIE

GALÁN, Juan Manuel (Mr.)

Member of the Senate (*L*)

Leader of the delegation

Vice President of the Economic Commission

*(L: Liberal Party / Parti libéral)***CONGO**

KIGNOUMBI KIA MBOUNGOU, Joseph (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (*Ch*)

Président délégué, Chef de la délégation

Deuxième Secrétaire du Bureau Assemblée nationale

BONGO SAMBY IBOMBO, Louise (Mme)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (*PCT*)

Commission des lois et des affaires administratives du travail

NGAMBILI IBAM, Exaucé Bersol

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (*PCT*)

Commission des lois et des affaires administratives du travail

OKELE, Gaspard (M.)

Attaché parlementaire, Assemblée nationale

Secrétaire administratif du Groupe,

Membre de l'ASGP

*(Ch: La Chaîne)**(PCT: Congolese Workers Party / Parti congolais du travail)***COSTA RICA**

QUESADA SANTAMARÍA, Carmen (Mrs.)

Member of the Legislative Assembly (*Ind*)

President of the Group, Leader of the delegation

AYALES ESNA, Antonio (Mr.)

Secretary General, Legislative Assembly

Member of the ASGP

(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)

COTE D'IVOIRE - COTE D'IVOIRE

SIAKA, Ouattara (M.) Chef de la délégation	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>RDR</i>)
COULIBALY, Yaya (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>RDR</i>) Commission de recherche de la science, de la technologie et de l'environnement
KOUASSI, Koffi Kra Paulin (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>I</i>) Commission des affaires générales et institutionnelles

(*RDR*: Rally of Republicans / Rassemblement des Républicains)
(*PDCI/RDA*: Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire / Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire)
(*I*: Independent / Indépendant)

CROATIA – CROATIE

DUJIC, Sasa (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Member of the Croatian Parliament (<i>SDP</i>) Committee on Economy Committee on Labour, Retirement System and Social Partnership Committee on Maritime Affairs, Transportation and Infrastructure
CELIC, Ivan (Mr.)	Member of the Croatian Parliament (<i>HDZ</i>) Deputy Chairman of the Health and Social Policy Committee European Affairs Committee Foreign Affairs Committee
SADARIC, Hrvoje (Mr.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP	Adviser, Office for International and European Affairs

(*SDP*: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)
(*HDZ*: Croatian Democratic Union / Parti démocratique croate)

CUBA

MARI MACHADO, Ana María (Ms.) Leader of the delegation	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the People's Power (<i>CPC</i>)
FERRER GÓMEZ, Maria Yolanda (Ms.) Member of the Executive Committee, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power (<i>CPC</i>) Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee
GONZÁLEZ PATRICIO, Rolando Miguel (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power (<i>CPC</i>) Vice Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee
PÉREZ MATOS, Magda Ileana (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power (<i>CPC</i>) Vice Chair of the Industry Committee
MORA GONZÁLEZ, Jesús Rafael (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Officer, National Assembly of the People's Power
VICENTE VAILLANT, Jorge (Mr.)	Staff
MARTÍNEZ CASTANEDO, Pedro Manuel (Mr.)	Staff
FEBRE CHÁVEZ, Carlos Rafael (Mr.)	Staff
ALVAREZ VALLE, Yonesex (Mr.)	Staff
LAZO ROSS, Marta Marilyn (Ms.)	Staff
ALFONSO MARÍN, Reinaldo (Mr.)	Staff
PEDROSO CUESTA, Pedro Luis (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
HERNÁNDEZ LUNA, Luis Miguel (Mr.) Diplomat	
GONZÁLEZ GUTIÉRREZ, Alicia (Ms.) Diplomat	
BERTI OLIVA, Pablo (Mr.) Diplomat	

ALVAREZ PÉREZ, Claudia (Ms.)

Diplomat

REVILLA ALCÁZAR, Alina (Ms.)

Diplomat

*(CPC: Communist Party of Cuba / Parti communiste cubain)***CYPRUS – CHYPRE**

SYLLOURIS, Demetris (Mr.)

President of the Group, Leader of the delegation

NEOFYTOU, Averof (Mr.)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and
International Security

KOUTRA-KOUKOUMA, Skevi (Mrs.)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy
and Human Rights

MOUSHOUTTAS, Marinos (Mr.)

Speaker of the House of Representatives (*AM*)Member of the House of Representatives (*DISY*)Chairman of the House Standing Committee on Financial
and Budgetary AffairsMember of the House of Representatives (*AKEL*)Chairperson of the House Standing Committee on
Refugees-Enclaved, Missing, Adversely Affected PersonsMember of the House of Representatives (*DP*)Deputy Chairman of the House Standing Committee on
Energy, Trade, Industry and TourismMember of the House of Representatives (*Ind*)Standing Committee on Development Plans and Public
Expenditure Control

Acting Secretary General, House of Representatives

THEOLOGOU, Anna (Mrs.)

SOCRATOUS, Socrates (Mr.)

Member of the ASGP

CHRISTOU, Avgousta (Mrs.)

Secretary to the delegation

PERSIANI, Elena (Mrs.)

Secretary to the delegation

International Relations Officer A', House of
Representatives

International Relations Officer, House of Representatives

*(AM: Allileggii (Solidarity) Movement)**(AKEL: Progressive Party of the Working People / Parti progressiste des masses laborieuses)**(DP: Democratic Party / Parti démocrate)**(DISY: Democratic Rally / Rassemblement démocratique)**(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)***CZECH REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE**

POLANSKY, Ondrej (Mr.)

Leader of the delegation

LÁTKA, Jan (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (*Piráti*)

Committee on Economic Affairs

Member of the Senate (*CSSD*)Vice-Chair of the Committee on Mandate and Immunity
Committee on Development, Local Government and
Environment

OBERFALZER, Jiri (Mr.)

Member of the Senate (*ODS*)Chair of the Committee on Mandate and Immunity
Committee on Education, Science, Culture, Human
Rights and Petitions

LEVOVA, Jana (Ms.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (*SPD*)Vice-Chair of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal
Affairs

MAJEROVA ZAHRADNIKOVA, Zuzana (Mrs.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (*ODS*)Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Youth and
Sports

Vice-Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

UKLEIN, Jiří (Mr.)

Member of the ASGP

PROSMANOVÁ, Jana (Mrs.)

Adviser to the Group

KOŠAŘÍKOVÁ, Kateřina (Ms.)

Secretary of the Group

Secretary General, Senate

TUČKOVÁ, Alena (Mrs.)
Secretary of the Group

(*Pirāti: Pirate Party / Parti pirate*)
(*CSSD: Czech Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate*)
(*ODS: Civic Democratic Party / Parti démocrate civique*)
(*SPD: Freedom and Direct Democracy / Liberté et démocratie directe*)

**DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA - REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE
DEMOCRATIQUE DE COREE**

RI, Jong Hyok (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Member of the Supreme People's Assembly
HYON, Jong Ung (Mr.)	Member of the Supreme People's Assembly
JONG, Chun Gun (Mr.)	Member of the Supreme People's Assembly
RI, Hyon Chol (Mr.)	Member of the Supreme People's Assembly
PAK, Myong Guk (Mr.) Secretary to the delegation	Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO - REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

MOKOLO WA MPOMBO, Edouard (M.) Co-Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Vice-Président du Sénat (<i>IM</i>) Commission de la défense et de la sécurité
BOKONA WIIPA, François (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>PPRD</i>) Président de la Commission politique, administrative et juridique
DARUWEZI APENDEKI, Marceline (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>FC</i>) Commission de l'environnement, des ressources naturelles et du tourisme
MBUKU LAKA, Boris (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>ARC</i>) Commission économique et financière
KABAMBA, Amiral (M.)	Membre du Sénat
KIKUDI KONGOLO, Gilbert (M.) Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général, Sénat
NGUVULU KHOJI, Jean (M.) Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale
KALALA MAYI MALE, Jean Marie (M.) Membre de l'ASGP	Directeur, Assemblée nationale
MUTUMBE MBUYA, Crispin (M.) Secrétaire du Groupe	Conseiller parlementaire, Assemblée nationale
KATAKO MASUDI, Josué (M.)	Chef de Cabinet du Premier Vice-Président, Sénat
KABANGU DIBA-NSESE, François (M.) Secrétaire administratif du Groupe	Conseiller coordonnateur
KANIKA, Sumbayi (M.) Secrétaire administratif	
SALAPAMBA, Gilbert (M.) Diplomate	

(*IM: Independent Majority / Indépendant Majorité*)
(*PPRD: People's Reconstruction and Development Party / Parti du Peuple pour la Reconstruction et le développement*)
(*FC: Congo's Foundation / Fondation du Congo*)
(*ARC: Alliance for Congo's Renewal / Alliance pour le nouveau du Congo*)

DENMARK – DANEMARK

HAV, Orla (Mr.) President of the Group, Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, Leader of the delegation	Member of the Danish Parliament (<i>SDP</i>) Chairman of the Cultural Affairs Committee Social Affairs Committee
SOENDERGAARD, Soeren (Mr.)	Member of the Danish Parliament (<i>RGA</i>) European Affairs Committee Cultural Affairs Committee
DETHLEFSEN, Claus (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General, The Danish Parliament

VESTERGAARD, Mette (Ms.)
Secretary

Consultant, The Danish Parliament

(SDP: *Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate*)

(RGA: *The Red-Green Alliance / Unité-Alliance rouge-verte*)

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE DOMINICAINE

FERMIN, Graciela (Mrs.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PRD)

Bureau of Standing Committee on Peace and
International Security, Leader of the delegation

Human Rights Committee

Justice Committee

JAZMIN DE LA CRUZ, Miguel Ángel (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PLD)

(PRD: *Dominican Revolutionary Party / Parti révolutionnaire dominicain*)

(PLD: *Dominican Liberation Party / Parti de la libération dominicaine*)

ECUADOR – EQUATEUR

ARREGUI, Marcia (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly

CARRIÓN, María José (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly (AP)

BURBANO, Fernando (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (CREO-SUMA)

SINMALEZA, Ángel (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (SUMA)

RIVAS, Libia (Ms.)

Secretary General, National Assembly

Member of the ASGP

ARMIJOS, Luis (Mr.)

Senior Adviser, National Assembly

GRANDA, Pedro (Mr.)

Senior Adviser, National Assembly

RACINES, Miguel (Mr.)

Press

OCHOA, Xavier (Mr.)

Press

MEJÍA, Liliana (Mr.)

Press

(AP: *Alianza País*)

(CREO-SUMA: *Creating Opportunities - Society United for More Action / Créons des opportunités - Société unie pour plus d'action*)

(SUMA: *Society United for More Action / Société unie pour plus d'action*)

EGYPT – EGYPTE

ABDEL AAL, Aly (Mr.)

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Member of Executive Committee,

Leader of the delegation

DARWISH, Karim (Mr.)

Member of the House of Representatives

SULTAN AHMED ABOUALI, Hala (Ms.)

Member of the House of Representatives

ELWANI, Rania (Ms.)

Member of the House of Representatives

Committee on Middle East Questions

AWARA, Galal (Mr.)

Member of the House of Representatives

GABRIEL HANEIN, Samah S. (Ms.)

Member of the House of Representatives

ABO AHMED, Ibrahim (Mr.)

Member of the House of Representatives

RADWAN, Tarek (Mr.)

Member of the House of Representatives

Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee

Member of the House of Representatives

EL-GENDY, Mostafa (Mr.)

Adviser

SAAD ELDIN, Ahmed (Mr.)

Secretary General, House of Representatives

Secretary General of the Group

Member of the ASGP

NAGY, Alaa Eldin (Mr.)

Chief of Staff Presidency, House of Representatives

Secretary of the Group

KAMEL, Mahmoud (Mr.)

Protocol Officer, House of Representatives

WAHEED, Ayman (Mr.)

Head of Security

SOLIMAN, Mohamed (Mr.)

Press

KHALIL ELHEMALI, Atef Salah (Mr.)
Press
MOHAMED MOSTAFA, Mohamed A. (Mr.)
Press

EL SALVADOR

GALLEGOS, Guillermo (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (<i>GANA</i>) President of the Political Committee Treasury and Special Budget Committee Legislation and Electoral Reform Committee
MATA, Guillermo (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (<i>FMLN</i>) Chair of the Environment Committee Health Committee
MERINO, Francisco (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (<i>PCN</i>) Treasury and Special Budget Committee Environment and Climate Change Committee Economy Committee
SOSA, Karina (Mrs.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Member of the Legislative Assembly (<i>FMLN</i>) President of the Committee on International Relations Centroamerican Integrations and Salvadorians Abroad Committee on Family, Youth, Elderly and People with Disabilities
TENORIO, Mario Alberto (Mr.)	Member of the Legislative Assembly (<i>GANA</i>) President of the Legislation and Electoral Reforms Committee
ORELLANA, Noel (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Legislative Operations Manager, Legislative Assembly
ROSALES, Iván (Mr.)	Chief of the International Relations Unit, Legislative Assembly

(*GANA: Grand Alliance for National Unity / Grande alliance pour l'unité nationale*)
(*FMLN: Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front / Front de libération nationale Farabundo Martí*)
(*PCN: National Conciliation Party / Parti de conciliation nationale*)

EQUATORIAL GUINEA - GUINEE EQUATORIALE

MOHABA MESSU, Gaudencio (M.) Chef de la délégation	Président de la Chambre des Députés (<i>PDGE</i>)
ELA NTUGU NSA, Atanasio (M.)	Membre du Sénat (<i>PDGE</i>)
OBONO EDJANG, Silvia Paloma (Mme)	Membre du Sénat (<i>PDGE</i>)
NDONG MANGUE, Felicitas Samuel (Mme)	Membre de la Chambre des Députés
OBIANG MAYE, Victorino Nka (M.) Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général du Sénat
ESONO ABE, Bienvenido Ekuia (M.) Secrétaire du Groupe adjoint, Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Députés
ONDJA ABUY, Mauricio (M.)	Assistant du Président de la Chambre des Députés
NVE MBA, José Maria (M.) Presse	

(*PDGE: Parti Démocratique de Guinée Equatoriale / Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea*)

ESTONIA – ESTONIE

KÜTT, Helmen (Mrs.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Member of the Estonian Parliament (<i>SDP</i>) Chairman of the Social Affairs Committee
KIVIMÄGI, Toomas (Mr.)	Member of the Estonian Parliament (<i>ERP</i>) Deputy Chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee
TAMP, Marju (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	Adviser at the Foreign Relations Department, Estonian Parliament
PUNG, Andre Pung (Mr.) Ambassador, Permanent Representative	

LUMISTE, Taavo (Mr.)

Diplomat

SALSA, Riia (Ms.)

Diplomat

KALLAS, Triinu (Ms.)

Diplomat

*(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)**(ERP: Reform Party / Parti de la réforme)***ETHIOPIA – ETHIOPIE**

RETA, Yalew (Mr.)

President of the Group, Leader of the delegation

AYENEW, Worku (Mr.)

MELES, Freweini (Mrs.)

GONDA, Hailu (Mr.)

DESTA, Emeya (Mrs.)

Speaker of the House of the Federation (*EPRDF*)Member of the House of the Federation (*EPRDF*)Member of the House of the Federation (*EPRDF*)Member of the House of the Federation (*EPRDF*)Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives
Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Women,
Youth and Children's Affairs

DESTA, Tadesse (Mr.)

Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives
(*EPRDF*)

Member Environmental Protection Committee

HUSSEN, Shukri (Mr.)

Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives
(*EPRDF*)

ZEGEYE, Asmelash (Mr.)

Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives
(*EPRDF*)

GEBRE, Negus (Mr.)

Member of the ASGP

Secretary General, House of Peoples' Representatives

CHEWAKA, Estifanos (Mr.)

Chief of Protocol, House of Peoples' Representatives

SHOA, Kebede (Mr.)

Secretary, House of the Federation

TEKLE, Yidnekachew (Mr.)

Diplomat

*(EPRDF: Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front / Front populaire démocratique révolutionnaire de l'Éthiopie)***FIJI – FIDJI**

LUVENI, Jiko (Mrs.)

Speaker of Parliament

Leader of the delegation

VUNIWAQA, Mereseini (Mrs.)

Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

TUITUBOU, Laisenia (Mr.)

Minister for Youth and Sports

CAWAKI, Joeli (Mr.)

Assistant Minister for the Rural and Maritime

Development and National Disaster Management

PRASAD, Biman (Mr.)

Leader of the National Federation Party

(Member of the Opposition)

GALUVAKADUA, Kalo (Mrs.)

Acting Director Legislature

WAINIU, Senitieli (Mr.)

Manager Inter-Parliamentary Relations

Secretary to the delegation

NAVUNIVERE, Ane (Ms.)

Secretariat Support Staff

FINLAND – FINLANDE

URPILAINEN, Jutta (Ms.)

Member of Parliament (*SDP*)

President of the Group, Leader of the delegation

Foreign Affairs Committee

JASKARI, Harri (Mr.)

Member of Parliament (*KOK*)

ADLERCREUTZ, Anders (Mr.)

Member of Parliament (*SFP*)

NIIKKO, Mika (Mr.)

Member of Parliament (*PS*)

PUSKA, Pekka (Mr.)

Member of Parliament (*CP*)

YANAR, Ozan (Mr.)

Member of Parliament (*G*)

HUTTUNEN, Marja (Ms.)

Assistant for International Affairs

Secretary of the Group

VUOSIO, Teemu (Mr.)
Secretary of the Group
HAKALA, Terhi (Mrs.)
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

Secretary for International Affairs

(SDP: *Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate*)
(KOK: *National Coalition Party / Coalition nationale*)
(SFP: *Swedish People's Party / Parti populaire suédois*)
(PS: *The Finns Party / Parti des Finlandais*)
(CP: *Centre Party / Parti du Centre*)
(G: *The Greens / Les Verts*)

FRANCE

ERRANTE, Sophie (Mme) Bureau des femmes parlementaires, Cheffe de la délégation	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>REM</i>) Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires économiques
DEL PICCHIA, Robert (M.) Membre du Comité exécutif, Président du Sous-Comité des finances	Sénateur (<i>R</i>) Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et des forces armées
DUMONT, Laurence (Mme) Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>PS</i>) Secrétaire de la Commission des affaires étrangères
JULIEN-LAFERRIERE, Hubert (M.) Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>REM</i>) Commission des affaires étrangères
COURTIAL, Edouard (M.)	Sénateur (<i>R</i>) Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et des forces armées
MARIE, Didier (/M.)	Sénateur (<i>PS</i>) Commission des lois
ESSAYAN, Nadia (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>MDM</i>) Commission des affaires culturelles et de l'éducation
RIOTTON, Véronique (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>REM</i>) Commission du développement durable et de l'aménagement du territoire
GOSSELIN, Philippe (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
PERRUT, Bernard (M.) Conseiller	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
PALLEZ, Christophe (M.) Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général de la Questure de l'Assemblée nationale, Assemblée nationale
SCHROEDT-GIRARD, Jean-Louis (M.) Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général de la Présidence du Sénat
EIFERMANN, Didier (M.) Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe	Conseiller, Assemblée nationale
VANCE, Loïc (M.) Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe	Conseiller, Assemblée nationale
PREUVOT, Perrine (Mme) Secrétaire administrative de l'ASGP	Administratrice des services, Assemblée nationale
VELASCO, Karine (Mme) Secrétaire administrative de l'ASGP	Conseillère, Assemblée nationale
PARUTA, Frédéric (M.) Diplomate	

(*REM: The Republic on the Move / La République en Marche*)
(*R: The Republicans / Les Républicains*)
(*PS: Socialist Party / Parti Socialiste*)
(*MDM: Modem*)

GABON

ONOUVIET, Richard Auguste (M.) Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Président de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>PDG</i>) Commission des lois et affaires administratives Commission des finances et du budget Commission des affaires étrangères
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MACHIMA, Hilaire (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG) Commission des finances, du budget et de la comptabilité publique Commission des lois, des affaires administratives et des droits de l'homme
OSSELE NDONG, Remy (M.) Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG) Commission des finances, des lois, des affaires sociales et du développement durable
NZE MOUENIDIAMBOU, Josephine (Mme) Bureau des femmes parlementaires	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG) Commission des finances, des lois, des affaires sociales et du développement durable
SOUMOUNA, Edmond (M.) Secrétaire administratif du Groupe	Secrétaire général adjoint, Assemblée nationale
IMBOUMBA, Carmelia (Mme)	Conseiller du Président, Assemblée nationale
RAOUMBE, Roger Bertin (M.) Médecin personnel du Président	
PONCY, Thierry Lionel (M.)	Aide de camp, Assemblée nationale
MBOUMBA, Rodrigue (M.) Agent de sécurité	
RELONGUET FOURMA, Hervé Ferry (M.) Agent de sécurité	
POULANGOYE, Valérie (Mme) Presse	

(PDG: *Gabonese Democratic Party / Parti démocratique gabonais*)

GEORGIA – GEORGIE

KOBAKHIDZE, Irakli (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Speaker of Parliament (GD-DG)
MATIKASHVILI, David (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (GD-DG) Deputy Chairman of the Legal Issues Committee
MDINARADZE, Mamuka (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (GD-DG)
MEZURNISHVILI, Irakli (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (GD-DG) Deputy Chairman of the Diaspora and Caucasus Issues Committee Foreign Relations Committee
TCHIABERASHVILI, Zurab (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (EG) Deputy Chairman of the Healthcare And Social Issues Committee Sector Economy And Economic Policy Committee
TSILOSANI, Nino (Mrs.)	Member of Parliament (GD-DG) Committee on European Integration Secretary General of the Parliament
MIKANADZE, Givi (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Chief Specialist, Department for International Relations, Parliament
BROKISHVILI, Irakli (Mr.) Secretary to the delegation	Head of Protocol and Information Department
GOCHASHVILI, Ana (Ms.)	Head of International Relations Department
KOLBAIA, Tamar (Mrs.)	Head of the Chairman's Cabinet
SAMKHARADZE, Nikoloz (Mr.)	
KHVICHIA, Shorena (Ms.) Press	
DVALISHVILI, Giorgi (Mr.) Press	

(GD-DG: *Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia / Rêve géorgien - Géorgie démocratique*)

(EG: *European Georgia / Georgie européenne*)

GERMANY – ALLEMAGNE

ROTH, Claudia (Ms.) Leader of the delegation	Deputy Speaker of the German Bundestag (<i>Bündnis90/Die Grünen</i>) Deputy Chair of the Council of Elders
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HEINRICH, Frank (Mr.)	Member of the German Bundestag (<i>CDU/CSU</i>) Spokesperson of the Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid Committee on Labour and Social Affairs
ULLRICH, Volker (Mr.)	Member of the German Bundestag (<i>CDU/CSU</i>) Committee on Legal Affairs and Consumer Protection Committee on the Affairs of the European Union Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
DE RIDDER, Daniela (Ms.)	Member of the German Bundestag (<i>SPD</i>) Committee on Foreign Affairs
ZIEGLER, Dagmar (Ms.)	Member of the German Bundestag (<i>SPD</i>) Council of Elders Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development
HERDT, Waldemar (Mr.)	Member of the German Bundestag (<i>AfD</i>) Committee on Foreign Affairs Committee on Food and Agriculture
MANSMANN, Till (Mr.)	Member of the German Bundestag (<i>FDP</i>) Committee on Labour and Social Affairs Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development Secretary General, German Bundestag
RISSE, Horst (Mr.)	
Member of the ASGP	
SCHÖLER, Ulrich (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary General, German Bundestag
Member of the ASGP	
KLEEMANN, Georg (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary General, Bundesrat
Member of the ASGP	
TEPASSE, Nicole (Ms.)	Division of International Parliamentary Assemblies, German Bundestag
Secretary to the delegation	
BRAMMER, Claudia (Ms.)	Division of International Parliamentary Assemblies, German Bundestag
Assistant to the delegation	
MAHDJOUBI, Ali (Mr.)	Office of the Deputy Speaker, German Bundestag
<i>(Bündnis90/Die Grünen: Green Party / Les Verts)</i>	
<i>(CDU/CSU: Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union / Union chrétienne démocrate/Union chrétienne sociale)</i>	
<i>(SPD: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)</i>	
<i>(AfD: Alternative for Germany / Alternative pour l'Allemagne)</i>	
<i>(FDP: Free Democratic Party / Parti libéral démocrate)</i>	

GHANA

OQUAYE, Michael Aaron (Mr.)	Speaker of Parliament (<i>NPP</i>)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Chairman of the Standing Order Committee and Committee on Selection
ANIM, Moses (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (<i>NPP</i>) Business Committee and Appointment Committee
AHIAFOR, Bernard (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (<i>NDC</i>) Vice Chair, Subsidiary Legislation, Judiciary and Education Committee
CUDJOE GHANSAH, Comfort Doyoe (Mrs.)	Member of Parliament (<i>NDC</i>) Second Deputy Minority Chief Whip of the Gender and Children Committee Committee on Selection Education Committee
IDDRISU, Haruna (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (<i>NDC</i>) Business Committee and Appointment Committee
MENSAH, Francisca Oteng (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (<i>NPP</i>) Trade, Industry and Tourism and Privileges Committee
KYEI-MENSAH-BONSU, Osei (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (<i>NPP</i>) Chairman, Business Committee Appointment Committee
WUMBEI, Wahab Suhuyimi (Mr.)	Member of Parliament
ANYIMADU, Emmanuel (Mr.)	Secretary General of Parliament
Member of the ASGP	

BREFO BOATENG, Evelyn (Ms.)
Member of the ASGP

Principal Assistant Clerk

(NPP: *New Patriotic Party / Nouveau parti patriotique*)

(NDC: *National Democratic Congress / Congrès démocratique national*)

GREECE – GRECE

TRIANAFYLLOU, Maria (Mrs.)
Leader of the delegation

Member of the Hellenic Parliament (*SYRIZA*)
Standing Committee on National Defence and Foreign
Affairs

PANTZAS, Georgios (Mr.)

Committee on European Affairs
Member of the Hellenic Parliament (*SYRIZA*)
Standing Committee on Cultural and Educational Affairs
Standing Committee on National Defence and Foreign
Affairs

KEFALOGIANNI, Olga (Mrs.)

Member of the Hellenic Parliament (*ND*)
Standing Committee on Cultural and Educational Affairs
Special Permanent Committee on Institutions and
Transparency

KARAOGLOU, Theodoros (Mr.)

Member of the Hellenic Parliament (*ND*)
Standing Committee on Social Affairs

KAMMENOS, Dimitrios (Mr.)

Member of the Hellenic Parliament (*AnEI*)
Standing Committee on National Defence and Foreign
Affairs

ATHANASSIOU, Konstantinos (Mr.)
Member of the ASGP

Standing Committee on Production and Trade
Secretary General, Hellenic Parliament

KARTSAKLI, Aikaterini (Mrs.)

Head of the International Organization Section, Hellenic
Parliament

TSOUNI, Foteini (Mrs.)

Secretary, Hellenic Parliament

(*SYRIZA: Coalition of the Radical Left / Coalition de la gauche radicale*)

(*ND: New Democracy / Nouvelle démocratie*)

(*AnEI: Independent Greeks / Parti des Grecs indépendants*)

GUINEA – GUINEE

FOFANA, Luceny (M.)
Chef de la délégation

Deuxième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale
(*RPG*)

DOUMBOUYA, Mohamed Aly (M.)

Vice-Président du Bureau
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (*UFR*)
Commission des affaires économiques et financières

SAGNO, Jean Edouard (M.)
Secrétaire du Groupe

Directeur de Cabinet, Assemblée nationale

(*RPG: Rally of the Guinean People - Rainbow / Rassemblement du Peuple de Guinée - Arc en ciel*)

(*UFR: Union of Republican Forces / Union des Forces Républicaines*)

GUINEA-BISSAU - GUINEE-BISSAU

CASSAMÁ, Cipriano (Mr./M.)
Chef de la délégation
INDEQUI, Matilde (Mme)

Président de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (*PAIGC*)
Chairperson of the African Parliamentary Union
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (*PAIGC*)
Commission du droit des femmes

FONSÉCA, José Carlos Rodrigues (M.)
Member of the ASGP

Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale populaire

SANHÁ, Ansumane (M.)
Secrétaire du Groupe

Directeur du Cabinet du Président de l'Assemblée
nationale populaire

(*PAIGC: African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde / Parti africain pour l'indépendance de la Guinée et du Cap-Vert*)

(*PRS: Party for Social Renovation / Parti de la rénovation sociale*)

GUYANA

SCOTLAND, Barton (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Speaker of Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana
MANICKCHAND, Priya (Ms.)	Member of Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana
SCOTT, Keith (Mr.)	Member of Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana (L) Minister of the Ministry of Communities
ISAACS, Sherlock (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Clerk of the National Assembly, Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana
MURLEDHAR, Keshanna (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	Assistant Clerk of Committees, Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana
(L: <i>Labour / Parti travailliste</i>)	

HUNGARY – HONGRIE

BARTOS, Mónika (Ms.) First Vice-President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Member of the National Assembly (FIDESz) Foreign Affairs Committee, Committee for Sustainable Development
JÓZSA, István (Mr.) Vice-President of the Group	Member of the National Assembly (MSZP) Committee for European Affairs
SUCH, György (Mr.) Adviser, Member of the ASGP	Director General, National Assembly
SOMFAINÉ ÁDÁM, Katalin (Mrs.) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation	Head of IPU Office, Directorate for Foreign Relations, National Assembly
(FIDESz: <i>Hungarian Civic Union / Union civique hongroise</i>) (MSZP: <i>Hungarian Socialist Party / Parti socialiste hongrois</i>)	

ICELAND – ISLANDE

SIGURBJORNSDÓTTIR, Áslaug (Ms.) Leader of the delegation	Member of Parliament (IP)
AGUSTSSON, Agust (Mr.)	Member of Parliament
GUNNLAUGSSON, Sigmundur (Mr.)	Member of Parliament
BERNÓDUSSON, Helgi (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General of Parliament
BANG, Arna Gerður (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	
(IP: <i>Independence Party / Parti de l'indépendance</i>)	

INDIA – INDE

THAMBI DURAI, M. (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Deputy Speaker of the House of the People
SOLANKI, Kirit Premjibhai (Mr.) Advisory Group on Health	Member of the House of the People
TIRKEY, Dilip Kumar (Mr.)	Member of the Council of States
SINGH, Nagendra (Mr.) Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade	Member of the House of the People
KAMBHAMPATI, Hari Babu (Mr.) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the House of the People
SAREN, Uma (Mrs.)	Member of the House of the People
MAHATME, Vikas (Mr.)	Member of the Council of States
KOUL, P.C. (Mr.) Secretary to the delegation	Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat
CHHABRA, Hanish (Mr.)	Principal Secretary to the Deputy Secretary, Lok Sabha
JASON, S. (Mr.)	Director, Council of States
MISHRA, Vijay (Mr.)	Liaison Officer, Lok Sabha Secretariat
RAMANA, L.V. (Mr.)	Additional Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat

INDONESIA – *INDONESIE*

SOESATYO, Bambang (Mr.) Leader of the delegation ZON, Fadli (Mr.)	Speaker of the House of Representatives (<i>Golkar</i>) Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives (<i>Gerindra</i>) Chair of the GOPAC
DJIWANDONO, Gerardus Budisatrio (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>Gerindra</i>) Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation
BATUBARA, Juliari Peter (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>PDI-P</i>) Vice Chair of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation
HASIBUAN, Bara Krishna (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>PAN</i>) Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation
ASSEGAF, Nurhayati (Mrs.) President of the Committee to Promote Respect for IHL	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>Golkar</i>) Chair of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation
MUNAWAR, Rofi (Mr.) Committee on Middle East Questions	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>PKS</i>) Vice Chairman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation
SURONO, Ono (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>PDI-P</i>) Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation
MASRIFAH, Siti (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>PKB</i>) Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation
HAMZAH, Fahri (Mr.) Adviser	Member of the House of Representatives Vice Speaker of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation
HARRIS, Damayanti (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General, House of Representatives
NUGRAHA, Setyanta (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General, House of Representatives
KARDI, Novianti (Ms.)	Head of Division, House of Representatives
JULIASIH, Juliasih (Mrs.) Member of the ASGP	Head of Bureau, House of Representatives
RETNOASTUTI, Endah (Ms.) GOPAC Executive Director	Head of Bureau, House of Representatives
PANGARSO, Restu Pramojo (Mr.)	Head of Division, House of Representatives
PATRIA, Chairil (Mr.)	Head of Division, House of Representatives
JUNIOR, Reza Reflusmen (Mr.)	Adviser from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
KATINDIG, Jeffry (Mr.)	Adviser, House of Representatives
MARIANA, Anissa (Ms.)	Adviser, House of Representatives
HARYANTI, Haryanti (Ms.)	Staff, House of Representatives
ASRI, Tomy Susanto (Mr.)	Staff, House of Representatives
AMRIS, Elvira Dianti (Mrs.)	Staff, House of Representatives
SOEMARNO, Sunu Mahadi (Mr.)	Adviser from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
RENGGANIS, Annisa (Ms.)	Adviser, House of Representatives
MULYONO, Pauline Theresa (Ms.) Interpreter	House of Representatives
TANSIL, Yuliana (Ms.) Interpreter	House of Representatives
SURANA, Bonifacius (Mr.)	Aide de camp to the Speaker, House of Representatives
TJARYA, Edison Eman (Mr.)	Aide de camp to the Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives
PUSPITARINI, Yolinda (Mr.) Press	
FATAH, Mawardi Abdul (Mr.) Press	

(*Golkar*: Party of Functional Groups / *Parti des groupes fonctionnels*)
(*Gerindra*: Great Indonesia Movement Party / *Mouvement pour une grande Indonésie*)

*(PDI-P: Indonesian Democratic Party Struggle / Parti démocrate indonésien en lutte)**(PAN: National Mandate Party / Parti du mandat national)**(PKS: Prosperous Justice Party / Parti de la justice et de la prospérité)**(PKB: National Awakening Party / Parti du réveil national)***IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) - IRAN (REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D')**

JAFARZADEH IMENABADI, Gholamali (Mr.) Secretary General of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
ESMAEILI, Ali (Mr.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
EBRAHIMI, Alireza (Mr.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
JALALI, Kazem (Mr.) Member of Executive Committee	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
JAMALI NOBANDEGANI, Mohammad Javad (Mr.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
YOUSEF NEJAD, Aliasghar (Mr.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
REZAEI, Masoud (Mr.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
ZARABADI, Hamideh (Ms.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
ZOLGHADR, Mostafa (Mr.) Adviser	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
GHASHGHAVI, Mehdi (Mr.)	Protocol Officer, Islamic Parliament of Iran
DASTGHEIB, Ahmadreza (Mr.)	Advisor to the Speaker, Islamic Parliament of Iran
GHEZELJEH, Gholamreza Nouri (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Adviser, Islamic Parliament of Iran
GHORBANPOUR, Mohammad (Mr.)	Staff, Islamic Parliament of Iran
KORDLOU, Mohammad Hossein (Mr.)	Staff, Islamic Parliament of Iran
YOUSEFI, Alireza (Mr.) Adviser	Adviser, Islamic Parliament of Iran
TORKASHVAND, Zahra (Ms.) Administrative Secretary of the Group	Senior Expert, Islamic Parliament of Iran
NASIRI, Hashem (Mr.) Adviser	

IRAQ

AL-GBURI, Saleem (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the Council of Representatives of Iraq
AL-ASADI, Dhiaa (Mr.)	Member of the Council of Representatives of Iraq Foreign Relations Committee
AL-JUBOORI, Mohammed (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and of Human Rights	Member of the Council of Representatives of Iraq Foreign Relations Committee
AL-MOSAWI, Sameerah (Mrs.)	Member of the Council of Representatives of Iraq Foreign Relations Committee
AL-RIKABI, Sadiq (Mr.)	Member of the Council of Representatives of Iraq Foreign Relations Committee
RENAS JANO, Mohammed (Mr.)	Member of the Council of Representatives of Iraq Foreign Relations Committee
AL-ZANGANA, Salahaldeen (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Council of Representatives of Iraq
AL-OGAILI, Salam (Mr.)	Director General of Public Relations and Protocol Directorate, Council of Representatives of Iraq
MAHAL, Yaseen (Mr.)	Public Relations and Protocol, Council of Representatives of Iraq
SALEH, Mouayed M. Issa (Mr.) Diplomat	
AL-FADHLI, Raaed D.H. (Mr.) Diplomat	
OBAID AL-FATLAWI, Abbas K. (Mr.) Diplomat	

IRELAND – IRLANDE

GALLAGHER, Pat The Cope (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives (<i>FF</i>) Joint Committee on the Irish Language, the Gaeltacht and the Islands
NEVILLE, Tom (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>FG</i>) Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Trade
CASSELLS, Shane (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>FF</i>) Public Accounts Committee Joint Committee on Petitions
O'SULLIVAN, Maureen (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>Ind</i>) Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Trade and Defence Committee on Housing and Homelessness
STANLEY, Brian (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>SF</i>) Joint Committee on Communications, Climate Action and Environment
FINNEGAN, Peter (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General and Clerk of Dáil Éireann, House of Representatives
HAMILTON, John (Mr.) Secretary to the delegation	Head of Inter-Parliamentary Relations, House of Representatives
MALONE, Peter (Mr.)	Private Secretary to Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives

(*FF*: *Fianna Fáil*)
(*FG*: *Fine Gael*)
(*Ind*: *Independent / Indépendant*)
(*SF*: *Sinn Féin*)

ISRAEL

SHAI, Nachman (Mr.) Committee on Middle East Questions, Leader of the delegation	Member of Parliament (<i>Z</i>) Chair of the Subcommittee for National Planning Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee Committee on the Status of Women and Gender Equality
JELIN, Haim (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (<i>YA</i>) State Control Committee Science and Technology Committee Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee
SHASHA-BITON, Yifat (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (<i>K</i>) Chair of the Special Committee for the Rights of the Child Science and Technology Committee State Control Committee Secretary General of the Knesset
MELLER-HOROVITZ, Yardena (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	
MARGALIT, Liat (Ms.)	International Affairs Coordinator
URI, Michael (Mr.) Adviser to the delegation	

(*Z*: *Zionist Camp / Union sioniste*)
(*K*: *Kulanu Chaired by Moshe Kahlon*)
(*YA*: *Yesh Atid*)

ITALY – ITALIE

LOCATELLI, Pia Elda (Ms.) Advisory Group on Health, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (<i>PSI</i>)
FARINA, Gianni (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (<i>PD</i>)
AMORUSO, Francesco Maria (Mr.)	Member of the Senate (<i>AL-A</i>) Honorary President of the PAM

RADONI, Susanna (Ms.) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation	Protocol Officer, Chamber of Deputies
LASORSA, Antonella (Ms.) Interpreter	Chamber of Deputies
OLMEDA, Claudio (Mr.) Interpreter	Senate
DI GIAMBATTISTA, Lorella (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Senior Parliamentary Official, Senate

(PSI: *Italian Socialist Party / Parti socialiste italiani*)
(PD: *Democratic Party / Parti démocratique*)
(AL-A: *Alleanza Liberalpopolare-Autonomie*)

JAPAN – JAPON

TANAKA, Kazunori (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>LDP</i>)
WATANABE, Takeyuki (Mr.) OTSUJI, Kanako (Ms.) INATOMI, Shuji (Mr.)	Member of the House of Councillors (<i>LDP</i>) Member of the House of Representatives (<i>CDP</i>) Member of the House of Representatives (<i>Party of Hope</i>)
KATAYAMA, Daisuke (Mr.) MIZUTANI, Kazuhiro (Mr.) NISHIKOBE, Natsuko (Ms.) ARAHORI, Tadasuke (Mr.) ARAKI, Chikako (Ms.) MATSUSHITA, Kazufumi (Mr.) TOGAWA, Hiroyuki (Mr.) KAWASAKI, Masahiro (Mr.) HIGUCHI, Mariko (Ms.) Interpreter	Member of the House of Councillors (<i>JIP</i>) Director, House of Representatives Adviser, House of Representatives Adviser, House of Representatives Adviser, House of Representatives Director, House of Councillors Adviser, House of Councillors Adviser, House of Councillors House of Representatives
KIKUCHI, Kyoko (Ms.) Interpreter	House of Representatives
LUMPKIN, Tomoko Sawada (Ms.) Interpreter	House of Representatives
SAWADA, Naoko (Ms.) Interpreter	House of Representatives
FUJII, Yoriko (Ms.) Interpreter	House of Representatives
CARTAN, Louise, Naoko, Nicole (Ms.) Interpreter	House of Councillors
SHINOZAKI, Keiko (Ms.) Interpreter	House of Councillors
OKAMOTO, Ryoko (Ms.) Interpreter	House of Councillors
KIKUCHI (AMANN), Kumiko (Ms.) Interpreter	House of Councillors

(*LDP: Liberal Democratic Party / Parti libéral démocrate*)
(*JIP: Nippon Ishin (Japan Innovation Party) / Parti pour la restauration du Japon*)
(*The Party of Hope: The Party of Hope / Parti de l'espoir*)
(*CDP: Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan / Parti démocrate constitutionnel du Japon*)

JORDAN – JORDANIE

ALTARAWNEH, Atif (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the House of Representatives
ALFAWWAZ, Thaher (Mr.) HUMSI, Ziyad (Mr.) ALBARAISEH, Moh'd (Mr.) BANI MUSTAFA, Wafa (Mrs.) BDOUR, Ibrahim (Mr.) SAFADI, Ahmad (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Member of the Senate Member of the House of Representatives Member of the House of Representatives Member of the House of Representatives Member of the House of Representatives

BAKKAR, Khaled (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the House of Representatives
ADWAN, Firas (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General of the House of Representatives
AKAYLEH, Hamzeh (Mr.) Advisor	House of Representatives
AL WAKED, Abdelrahim (Mr.) Advisor	House of Representatives
AL-HEISAH, Nabeel (Mr.) Advisor	Senate
NAIMAT, Husam (Mr.) Advisor	House of Representatives

KAZAKHSTAN

MAKEN, Baktiyar (Mr.) Forum of Young Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation	Member of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan (<i>Nur Otan</i>) Committee for Economic Reform and Regional Development
SULTANOV, Yerik (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Committee on Economic Policy, Innovation Development and Entrepreneurship
YERSHOV, Sergey (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Member of the Senate (<i>Nur Otan</i>) Committee on Social and Cultural Development and Science
SMIRNOVA, Irina (Mrs.)	Member of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan (<i>CPK</i>)
SARSEMBAYEV, Yerlan (Mr.)	Deputy Head of the Administration, Senate

(*Nur Otan: People's Democratic Party "Nur Otan" / Parti populaire et démocratique "Nur Otan"*)
(*CPK: Communist People's Party of Kazakhstan / Parti communiste populaire du Kazakhstan*)

KENYA

MAKELO LUSAKA, Kenneth (Mr.) President of the Group, Member of the Executive Committee, Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the Senate (<i>JP</i>)
KIIO WAMBUA, Enoch (Mr.)	Member of the Senate (<i>WDM-K</i>) Member ICT
WAKARURA KIHKA, Susan (Ms.)	Member of the Senate (<i>JP</i>) Majority Whip of the Business Committee National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights
HAIKA MNENE, Lydia (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>JP</i>) Committee on Appointments Departmental Committee on Finance and Planning
KASSAIT KAMKET, William (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>KANU</i>) Committee on Delegated Legislation Committee on Regional Integration
KIPKIRUI TUWEI, Vincent (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>JP</i>) Committee of Powers and Privileges Departmental Committee on Defence and Foreign Relations
SAHAL IBRAHIM, Nasri (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>FORD-K</i>) Committee on Regional Integration Departmental Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
YAA BAYA, Owen (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>ODM</i>) Departmental Committee on Lands Committee on Implementation

MAKOKHA NYEGENYE, Jeremiah (Mr.)
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP
NJOROGE MWANGI, James (Mr.)
IZANTA MOGERE, Zakayo (Mr.)
ARAP KIRUI, Kipkemoi (Mr.)
M. NTHIIRI, Getrude (Ms.)
OTIENO ONYANGO, George (Mr.)
KISIANG'ANI NATECHO, Rose (Ms.)
NJENGA RUGE, Stephen (Mr.)
MUTULU, Francis (Mr.)

Clerk of the Senate
Senior Deputy Clerk, House Affairs, National Assembly
Deputy Director, Senate
Principal Clerk Assistant, National Assembly
Clerk Assistant, Senate
Clerk Assistant, Senate
Research Officer, Senate
Ag. Director Speaker's Office, Senate
Media Relations Officer, Senate

(JP: Jubilee Party / Parti Jubilee)

(WDM-K: Wiper Democratic Movement-Kenya / Mouvement démocratique " Wiper " - Kenya)

(KANU: Kenya African National Union / Union nationale africaine - Kenya)

(FORD-K: Forum for the Restoration of Democracy / Forum pour la restauration de la démocratie - Kenya)

(ODM: Orange Democratic Movement / Mouvement démocratique orange)

KUWAIT – KOWEIT

ALGHANIM, Marzouq (Mr.)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
ABDULLAH, Khalil (Mr.)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable
Development, Finance and Trade
ALDEQBASI, Ali (Mr.)

Speaker of the National Assembly

Member of the National Assembly

Member of the National Assembly
Committee on Public Utilities

ALHASHIM, Safaa (Ms.)
ALSUBAIE, Alhumaidi (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly
Member of the National Assembly
Committee on Legislation and Legal Affairs
Member of the National Assembly

ALTABTABAE, Omar (Mr.)
Forum of Young Parliamentarians
ALAJMI, Naif (Mr.)
ALKANDARI, Allam (Mr.)
Member of the ASGP

Member of the National Assembly
Secretary General, National Assembly

ALDUWAISAN, Mohammad (Mr.)
ALHARBAN, Talal (Mr.)
ALKANDARI, Othman (Mr.)
ALAJMI, Mobarak (Mr.)
ALAWADHI, Abdullah (Mr.)

Director of the Speaker's Office, National Assembly
Head of the IPU Affairs Section, National Assembly
Head of the VIP Protocol Section, National Assembly
Head of the Protocol Section, National Assembly
Head of the International Affairs Section, Speaker's
Office, National Assembly

ALNESEF, Jasem (Mr.)

Head of the Office of the Secretary General, National
Assembly

ALDOWAIHI, Nasser (Mr.)
ALANEZI, Mishal (Mr.)

Head of the Media Section , National Assembly
Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Organization
Department, National Assembly

ALMONEEFI, Jamal (Mr.)
ALI, Hussain (Mr.)
FARDAN, Amer (Mr.)
AL-JAZZAF, Musaad (Mr.)

Protocol, Speaker's Office, National Assembly
Media Department, National Assembly
Director, National Assembly
Director of the Secretary General's Office, National
Assembly

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC - *REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE POPULAIRE LAO*

VONGVICHIT, Eksavang (Mr.)
Leader of the delegation
SAMOUNTRY, Maniso (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly
Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
Member of the National Assembly
Vice Chairperson of the Economic, Technology and
Environment Committee

ANOTHAY, Khemphone (Mr.)

Director General Inter-Parliamentary Relations, National
Assembly

INSISIENMAY, Bounphady (Ms.)
Diplomat

BOUNSAVATH, Valyna (Ms.)
Diplomat

LATVIA – LETTONIE

DAUDZE, Gundars (Mr.)
Leader of the delegation

Deputy Speaker of Parliament (*ZZS*)
Legal Affairs Committee
Parliamentary Inquiry Committee

SICS, Martins (Mr.)

Member of Parliament (*LRA*)
Social and Employment Matters Committee
Public Expenditure and Audit Committee

SUDRABA, Inguna (Ms.)

Member of Parliament
Budget and Finance (Taxation) Committee
Public Expenditure and Audit Committee
Secretary General, Parliament

RAFELDE, Lelde (Ms.)

Member of the ASGP

PAURA, Sandra (Ms.)

Secretary of the Group

Secrétaire du Groupe

Head of the Interparliamentary Relations Bureau,
Parliament

(*ZZS: Union of Farmers and Greens / Union des Verts et des paysans*)

(*LRA: Latvian Regional Alliance Parliamentary Group / Alliance des régions lettones*)

LEBANON – LIBAN

GHANEM, Robert (Mr.)

Leader of the delegation

KABBANI, Mohamad (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (*Ind*)

President of the Administration and Justice Committee

Member of the National Assembly (*FM*)

President of the Public Work, Transport, Energy and
Water Committee

Secretary General, National Assembly

DAHER, Adnan (Mr.)

Member of the ASGP

(*Ind: Independent / Indépendant*)

(*FM: Future Movement / Courant du futur*)

LESOTHO

MOKITIMI, Mamonaheng (Ms.)

Leader of the Delegation

Speaker of the Senate

Chair of the Business Committee, Standing Orders
and Staff Committee

PEETE, Ramoqai Peete Lesaoana (Mr.)

Member of the Senate

Chairperson of the Legislation Committee

Parliamentary Reforms Committee

SDGs Committee

TSEPANE, Maduma Gilbert (Mr.)

Clerk Assistant, Senate

LIECHTENSTEIN

WOHLWEND, Mario (Mr.)

Leader of the delegation

HASLER, Johannes (Mr.)

WACHTER, Gabriele (Ms.)

Secretary of the Group

Member of the Diet (*VU*)

Member of the Diet (*FBP*)

Secretary, Diet

(*VU: Patriotic Union / Union patriotique*)

(*FBP: Progressive Peoples Party / Parti des citoyens progressistes*)

LITHUANIA – LITUANIE

KIRKILAS, Gediminas (Mr.)

Leader of the delegation

Deputy Speaker of Parliament (*LSDP-DP*)

Chairman of the European Affairs Committee

Culture Committee

BUROKIENĖ, Guoda (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (LVZS) Committee on State Administration and Local Authorities
ZINGERIS, Emanuelis (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (TS-LKD) Committee on Foreign Affairs Committee on European Affairs
BIELINIENĖ, Audronė (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	Senior Adviser

(LSDP-DP: Lithuanian Social Democratic Labour Political Group / Groupe politique social-démocrate-travailleuse de Lituanie)
(LVZS: Lithuanian Peasant and Green Union / Union populaire des paysans de Lituanie)
(TS-LKD: Homeland Union - Lithuanian Christian Democrats / Union de la patrie - Démocrates-chrétiens de Lituanie)

MADAGASCAR

RAKOTOMAMONJY, Jean Max (M.) Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Président de l'Assemblée nationale (LF)
ANDRIANARIVO, Harimampianina (M.)	Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale
RAJAONARIVELO, Pierrot Jocelyn (M.)	Membre du Sénat (MDM) Président de la Commission des relations internationales
RAVONINJATOVO, Sahoby (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
RANDRIANASOLO, Nicolas (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
ANGELE, Solange (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
RAHARINIRINA, Sidonie (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
RAHANTASOA, Lydia Aimée (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
TAVONAY (M.) Conseiller	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
RANDRIAMAHAFANJARY, Andriamitarijato Calvin (M.) Secrétaire de la délégation	Inspecteur général de l'Assemblée nationale
RAHANTAMALALA, Norosoa Nathalie (Mme)	Conseillère technique, Assemblée nationale
ANDRIAMIARANTSOANAVALONA, Andry (M.)	Conseiller technique
RANDRIAMAMPIANINA, Faramalala (Mme)	Assistante parlementaire

(LF: Leader Fanilo)

(TM: Tiako Madagasikara)

(MAPAR: Miaraka Aminny Presida Andry Rajoelina "Avec le Président Andry Rajoelina")

(MDM: Movement for Democracy in Madagascar / Mouvement pour la démocratie à Madagascar)

(HVM: Hery Vaovao ho an'i Madagasikara)

MALAWI

MSOWOYA, Richard (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly (MCP)
MAKONDA RIDLEY, Agnes (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (PP) Committee on Education
MLOMBWA, Clement (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (MCP) Legal Affairs Committee
MPAWENI, Yaumi (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (UDF) Government Assurance Committee
NAVICHA, Mary (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (DPP) Social and Community Affairs Committee
KALEMBA, Fiona (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Clerk of Parliament, National Assembly
MWENYEHILI, Jeffrey (Mr.) Secretary to the delegation	Chief Clerk Assistant, National Assembly

(MCP: Malawi Congress Party / Parti du Congrès du Malawi)

(PP: People's Party / Parti populaire)

(UDF: United Democratic Front / Front démocratique unifié)

(DPP: Democratic Progressive Party / Parti démocratique progressiste)

MALDIVES

MANIKU, Moosa (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Deputy Speaker of the People's Majlis
RIFAU, Abdulla (Mr.) Forum of Young Parliamentarians	Member of the People's Majlis (<i>PPM</i>)
ZAKARIYYA, Abdul Hameed (Mr.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP	Assistant Secretary General, People's Majlis

(*PPM: Progressive Party of Maldives / Parti progressiste des Maldives*)

MALI

TIMBINE, Moussa (M.) Président délégué du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Deuxième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée Nationale (<i>RPM</i>) Commission des Lois
CISSE, Amadou (M.) Bureau de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce	Membre de l'Assemblée Nationale (<i>URD</i>) Président de la Commission du contrôle Commission des travaux publics
DRAME, Maimouna (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée Nationale (<i>RPM</i>) Commission du travail et de l'emploi
SIDIBE, Modibo (M.) Premier Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée Nationale

(*RPM: Rally for Mali / Rassemblement pour le Mali*)

(*URD: Republic and Democracy Union / Union pour la République et la démocratie*)

MALTA – MALTE

MUSCAT, Alexandre (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
GALEA, Mario (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>PN</i>)
VELLA, Andre (Mr.) Secretary of Group	Research Analyst

(*PN: Partit Nazzjonalista*)

MAURITANIA – MAURITANIE

BABA SY, Marieme (Mme) Chef de la délégation	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
AMAR CHEINE Salma (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

MEXICO – MEXIQUE

MONREAL ÁVILA, David (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Deputy Speaker of the Senate (<i>L</i>) President of the Jurisdiction Committee
GUERRA CASTILLO, Marcela (Ms.)	Member of the Senate (<i>PRI</i>) Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs, North America Committee
POZOS LANZ, Raul Aarón (Mr.)	Member of the Senate (<i>PRI</i>) Chairman of the Administration Committee
ROJAS HERNÁNDEZ, Laura Angélica (Ms.) President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the Senate (<i>PAN</i>) Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs, International Organizations Committee
DE LA PEÑA GÓMEZ, Angelica (Ms.)	Member of the Senate (<i>PRD</i>) Chair, Human Rights Committee
CORTÉS MENDOZA, Marko António (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (<i>PAN</i>)
FÉLIX NIEBLA, Gloria Himelda (Ms.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (<i>PRI</i>) Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Committee
VARGAS BÁRCENA, Marisol (Ms.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (<i>PAN</i>) Foreign Relations Committee

ESCOBEDO VILLEGAS, Francisco (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (*PRI*)

CATALÁN PADILLA, Olga (Ms.)

Chairman of the Committee on Energy

FLORES SÁNCHEZ, Margarita (Ms.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Adviser

Member of the Senate (*PRI*)

ARAUJO LARA, Angélica (Ms.)

Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee, Africa

Adviser

Member of the Senate (*PRI*)

BUENFIL, Carlos (Mr.)

Adviser

*(L: Labour Party / Parti du travail)**(PRI: Institutional Revolutionary Party / Parti révolutionnaire institutionnel)**(PAN: National Action Party / Parti de l'Action nationale)**(PRD: Democratic Revolution Party / Parti de la révolution démocratique)***MICRONESIA (FEDERATED STATES OF) - MICRONESIE (ETATS FEDERES DE)**

SIMINA, Wesley W. (Mr.)

Speaker of the Congress

President of the Group, Leader of the delegation

Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee

Education Committee

Transportation and Communication Committee

MOSES, Esmond B. (Mr.)

Deputy Speaker of the Congress

Committee on Education

Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee

Resources and Development Committee

ALIK, Alik L. (Mr.)

Member of the Congress

Chairman of Special Committee on Climate Change
and Environmental Issues

Education Committee

Health and Social Affairs Committee

FIGIR, Isaac V. (Mr.)

Member of the Congress

Chairman of Ways and Means Committee

Committee on External Affairs

Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

Assistant Public Information Officer, Congress

CHORR, Andy P. (Mr.)

Member of the ASGP

DANG, Tung Lam (Mr.)

Member of the ASGP

Legislative Counsel, Twentieth FSM Congress

MONACO

BADIA, José (M.)

Membre du Conseil national (*PM*)

Chef de la délégation

Président de la Commission des Relations extérieures

DITTLLOT, Michèle (Mme)

Membre du Conseil national (*PM*)

NOTARI, Fabrice (M.)

Membre du Conseil national (*PM*)

PELLEGRIN, Victoria (Mme)

Chargée des relations internationales

Secrétaire de la délégation

*(PM: Primo! Monaco as Priority / Primo ! Priorité Monaco)***MONGOLIA – MONGOLIE**

LUVSANTSEREN, Enkh-Amgalan (M.)

Deputy Speaker of the State Great Hural (*MPP*)

Leader of the delegation

Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

Standing Committee on Social Policy, Education,
Culture and Science

BATSUKH, Saranchimeg (Ms.)

Member of the State Great Hural (*MPP*)Standing Committee on Social Policy, Education,
Culture and ScienceStanding Committee on Environment, Food and
Agriculture

LUVSANVANDAN, Bold (Mr.)	Member of the State Great Hural (<i>DP</i>) Standing Committee on Security and Foreign Policy Standing Committee on Economic Affairs Standing Committee on Legal Affairs
OKTYABRI, Baasankhuu (Mr.)	Member of the State Great Hural (<i>MPRP</i>) Standing Committee on Security and Foreign Policy Standing Committee on State Structure Standing Committee on Social Policy, Education, Culture and Science Secretary General
TSEDEV, Tsolmon (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	
JUDAG, Bayarmaa (Ms.)	Advisor, Foreign Relations Department
BELEGDEMBEREL, Uuganbayar (Mr.)	Advisor
URTNASAN, Enkhtuvshin (Mr.)	Assistant
LUNDEG, Purevsuren (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
NYAMJAV, Achgerel (Ms.) Diplomat	

(*MPP: Mongolian People's Party / Parti populaire mongole*)
(*DP: Democratic Party / Parti démocrate*)
(*MPRP: Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party / Parti révolutionnaire du Peuple mongol*)

MONTENEGRO

BRAJOVIĆ, Ivan (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	President of Parliament
NUMANOVIC, Suad (Mr.)	Member of Parliament
LALIČIĆ, Jovanka (Ms.)	Member of Parliament
NIKOLIĆ, Miloš (Mr.)	Member of Parliament
MIRJACIC, Marja (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Adviser
MIJANOVIC, Irena (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Head of the Secretary General's Office, Parliament
DAVIDOVIĆ, Jelena (Ms.)	Advisor to the President
RADONJIĆ, Ana (Ms.)	Advisor to the President
ĐURIČANIN, Vanja (Ms.) Interpreter	
JOVIĆEVIĆ, Dragan (Mr.) Security Officer	
BELOJEVIĆ, Boris (Mr.) Security Officer	
MILOŠEVIĆ, Mirko (Mr.) Press	

MOROCCO – MAROC

OMARI, Abdelaaziz (M.) Chef de la délégation	Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants (<i>PJD</i>)
TOUIZI, Ahmed (M.)	Vice-Président de la Chambre des Conseillers (<i>PAM</i>)
TOUMI, Ahmed (M.) Bureau de la Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies	Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (<i>PI</i>)
BENMASSOUD, Mohamed Salem (M.)	Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (<i>PI</i>)
LAZREK, Noureddine (M.)	Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (<i>UC</i>)
CHEIKHI, Nabil (M.)	Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (<i>PJD</i>)
EL HILAA, Rahhou (M.)	Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (<i>PAM</i>)
EL KHADI, Najib (M.) Vice-Président de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général, Chambre des Représentants
SATRAOUY, Said (M.) Secrétaire administratif du Groupe	Chef de la Division des relations internationales et de la coopération, Chambre des Représentants

DRIOUCHE, Abdelwahad (M.) Secrétaire de la délégation	Conseiller général chargé de la diplomatie parlementaire, Chambre des Conseillers
BEHAJ, Hamid (M.)	Conseiller au Cabinet du Président de la Chambre des Représentants
MOHCINE, Mounjid (M.)	Conseiller, Division des relations internationales et de la coopération, Chambre des Représentants

(PJD: *Justice and Development Party / Parti de la justice et du développement*)

(PAM: *Authenticity and Modernity Party / Parti authenticité et modernité*)

(PI: *Istiqlal Party / Parti Istiqlal*)

(UC: *Constitutional Union / Union constitutionnelle*)

MOZAMBIQUE

KATUPHA, Jose Mateus (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (<i>FRELIMO</i>)
MACUIANE, Saimone Muhambi (Mr.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (<i>RENAMO</i>)
MALEMA, Lucinda Bela (Mrs.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (<i>FRELIMO</i>)
BONIFACIO, Cesar Joao (Mr.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP	Director of Committee's Support Division, Assembly of the Republic
CHUQUELA, Jose Gil (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General, Assembly of the Republic
SILIYA, Carlos Jorge (Mr.) Diplomat	

(*FRELIMO: Mozambican Liberation Front / Front de libération du Mozambique*)

(*RENAMO: Mozambican National Resistance / Résistance nationale du Mozambique*)

NAMIBIA – NAMIBIE

KATJAVIVI, Peter (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly
MENSAH-WILLIAMS, Margaret Natalie (Ms.) President of the Group, Member of the Executive Committee, President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians (<i>ex officio</i>)	Chairperson of the National Council (<i>SWAPO</i>) Chairperson of the Standing Rules and Orders Committee Chairperson of the Privileges and Immunities Committee
KATAMELO, Phillipus Wido (Mr.)	Member of the National Council (<i>SWAPO</i>) Chairperson of the Urban and Rural Development Committee
KAZONGOMINJA, Peter K (Mr.)	Member of the National Council (<i>NUDO</i>) Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee
DIENDA, Elma (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>PDM</i>)
SIBUNGO, Heather (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>SWAPO</i>) Deputy Chairperson of the Economics and Public Administration Committee
KANDETU, Lydia (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Clerk of Parliament, National Assembly
MUPURUA, Juliet U (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary to the National Council
DE WEE, Elizabeth (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Chief Parliamentary Clerk, National Assembly
SANZILA, George (Mr.)	Chief Researcher, National Assembly
TJITENDERO, Ripuree (Ms.) Personal Assistant to the Speaker	Secretariat, National Assembly
UUYUNI, Norbert (Mr.)	Parliamentary Clerk, National Council
FERIS, Elzanne (Ms.)	Private Secretary to the Chairperson of the National Council

(*SWAPO: South West Africa People's Organization / Organisation du peuple du Sud-Ouest africain*)

(*NUDO: National Unity Democratic Organization / Organisation démocratique pour l'unité nationale*)

(*PDM: Popular Democratic Movement / Mouvement démocratique populaire*)

NETHERLANDS - PAYS-BAS

MULDER, Agnes (Ms.) Leader of the delegation	Member of the House of Representatives (CDA)
ATSMA, Joop (Mr.)	Member of the Senate (CDA)
GERKENS, Arda (Ms.)	Member of the Senate (PS)
HUIJBREGTS-SCHIEDON, Helmi (Ms.)	Member of the Senate (VVD)
DE ROON, Raymond (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (PVV)
HAMILTON, Geert Jan (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Senate
WESTERHOFF, Arjen (Mr.) Secretary to the delegation, Member of the ASGP	Head of the Interparliamentary Department, House of Representatives

(CDA: *Christian Democratic Appeal / Appel chrétien-démocrate*)

(PS: *Socialist Party / Parti socialiste*)

(VVD: *People's Party for Freedom and Democracy / Parti populaire pour la liberté et la démocratie*)

(PVV: *Party for Freedom / Parti de la liberté*)

NEW ZEALAND - NOUVELLE-ZELANDE

CARTER, David (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Member of the House of Representatives (NP) Finance and Expenditure Committee
TOLLEY, Anne (Ms.)	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives (NP) Officers of Parliament Committee Business Committee
WALL, Louisa (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives (L) Chairperson of the Health Committee Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
HART, Wendy (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Inter-Parliamentary Relations, House of Representatives

(NP: *National Party / Parti national*)

(L: *Labour Party / Parti du travail*)

NICARAGUA

ESPINALES, Maritza Del Socorro (Ms.) Leader of the delegation	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (FSLN) Education, Culture, Sports and Social Communication Vice-Chair of the Modernization Committee
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(FSLN: *Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional*)

NIGER

IRO, Sani (M.) Chef de la délégation	Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (PNDS) Commission des lois
MAHAMADOU A., Alkassoum (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPR Jamhouria) Commission de la défense et de la sécurité
HABIBOU, Aminatou (Mme) Membre du Comité exécutif, Bureau des femmes parlementaires	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PNDS) Commission du développement rural et de l'environnement
MAIZOUMBOU, Laoual Amadou (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MNSD) Commission des affaires économiques et du plan
SALEY, Mahamane (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PNDS) Commission des affaires sociales et culturelles
NOUHOU, Daoudou (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AMEN-AMIN) Commission des finances et du budget
SAMINOU LAOUALI, Amina (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RSD) Commission des lois
HASSANE, Soumana (M.) Conseiller	Membre du Parlement, Assemblée nationale Commission du développement rural et de l'environnement
MOSSI, Moussa (M.)	Directeur de cabinet adjoint du Président de l'Assemblée nationale

MOUSSA, Moutari (M.) Conseiller technique de commission, Assemblée nationale
Conseiller du Groupe

(PNDS: Niger Party for Democracy and Socialism / Parti Nigérien pour la Démocratie et le Socialisme)
(MPR Jamhouria: Patriotic Movement for the Republic / Mouvement patriotique pour la République)
(MNSD: National Movement for the Development Society / Mouvement National pour la Société de Développement)
(UDR /Tabbat:
Union for Democracy and the Republic / Union pour la démocratie et la république)
(AMEN-AMIN: Alliance of Movements for the Emergence of Niger / Alliance des mouvements pour l'émergence du Niger)
(RSD: Social Democratic Rally / Rassemblement Social des Démocrates)

NIGERIA

SARAKI, Abubakar Bukola (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the Senate (APC)
SULAIMON LASUN, Yussuff (Mr.) Deputy Leader of the Delegation	Member of the House of Representatives (APC)
KABIRU IBRAHIM, Gaya (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Works Committee (APC)
RAFIU ADEBAYO, Ibrahim (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Finance Committee (APC)
ODUAH, Stella Adaeze (Ms.)	Member of the Senate (PDP) Chair of the Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa and NEPAD
USMAN NAFADA, Bayero (Mr.)	Member of the Senate (APC) Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Committee
ABUBAKAR HASSAN, Fulata (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (APC) Inter-Parliamentary Affairs Committee Chair of the Defence Committee
OLUFUNKE ADUNNI, Adedoyin (Ms.) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the House of Representatives Inter-Parliamentary Affairs Committee Chair of the Army Committee
IGBOKWE, Raphael Nnanna (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (APC) Chair of the Young Parliamentarians Committee Inter-Parliamentary Affairs Committee
IKON, Samuel Okon (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (PDP) Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Affairs and Pension Committee
ABDUSSAMAD, Dasuki (Mr.) Adviser	Member of the House of Representatives
DURO, Faseyi Samuel (Mr.) Adviser	Member of the Senate
NELSON IBHAGUEZEGE, Ayewoh (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Clerk Senate, Senate
BABA-AHMED, Hakeem (Mr.) BERNARD UZEME, Okoh (Mr.)	Chief of Staff to the President of the Senate, Senate Clerk Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations, Senate
ABIMBOLA OLUWAFEMI, Daramola (Mr.) ALFA SALISU, Abdulrahman-Naibi (Mr.)	Chief of Staff, House of Representatives Clerk Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Affairs, House of Representatives
RABI ADA, Audu (Ms.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP	Secretary, NSNL
OLAYIDE OWOLABI, Adelami (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Clerk to the National Parliament
OLATUNDE AMOS, Ojo (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary, Procurement, Estate and Works
OLABISI SEGUN, Kehinde (Mr.) WAZIRI, Aminu (Mr.) SHITTA, Eniola (Ms.)	Chief Detail, House of Representatives Personal Assistant to the President of the Senate Special Assistant on Events to the President of the Senate

SHEHU, Umar (Mr.)
Secretary to the delegation
UMEKWE, Udo Ogbu (Mr.)
TONY CHUKS, Okocha (Mr.)
Press
TAIWO JACOB, Adisa (Mr.)
Press
ALHASSAN, Mohammed (Mr.)
Press
(APC: All Progressive Congress / Congrès progressiste)
(PDP: Peoples Democratic Party / Parti démocratique populaire)

Deputy Director (IPU Desk)

Adviser

NORWAY – NORVEGE

LEIRSTEIN, Ulf Isak (Mr.)
Leader of the delegation

LIADAL, Hege Haukeland (Ms.)
Member of Executive Committee, Bureau
of Women Parliamentarians
AUKRUST, Åsmund (Mr.)

BEKKEVOLD, Geir Jørgen (Mr.)

TRELLEVIK, Ove Bernt (Mr.)

FRASER, Thomas (Mr.)
Secretary to the delegation
STOCK, Lisbeth Merete (Ms.)
Secretary to the delegation
(PP: Progress Party / Parti progressiste)
(L: Labour party / Parti du travail)
(PDC: Christian Democratic Party / Parti démocrate-chrétien)
(C: Conservative Party / Parti Conservateur)

Member of Parliament (PP)

Member Subcommittee on Scrutiny and Constitutional
Affairs

Member of Parliament (L)

Subcommittee on Energy and Environment

Member of Parliament (L)

Member Subcommittee on Energy and Environment

Member of Parliament (PDC)

Subcommittee on Family and Cultural Affairs

Member of Parliament (C)

Subcommittee on Local Government and Public
Administration

Senior Adviser

Adviser

OMAN

AL-GHASSANI, Mohammed (Mr.)
Leader of the delegation
AL KHAROOSI, Naashiah (Ms.)
Second Vice-President of the Bureau of Women
Parliamentarians
AL MANTHARI, Rayya (Ms.)
Forum of Young Parliamentarians
AL ABRI, Jamal (Mr.)
AL HADHRAMI, Ahmed (Mr.)
AL RAJHI, Sulaiman (Mr.)
AL-ORAIMI, Suaad (Ms.)
AL SAIDI, Khalid (Mr.)
Member of the ASGP
AL UWAIISI, Aiman (Mr.)
AL RAHBI, Abdullah (Mr.)
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
AL AMRI, Amer (Mr.)
Diplomat

Member of the Consultative Council

Member of the State Council

Member of the State Council

Member of the Consultative Council

Member of the Consultative Council

Member of the Consultative Council

Assistant Manager of Media, State Council

Secretary General, State Council

Secretary, Consultative Council

PAKISTAN

SADIQ, Sardar Ayaz (Mr.)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation

Speaker of the National Assembly (PML-N)

Chairman of the Finance Committee

Chairman of the House Business Advisory Committee

REHMAN, Sherry (Ms.)	Member of the Senate (PPPP)
DURRANI, Agha Shahzaib (Mr.)	Member of the Senate (PML-N)
HIDAYTULLAH (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
FIDA, Muhammad (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
PERVAIZ, Rashid (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
AHMED ZEB, Musarrat (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (PTI)
JAKHRANI, Aijaz Hussain (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
QAMAR, Syed Naveed (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (PPPP)
SHAH, Syed Ghulam Mustafa (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (PML-N)
NAWAZ KHAN, Babar (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
Adviser	
MALIK, Amjed Pervez (Mr.)	Secretary General of the Senate
Member of the ASGP	
HUSSAIN, Tahir (Mr.)	Secretary General, National Assembly
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP	
SIAL, Anwar (Mr.)	Director General
ABBAS, Syed Pervaiz (Mr.)	Additional Secretary, Senate
HASHMI, Syed Shamoon (Mr.)	Joint Secretary, International Relations, National Assembly

(PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) / Ligue musulmane pakistanaise (Nawaz))

(PPPP: Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians / Parlementaires du Parti du peuple pakistanais)

(PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf / Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf)

PALESTINE

ALAHMAD, Azzam (Mr.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council (F)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, Committee on Middle East Questions, Leader of the delegation	Political Affairs Committee
ALWAZIR, Intisar (Ms.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council (F)
	Committee on Social Affairs
HAMAYEL, Omar (Mr.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council (F)
	Committee on Economic Affairs
KHADER, Qais (Mr.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council (DFLP)
	Political Committee
SALHI, Bassam (Mr.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council (PP)
QASIM, Bilal (Mr.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council (PLF)
	Social Affairs Committee
SANDUKA, Zuhair (Mr.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council (Ind)
	Committee on Budget and Finance
KHRISHI, Ibrahim (Mr.)	Secretary General, Palestinian National Council
Member of the ASGP	
SULAIMAN, Bashar (Mr.)	Director General of Inter-Parliamentary Relations, Palestinian National Council
Secretary of the Group	
AL-HOURANI, Taysir (Mr.)	
Interpreter	

(F: Fatah)

(DFLP: Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine / Front démocratique de libération de la Palestine)

(PP: Peoples party / Parti du peuple)

(PLF: Palestine Liberation Front / Front de libération de la Palestine)

(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)

PANAMA

POVEDA, Juan Manuel (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (PCD)
Leader of the delegation	Vice-President of the Agricultural Affairs Committee
PALACIOS, Ausencio (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (PRD)
	Indigenous Affairs Committee

(PCD: Democratic Change / Changement démocratique)

(PRD: Democratic Revolutionary Party / Parti révolutionnaire démocratique)

PARAGUAY

LLANO RAMOS, Blas Antonio (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Vice-President of the Congress
ECHAGÜE, César (Mr.)	Director General of Protocol, Senate

PERU – PEROU

ALCORTA SUERO, María Lourdes (Ms.) Leader of the delegation	Member of the Congress of the Republic
BETETA RUBÍN, Karina Juliza (Ms.) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the Congress of the Republic (<i>FP</i>) Chairwoman of the Budget and General Account of the Republic Committee Energy and Mines Committee

*(FP: Popular Force / Force populaire)***PHILIPPINES**

LEGARDA, Loren (Ms.) Leader of the delegation	Member of the Senate
DRILON, Franklin (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
BINAY, Nancy (Ms.)	Member of the Senate
HERNANDEZ, Ferdinand (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
FARIÑAS, Rodolfo (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
BARBO, Lutgardo (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General of the Senate
PAREJA, Cesar (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General of House of Representatives, House of Representatives
BANAS, Arnel Jose (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary for Admin and Finance, Senate
BANTUG JR., Renato (Mr.) Technical Adviser of Senator Drilon	Chief-of-Staff of Senator Drilon, Senate
DE GUZMAN JR., Antonio (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Director-General, Senate
AYSON, Esperanza (Ms.) Technical Adviser	Deputy Director-General, Senate
DE CHAVEZ, Cesar (Mr.)	Director III, Senate
OCTAVO, Riza (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	Legislative Staff Officer V, Senate
HERMOSO, Raphael (Mr.)	Staff
TALISAYON, Arnel (Mr.)	Staff
MANINGAT, Ma. Elena (Ms.)	Staff
AGDUMA, Sharon (Ms.)	Staff
MANGUNAY-INFANTE, Kristine Sheree (Ms.)	Director I, Senate
GREPO, Carla Regina (Ms.)	Director II, Senate
YAP, Carleen Angelica (Ms.)	Legislative Staff Officer III, Senate
GARCIA, Evan (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
ALMOJUELA, Ma. Theresa (Ms.) Diplomat	
FOS, Enrico (Mr.) Diplomat	

POLAND – POLOGNE

BUBULA, Barbara (Ms.) Leader of the delegation	Member of the Sejm (<i>PiS</i>)
DŁUGI, Grzegorz (Mr.) Vice-President of the Group	Member of the Sejm (<i>K15</i>)
DOWHAN, Robert (Mr.)	Member of the Senate (<i>PO</i>)
STĘPIEŃ, Elżbieta (Ms.)	Member of the Sejm (<i>N</i>)

KOWALSKI, Jakub (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General of the Senate
KACZMARSKA, Agnieszka (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General of the Sejm
JĄSKIEWICZ, Natalia (Ms.)	Vice-Director Bureau of International Relations of the Sejm
GRUBA, Wojciech (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Adviser, Sejm
KARWOWSKA-SOKOŁOWSKA, Agata (Ms.)	Director of the Analysis and Documentation Office of Senate
WÓJCIK, Agata (Ms.)	Adviser, Senate
<i>(PiS: Law and Justice / Droit et justice)</i>	
<i>(K15: Kukiz'15)</i>	
<i>(PO: Civic Platform / Plate-forme civique)</i>	
<i>(N: Nowoczesna (Modern))</i>	

PORTUGAL

PACHECO, Duarte (Mr.) Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, Leader of the delegation	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (<i>SDP</i>)
MACEDO, Virgílio (Mr.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (<i>SDP</i>)
MARTINS, Hortense (Ms.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (<i>PS</i>)
MATOS ROSA, José (Mr.) Group of Facilitators for Cyprus	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (<i>SDP</i>)
MORAIS, Teresa (Ms.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (<i>PS</i>)
PEREIRA, Carlos (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary General, Assembly of the Republic
ARAÚJO, José Manuel (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Directorate International Relations and Protocol, Assembly of the Republic
FERREIRA, Rita (Ms.)	Adviser International Relations, Assembly of the Republic
ISIDORO, Ana Margarida (Ms.) Adviser to the delegation and Secretariat of Twelve Plus Group	
<i>(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)</i>	
<i>(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)</i>	

QATAR

AL MAHMOUD, Ahmed (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the Advisory Council
AL-KHATER, Yousif (Mr.)	Member of the Advisory Council Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee
AL-JAIDA, Nasser (Mr.)	Member of the Advisory Council Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee Finance and Economic Affairs Committee
AL ABD AL-GHANI, Mohamed (Mr.)	Member of the Advisory Council Internal and External Affairs Committee
AL-HAMAD, Dahlan (Mr.)	Member of the Advisory Council Finance and Economic Affairs Committee Internal and External Affairs Committee
AL-MUFTAH, Hend (Ms.)	Member of the Advisory Council Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee Cultural and Information Affairs Committee
AL-KHAYARIN, Fahad (Mr.)	Secretary General, Advisory Council
AL-SHAHWANI, Mesfer (Mr.)	Head of the Public Relations and Information Section, Advisory Council
RASHEED, Rasheed Eisa (Mr.)	Manager, Office of the Speaker, Advisory Council
AL-MAJID, Abdelreda (Mr.)	Head of the Editing and Translation Section, Advisory Council
AL-KHATER, Nasser (Mr.)	Legal Advisor, Advisory Council

AL-OTAIBI, Mohamed (Mr.)	Manager, Office of the Secretary General, Advisory Council
AL-QADI, Abdulrahman (Mr.)	Legal Expert, Advisory Council
AL-MANSOORI, Meteb (Mr.)	Public Relations Officer, Advisory Council
ALSOWAIDI, Eissa (Mr.)	Secretary, Advisory Council
AL-MASLAMANI, Rashid (Mr.)	International Affairs Researcher, Advisory Council
ALSULAITI, Jassem (Mr.)	Data Entry Clerk, Advisory Council
ALI, Nasr (Mr.)	Translation Expert, Advisory Council

REPUBLIC OF KOREA - REPUBLIQUE DE COREE

CHIN, Young (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>DPK</i>)
Leader of the delegation	Member National Defence Committee
KIM, Se Yeon (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>LKP</i>)
	Education, Culture, Sports, and Tourism Committee
PARK, Kyung Mee (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>DPK</i>)
	Education, Culture, Sports, and Tourism Committee
WI, Seong Gon (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>DPK</i>)
	House Steering Committee
NA, Kyung Won (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly
	Education, Culture, Sports and Tourism Committee
KIM, Sung Gon (Mr.)	Secretary General of the National Assembly of the
Head of the delegation to the ASGP	Republic of Korea, National Assembly
CHO, Sung Hoon (Mr.)	Deputy Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference
	Division, National Assembly
KANG, Man Won (Mr.)	Deputy Director of the Asian and American Affairs
	Division, National Assembly
CHOI, Seung Joo (Ms.)	Protocol Officer and Interpreter, National Assembly
CHANG, Hee Seung (Ms.)	Protocol Officer and Interpreter, National Assembly
KIM, Hae Jin (Ms.)	Program Officer, National Assembly
KIM, Su Yeon (Ms.)	Protocol Officer and Interpreter, National Assembly
LIM, Kyu Eun (Ms.)	Program Officer, National Assembly
CHOI, Kyonglim (Mr.)	
Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
KIM, Inchul (Mr.)	
Deputy Permanent Representative	
HONG, Seungtae (Mr.)	
Diplomat	
LEE, Eunok (Ms.)	
Diplomat	

*(DPK: Democratic Party of Korea / Parti démocratique coréen)**(BP: Bareunmirae Party / Parti Bareunmirae)**(LKP: Liberty Korea Party / Parti de la liberté)***REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA - REPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA**

GRECEANÎl, Zinaida (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (<i>PSRM</i>)
President of the Group, Bureau of the Standing	Committee on Economy, Budget and Finance
Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance,	
and Trade, Leader of the delegation	
STRATAN, Valentina (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (<i>PDM</i>)
	Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Social
	Protection, Health and Family
STANISLAVCIUC-ISAC, Viorica (Ms.)	Chief Adviser, Interparliamentary Relations Unit,
Secretary of the Group	Foreign Affairs Division
ALBU, Adrian (Mr.)	
Adviser	

*(PSRM: Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova / Parti des socialistes)**(PDM: Democratic Party of Moldova / Parti démocrate de Moldova)*

ROMANIA – ROUMANIE

DERZSI, Akos (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Member of the Senate (<i>DAHR</i>) Committee for Labour, Family and Social Protection Committee for Human Rights, Cults and Minorities
DINICA, Silvia-Monica (Ms.) Bureau of the Standing Committee for Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade	Member of the Senate (<i>USR</i>) Committee for Economic Affairs, Industries and Services Committee for Transports and Energy
BOGDAN, Gheorghe-Dănuț (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (<i>SDP</i>) Committee for Environment and Ecological Balance
CUPA, Ion (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (<i>ALDE</i>) Chairperson of the Committee for Environment and Ecological Balance Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men
GHILEA, Găvrilă (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (<i>NLP</i>) Vice-Chairperson of the Committee for Economic Policy, Reform, and Privatization
CALIMENTE, Mihăiță (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the Senate, Senate
BADEA, Adriana (Ms.)	Counsellor, External Multilateral Relations Directorate, Senate of Romania, Senate
DUMITRESCU, Cristina (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Director, External Multilateral Relations Directorate, Senate of Romania, Senate
BAGNEANU, Ioana (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	Parliamentary Adviser, Chamber of Deputies

(*DAHR: Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania / Alliance démocratique des Hongrois en Roumanie*)
(*USR: Save Romania Union / Union Sauvez la Roumanie*)
(*SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate*)
(*ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats / Alliance des libéraux et démocrates*)
(*NLP: National Liberal Party / Parti libéral national*)

RUSSIAN FEDERATION - FEDERATION DE RUSSIE

TOLSTOY, Petr (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Deputy Speaker of the State Duma (<i>UR</i>)
FEDEROV, Nikolai (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	First Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Federation
KOSACHEV, Konstantin (Mr.) Member of the Executive Committee	Member of the Council of the Federation Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
GAVRILOV, Sergei (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs	Member of the State Duma (<i>CP</i>) Chairman of the Committee on Development of Civil Society, Affairs of Public and Religious Unions
SLUTSKY, Leonid (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Member of the State Duma (<i>LDPR</i>) Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs
GUMEROVA, Lilia (Ms.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the Council of the Federation Deputy Chair of the Science, Education and Culture Committee
YEMELIANOV, Mikhail (Mr.)	Member of the State Duma (<i>JR</i>) First Deputy Chairman of the Committee on State Building and Legislature
VTORYGINA, Elena (Ms.) Committee to Promote Respect for IHL	Member of the State Duma (<i>UR</i>) Deputy Chair of the Committee on Family, Women and Children Affairs
BABAKOV, Aleksandr (Mr.)	Member of the Council of the Federation Deputy Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee
KLIMOV, Andrey (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the Council of the Federation Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee

PETRENKO, Valentina (Ms.) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Adviser	Member of the Council of the Federation Social Politics Committee
MARTYNOV, Sergey (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Council of the Federation
TREFILOV, Denis (Mr.)	Head of the Secretariat to the First Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Federation
MAKSIMOV, Boris (Mr.)	Aide to the First Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Federation
GAMBASHIDZE, Ilya (Mr.) Adviser to the delegation	Assistant to Mr. Tolstoy, State Duma
KARSEKA, Sergey (Mr.) Secretary of the delegation	Deputy Head of the Department on International Cooperation, State Duma
STAVITSKY, Valery (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Senior Consultant of the Department on International Cooperation, State Duma
YAKOVLEVA, Marina (Ms.) Adviser of the delegation	Senior Counsellor of the International Cooperation Department, State Duma
FOLOMEEVA, Olga (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation, Member of the ASGP	Deputy Head of the Division of International Organizations, International Relations Department, Council of the Federation
SHMACHKOVA, Olga (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	Adviser, International Relations Department, Council of the Federation, Council of the Federation
BELOUSOVA, Veronica (Ms.) Interpreter, Member of the ASGP	Council of the Federation
KOZHEVNIKOV, Kirill (Mr.) Personal Assistant	Council of the Federation
KUKARKIN, Pavel (Mr.) Interpreter	Council of the Federation
OSOKIN, Boris (Mr.) Interpreter	Council of the Federation
KRASAVINA, Natalia (Ms.) Interpreter	State Duma
MAKSIMOV, Boris (Mr.)	Aide to the First Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Federation

*(UR: United Russia / Russie unifiée)**(CP: Communist Party / Parti communiste)**(LDPR: Liberal Democratic Party of Russia / Parti libéral démocrate de la Russie)**(JR: Just Russia / Russie juste)***RWANDA**

GAKUBA, Jeanne D'Arc (Ms.) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation	Deputy Speaker of the Senate
SEBUHORO, Celestin (Mr.) Advisory Group on Health	Member of the Senate Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Economic Development and Finance
UWIRINGIYIMANA, Philbert (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Member Committee on Education, Technology, Culture and Youth
CYITATIRE, Sosthene (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Clerk to the Senate, Senate

SAN MARINO - SAINT-MARIN

TOMASSONI, Mirco (Mr.) President of the Group	Member of the Great and General Council (SSD)
LAZZARINI, Marina (Ms.)	Member of the Great and General Council (SSD)
RICCARDI, Dalibor (Mr.)	Member of the Great and General Council (PSD)

*(SSD: Socialist Democratic Left / Gauche socialiste démocratique)**(PDCS: Christian Democratic Party of San Marino / Parti chrétien-démocrate saint-marinais)**(PSD: Party of Socialists and Democrats / Parti des socialistes et démocrates)*

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE - SAO TOME-ET-PRINCIPE

DA GRAÇA DIOGO, Jose (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly (ADI)
CARVALHO VIEGAS DE CEITA, Bilaine (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (ADI) Standing Committee on Education, Science, Culture, Welfare, Employment, Social Affairs, Youth and Sport

BARROS, Dieweba (Mr.)
Adviser
DALVA, Yonelma (Ms.)
Adviser
SOARES, Leonel (Mr.)
Adviser

(ADI: *Independent Democratic Alliance / Action démocratique indépendante*)
(PCD: *Democratic Convergence Party / Parti démocratique de convergence*)
(MLSTP: *Sao Tome and Principe Liberation Movement / Mouvement de libération de Sao Tomé-et-Principe*)

SAUDI ARABIA - ARABIE SAOUDITE

ALALSHEIKH, Abdulah (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the Consultative Council
ALHELAISSI, Hoda (Ms.) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the Consultative Council
ALBADI, Fahad (Mr.)	Member of the Consultative Council
ALHAIZAN, Mohammed (Mr.)	Member of the Consultative Council
ALKHATHLAN, Saleh (Mr.) Committee to Promote Respect for IHL	Member of the Consultative Council
ALMANSOUR, Khalid (Mr.)	Adviser, Consultative Council
ALHARBI, Bandar (Mr.)	Adviser, Consultative Council
ALRASHED, Waleed (Mr.)	Secretary, Consultative Council
ALSHAHRANI, Ahmed (Mr.)	Protocol, Consultative Council
ALSAEED, Anas (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	
ALZHRANI, Abdulaziz (Mr.)	Secretary, Consultative Council

SERBIA – SERBIE

MIJATOVIĆ, Milorad (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Member of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee Committee on Finance, State Budget and Control of Public Spending (<i>SDPS</i>)
BOGOSAVLJEVIĆ BOŠKOVIĆ, Snezana (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>SPS</i>) Culture and Information Committee Environmental Protection Committee
JERKOV, Aleksandra (Mr.) Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians	Member of the National Assembly (<i>DP</i>) Committee on Education, Science, Technological Development and the Information Society
RASKOVIĆ IVIĆ, Sanda (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>PP</i>) Foreign Affairs Committee Committee on the Rights of the Child
DJURASINOVIĆ RADOJEVIĆ, Dragana (Ms.)	Advisor to the Speaker, National Assembly
FILIPOVIĆ, Vladimir (Mr.) Secretary to the delegation	Head of the Foreign Affairs Department, National Assembly
POKRAJAC, Dragana (Ms.) Interpreter	National Assembly

(*SDPS: Social Democratic Party of Serbia / Parti social-démocrate serbe*)

(*SPS: Socialist Party of Serbia / Parti socialiste serbe*)

(*DP: Democratic Party / Parti démocrate*)

(*PP: People's Party / Parti populaire*)

SEYCHELLES

WILLIAM, Waven (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Member of the National Assembly (<i>PP</i>) International Affairs Committee
DELETOURDIE, Jany (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>LDS</i>) Committee on Women Parliamentarians Anti-Victimisation Committee
ISAAC, Tania (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation, Member of the ASGP	Deputy Clerk, National Assembly

(*PP*: People's Party / *Parti populaire*)
(*LDS*: Seychelles Democratic Alliance / *Union démocratique seychelloise*)

SINGAPORE – SINGAPOUR

ABDUL LATEEF, Fatimah (Ms.) Leader of the delegation	Member of Parliament (<i>PAP</i>)
CHAN, Cheryl Wei Ling (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (<i>PAP</i>) Public Petitions Committee
CHIA, Shi-Lu (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (<i>PAP</i>)
SAFUAN, Siti Aisyah (Ms.) Secretary to the Delegation	Executive, Parliament

(*PAP*: People's Action Party / *Parti d'action populaire*)

SLOVENIA – SLOVENIE

RAJIĆ, Branislav (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Member of the National Assembly (<i>PMC</i>) Deputy Chair of the Committee on Foreign Policy Committee on Culture Committee on Infrastructure, Environment and Spatial Planning
BON KLANJŠČEK, Mirjam (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Sport and Youth Committee on Culture Committee on Labour, Family, Social Policy and Disability
PANDEV, Tanja (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Head of International Relations Department, National Assembly

(*PMC*: Party of Modern Centre / *Parti du centre moderne*)
(*NSi*: New Slovenia-Christian Democrats / *Nouvelle Slovénie - Parti chrétien-démocrate*)

SOMALIA – SOMALIE

JAMA, Ali Ahmed (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the House of the People
MOHAMUD HAID, Said Mohamed (Mr.)	Member of the House of the People

SOUTH AFRICA - AFRIQUE DU SUD

MBETE, Baleka (Ms.) Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly (<i>ANC</i>)
TAU, Raseriti (Mr.)	Member of the National Council of Provinces (<i>ANC</i>)
BOROTO, Mmatlala (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>ANC</i>)
MNGUNI, Pumzile (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>ANC</i>)
WATERS, Michael (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>DA</i>)
DE FREITAS, Manuel (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>DA</i>)
PAULSEN, Nazier (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>EFF</i>)
HLENGWA, Mkhuleko (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>IFP</i>)
MOHAI, Seiso (Mr.) Adviser	Member of the National Council of Provinces
MABE, Peace (Ms.) Adviser	Member of the National Assembly (<i>ANC</i>)

MAZIBUKO, Zanele (Ms.)	Assistant, National Assembly
KUBHEKA, Muziwakhe (Mr.)	Advisor to the Speaker of the National Assembly
Advisor to the Speaker	
MERCKEL, Jill (Ms.)	Personal Assistant, National Assembly
Assistant	
MONNAKGOTLA, Mpho (Ms.)	Researcher, National Assembly
MVULANE, Sebolela (Ms.)	Advisor, National Assembly
Advisor	
XASO, Masibulele (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary to Parliament, National Assembly
Secretary, Member of the ASGP	
SAMPEAR, Aldrin (Mr.)	
Press	
MALEKE, Ike (Mr.)	
Advisor	
NDLAZI, Michael (Mr.)	
Advisor	
RAMUSHU, Samuel (Mr.)	
Advisor	
DEBRUYN, Veronique (Ms.)	
Advisor	
MAGAGA, Dorah (Ms.)	
Advisor	

(ANC: African National Congress / Congrès national africain)
(DA: Democratic Alliance / Gauche démocratique)

SOUTH SUDAN - SOUDAN DU SUD

MAKANA, Anthony Lino (Mr.)	Speaker of the National Legislative Assembly
Leader of the delegation	
AJONGA AKOL, Stephen (Mr.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly
DUSMAN, Joyce James (Mr.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly
PETER MACHAR, Suzan (Ms.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly
LUAL AKEN, Ludoviko (Mr.)	Clerk of the National Legislative Assembly
DENG, Ayaga Garang (Mr.)	Secretary, National Legislative Assembly
Secretary to the delegation	
JOSEPH, Christopher William (Mr.)	Personal Assistant to the Speaker

SPAIN – ESPAGNE

ECHANIZ, José Ignacio (Mr.)	Member of the Congress of Deputies (PP)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	
ABALOS, José Luis (Mr.)	Member of the Congress of Deputies (PSOE)
ARAGÓN, Carmen (Ms.)	Member of the Senate (PP)
CARCEDO, María Luisa (Ms.)	Member of the Senate (PSOE)
GARCÍA, Joaquín (Mr.)	Member of the Congress of Deputies (PP)
TORRES MORA, José A. (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
GUTIÉRREZ, Carlos (Mr.)	Secretary General of the Congress of Deputies
Member of the ASGP	
CAVERO, Manuel (Mr.)	Secretary General of the Senate
Member of the ASGP	
BOYRA, Helena (Ms.)	Adviser, Congress of Deputies
Secretary of the Group	
GÓMEZ-BERNARDO, Teresa (Ms.)	Congress of Deputies
Secretary of the Group and to the delegation	

(PP: People's Party / Parti populaire)
(PSOE: Spanish Socialist Workers' Party / Parti socialiste ouvrier espagnol)

SRI LANKA

JAYASURIYA, Karunaratne (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Speaker of Parliament (<i>UNP</i>) Chairman of the Committee of Selection Chairman of the Committee on Standing Orders Chairman of the Committee on High Posts
MADDUMA BANDARA, Ranjith (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (<i>UNP</i>) Member Committee on Privileges
SARAVANAPAVAN, Eswarapatham (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (<i>ITAK</i>) Select Committee of Parliament on the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development Committee on Privileges
WIJESEKERA, Kanchana (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (<i>UPFA</i>) Sectoral Oversight Committee on Reconciliation and North & East Reconstruction
WIJEWICKRAMA, Sriyani (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (<i>UPFA</i>) House Committee Sectoral Oversight Committee on Women and Gender Sectoral Oversight Committee on Business and Commerce
DASANAYAKE, Dhammika (Mr.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP	Secretary General of Parliament, Parliament
KUMARASINGHE, Upali (Mr.)	Chief of Protocol, Parliament
<i>(UNP: United National Party / Parti national unifié)</i> <i>(ITAK: Illankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi)</i> <i>(UPFA: United People's Freedom Alliance / Alliance populaire unifiée pour la liberté)</i>	

SUDAN – SOUDAN

AHMED OMER, Ibrahim (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly (<i>NCP</i>)
AHMED HASSAN GABER, Zeanab (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>NCP</i>) Legal and Justice Committee
AHMDAI, Yasir Almalk (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>NCP</i>) Security and Defence Committee
ABDELRAHMAN, Ali (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>NCP</i>) Committee on Energy
ALFAKEY, Samia (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>NCP</i>)
MOHAMED ALFADEEL, Fathrhman (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>RNM</i>)
HAJ HASSAN, Mathapa (Ms.) Committee to Promote Respect for IHL	Member of the National Assembly (<i>Dem-UP</i>) Legal and Justice Committee
MOHAMED TABER, Asim (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>NCP</i>) Economic Committee
ABDALLA, Abdelgadir (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, National Assembly
ALI HASSAN, Alderdiry (Mr.)	Assistant to the Executive Director of the Speaker's Office, National Assembly
ABDELHAFEIZ, Abdelmuniem (Mr.)	Director of Protocol, National Assembly
FADUL ABDELGADIR, Thana (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Executive Director, National Assembly
AHMED ALBADAWY, Mohamed (Mr.)	Secretary, National Assembly
ALAMIN, Mustafa (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
GUBARA, Kamal (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
BUKHEET, Mohamed (Mr.) Diplomat	

EZARIG, Awad (Mr.)

Press

*(NCP: National Congress Party / Parti du Congrès national)**(RNM: Reform Now Movement)**(Dem-UP: Democratic Unionist Party - the original / Parti démocratique unioniste)***SURINAME**

BOUVA, Melvin (Mr.)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and
Human Rights, Forum of Young Parliamentarians

NADING, Aida (Ms.)

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (*NDP*)Chairman of the Ministry of Natural Resources
CommitteeMember of the National Assembly (*NDP*)

POKIE, Diana (Ms.)

DE WINDT, Ruth (Ms.)

Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP

Member of the National Assembly (*ABOP*)

Secretary General, National Assembly

*(NDP: National Democratic Party / Parti national démocratique)**(ABOP: General Liberation and Development Party / Parti général de la libération et du développement)***SWEDEN – SUEDE**

THALEN FINNE, Ewa (Ms.)

Leader of the delegation

BOUVENG, Helena (Ms.)

Deputy Speaker of Parliament (*M*)Member of Parliament (*M*)

Committee on Taxation

AVSAN, Anti (Mr.)

President of the Committee on UN Affairs

GREEN, Monica (Ms.)

Committee to Promote Respect for IHL

LINDBERG, Teres (Ms.)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable
Development, Finance and Trade

NIEMI, Pyry (Mr.)

Member of Parliament (*M*)

Committee on Justice

Member of Parliament (*SDP*)

Committee on Finance

Member of Parliament (*SDP*)

Committee on Transport and Communications

Member of Parliament (*SDP*)

Foreign Affairs Committee

ÖRNFJÄDER, Krister (Mr.)

Member of Parliament (*SDP*)

Foreign Affairs Committee

KARLSSON, Ulrika (Ms.)

Advisory Group on Health

LUNDSTEDT, Helena (Ms.)

Secretary to the delegation

SONDÉN, Björn (Mr.)

Deputy Secretary to the delegation

BAKER, Marit (Ms.)

Adviser

Member of Parliament (*M*)

EU-Committee

International Adviser, Parliament

International Adviser, Parliament

*(M: Moderate Party / Parti modéré)**(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)***SWITZERLAND – SUISSE**

CARONI, Andrea (M.)

Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires,

Président de la délégation

LOHR, Christian (M.)

Vice-Président de la délégation

KIENER NELLEN, Margret (Mme)

Membre du Comité exécutif, Vice-Présidente du

Groupe consultatif de haut niveau sur la lutte contre le

terrorisme et l'extrémisme violent, Comité directeur

des Douze Plus, Bureau des femmes parlementaires

LOMBARDI, Filippo (M.)

Membre du Conseil des Etats (*FDP/PLR*)Membre du Conseil national (*CVP/PDC*)Membre du Conseil national (*PS*)Présidente de la Délégation auprès de l'Assemblée
parlementaire de l'OSCEMembre du Conseil des Etats (*CVP/PDC*)

Président de la Commission de politique extérieure

MÜRI, Felix (M.)
Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient

WEHRLI, Laurent (M.)
SCHWAB, Philippe (M.)
Président de l'ASGP
EQUEY, Jérémie (M.)
Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation
ISLER, Christian (M.)
Conseiller
GNÄGI, Anna Léa (Mme)
Secrétaire adjointe

(FDP/PLR: *The Liberals / Les Libéraux-Radicaux*)
(CVP/PDC: *Christian Democratic People's Party / Parti démocrate-chrétien*)
(SVP/UDC: *Swiss People's Party / Union démocratique du centre*)
(PS: *Socialist Party / Parti socialiste*)

Président de la Délégation auprès du Conseil de l'Europe
Membre du Conseil national (SVP/UDC)
Vice-Président de la Commission de l'environnement, de l'aménagement du territoire et de l'énergie
Membre du Conseil national (FDP/PLR)
Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée fédérale

Relations internationales

Stagiaire académique

Relations internationales

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE ARABE SYRIENNE

ANZOUR, Najdat (Mr.)
Leader of the delegation
AYYASH, Kamal (Mr.)

Deputy Speaker of the People's Assembly (*Ind*)

Member of the People's Assembly (*BAP*)
Vice Chairperson of the Martyrs and War Victims Affairs Committee

ALSHEIKH AMEEN, Manal (Mrs.)

Member of the People's Assembly (*BAP*)
Martyrs and War Victims Affairs Committee
Complaints and Control Committee

ALMLOHI, Inas (Mrs.)

Member of the People's Assembly (*SNP*)
Constitutional and Legislative Affairs
Financial Laws Committee

AZKAHE, Abdul Rahman (Mr.)

Member of the People's Assembly (*ASUP*)
Services Committee

MURAD, Elias (Mr.)

Economic and Energy Affairs Committee
Member of the People's Assembly (*BAP*)
Chairperson of the Committee on Information, Communications and Information Technology

MESTO, Jamal (Mr.)

Member of the People's Assembly (*BAP*)
Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee

KALAAJI, Mhd. Rabee (Mr.)

Member of the People's Assembly (*BAP*)
Vice Chairperson of the Budget and Accounts Committee

RAED, Mohamad (Mr.)

Member of the People's Assembly (*BAP*)
National Security

HUSSEIN, Malloul (Mr.)
Adviser

Economic and Energy Affairs Committee
Member of the People's Assembly (*UCP*)
Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources
Complaints and Control Committee

JARALLAH, Mohammad (Mr.)
Adviser

Member of the People's Assembly
Member of the Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources (*BAP*)

DIAB, Abdul Azim (Mr.)
Secretary of the Group

Director of Public Relations, People's Assembly

GHNIM, Inaam (Ms.)
Secretary

Employee, People's Assembly

(*Ind: Independent / Indépendant*)
(*BAP: Baath Arab Party / Parti Baath arabe*)
(*SNP: Syrian National Party / Parti national syrien*)
(*ASUP: Arab Socialist Union Party / Parti Union socialiste*)
(*UCP: Unified Communist Party / Parti communiste unifié*)

THAILAND – THAILANDE

LIENGBONLERTCHAI, Surachai (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	First Vice-President of the National Legislative Assembly
SAMPATISIRI, Bilaibhan (Ms.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs
SIRIVEJCHAPUN, Suwannee (Ms.) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Second Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social, Children, Youth, Women, the Elderly, the Disabled and the Underprivileged Affairs
SUWANMONGKOL, Anusart (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs
SANGANETRA, Worapong (Mr.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Fourth Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Transportation
MEEPIEN, Teeradej (Mr.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs
CHANTASATKOSOL, Veerun (Mr.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Social, Children, Youth, Women, the Elderly, the Disabled and the Underprivileged Affairs
SOCATIYANURAK, Vorapol (Mr.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Economics, Monetary Affairs and Finance
SETABUTR, Noranit (Mr.) Advisor	Member of the National Legislative Assembly
ARDWONG, Choomnoom (Mr.) Advisor	Member of the National Legislative Assembly
PHETCHAREON, Pornpith (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives
PUTORNJAI, La-Or (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Advisor on Legislative Procedures
TAIPIBOONSUK, Steejit (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	Director of the Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, House of Representatives
BAMRUNGPON, Tanukom (Mr.) Assistant Secretary to the delegation	Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Division, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, House of Representatives
SIRIBOON, Sanan (Mr.) Assistant Secretary to the delegation	Foreign Affairs Officer (Professional Level), National Legislative Assembly
RAKSAPOLMUANG, Pathomporn (Ms.) Interpreter	Foreign Affairs Officer (Professional Level), House of Representatives
SAIKRACHANG, Chulatas (Mr.) Assistant Secretary to the delegation	Foreign Affairs Officer (Professional Level), House of Representatives
ISSARIYAPRUET, Pattrapong (Mr.) Assistant Secretary to the delegation	Foreign Affairs Officer (Practitioner Level), House of Representatives
KHANTANIT, Russdy (Mr.) Secretary	Foreign Relations Officer, Professional Level, House of Representatives
HOMPIROM, Wittawat (Mr.) Secretary	Foreign Relations Officer, Professional Level, House of Representatives
SUKPORNCHAIKAK, Kanon (Mr.) Assistant Secretary to the delegation	Foreign Affairs Officer (Practitioner Level), House of Representatives
RUEANGSITTICHAJ, Supadcharee (Ms.) Secretary	
WANNAMETHEE, Sek (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
WONGSINSAWAT, Sasiwat (Mr.) Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative	

PLANGPRAYOON, Phanpob (Mr.)
Diplomat
TAVARAYUTH, Chalongkwan (Ms.)
Diplomat

**THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA - EX-REPUBLIQUE
YUGOSLAVE DE MACEDOINE**

XHAFERI, Talat (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic (<i>DUI</i>)
ISMAILI, Rexhail (Mr.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (<i>DUI</i>)
GASHI, Afrim (Mr.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (<i>BESA</i>)
MITRESKI, Jovan (Mr.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (<i>SDSM</i>)
NIKOLOVA, Juliana (Ms.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (<i>LDP</i>)
TUNTEV, Tomislav (Mr.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (<i>SDSM</i>)
STEVANANDZIJA, Dimitar (Mr.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (<i>VMRO-DPME</i>)
IVANOVA, Cvetanka (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Assembly of the Republic
OGNENOVSKA, Biljana (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	Head of Division, Assembly of the Republic
DRNDAR, Besa (Ms.) Interpreter	Assembly of the Republic
SELMANI, Ilir (Mr.)	State Adviser, Head of the Cabinet of the President of the Assembly of the Republic
XHELADINI, Abaz (Mr.) Adviser	Assembly of the Republic

(*DUI: Democratic Union for Integration / Union démocratique pour l'intégration*)
(*BESA: BESA Movement / Mouvement BESA*)
(*SDSM: Social Democratic Union of Macedonia / Union social-démocrate de Macédoine*)
(*LDP: Liberal Democratic Party / Parti libéral démocrate*)
(*VMRO-DPME: VMRO-DPMNE-led coalition / Coalition dirigée par le VMRO-DPMNE*)

TIMOR-LESTE

XIMENES, David (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Member of the National Parliament (<i>FRETILIN</i>) Commission on Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security
GUSMÃO, Maria (Ms.)	Member of the National Parliament (<i>DP</i>) Commission on Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security
MARTINS, Lídia (Ms.)	Member of the National Parliament (<i>FRETILIN</i>) Commission on Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security
BELO, Mateus (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary-General, National Parliament
GUTERRES, Idalina (Ms.)	Director of Administration and Finance, National Parliament
BARROS, Danilo (Mr.)	Senior Technical Assistant, National Parliament
TEIXEIRA DE LENCASTRE, Bruno (Mr.)	Principal Adviser to the President, National Parliament
BARROS, Danilo (Mr.)	Senior Technical Assistant, National Parliament
PEREIRA, Jemmy (Mr.)	Senior Technical Assistant, National Parliament

(*FRETILIN: Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor / Front révolutionnaire pour l'indépendance du Timor-Leste*)
(*DP: Democratic Party / Parti démocrate*)

TOGO

DRAMANI, Dama (M.) Président de Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Président de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>UNIR</i>)
DAGBAN-ZONVIDE, Ayawavi Djigbodi (Mme) Vice-Présidente du Groupe, Standing Committee on UN Affairs	Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>UNIR</i>)

APEVON, Kokou Dodji (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>FDR</i>) Commission des lois
PENN, Laré Batouth (M.) Secrétaire du Groupe	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>UNIR</i>)
LAWSON-BANKU, Boévi Patrick (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>ANC</i>) Président de la Commission de l'environnement et du changement climatique Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale
WAGUENA, Fademba (M.) Membre de l'ASGP	
GOMINA, Yassimiou (M.)	Conseiller
SEWAVI, Kokuri, Fiomegnon (M.)	Conseiller

(*UNIR*: Union for the Republic / Union pour la République)
(*FDR*: Forces démocratiques pour la République)
(*ANC*: National Alliance for Change / Alliance nationale pour le changement)

TUNISIA – TUNISIE

BEN SOUF, Mohamed (M.) Chef de la délégation	Membre de l'Assemblée des représentants du peuple Assesseur du Président de l'Assemblée
KSANTINI, Soulef (Mme) Bureau des femmes parlementaires	Membre de l'Assemblée des représentants du peuple (<i>E</i>)
ZAOUALI, Souad (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée des représentants du peuple
SAHRAOUI, Hajer (Mme)	Secrétaire générale
AOUAITI, Najoua (Mme) Conseillère de la délégation	Conseillère parlementaire chargée du dossier de l'UIP à l'Assemblée des représentants du peuple
FATHALI, Hassen (M.)	Attaché de presse et porte-parole de l'Assemblée des représentants du peuple

(*E*: *Ennahdha*)

TURKEY – TURQUIE

KAHRAMAN, Ismail (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey
CAKIR, Coskun (Mr.) President of the Group	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (<i>PJD</i>)
GIZLIGIDER, Ebubekir (Mr.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (<i>PJD</i>)
CERITOGLU KURT, Lutfiye Ilksen (Ms.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey
KAVCIOGLU, Sahap (Mr.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (<i>PJD</i>)
ATICI, Aytug (Mr.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (<i>CHP</i>)
OZSOY, Hisyar (Mr.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (<i>HDP</i>)
HABERAL, Erkan (Mr.) AKCAY, Erkan (Mr.) Adviser	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey
KUMBUZOGLU, Mehmet Ali (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
OZTURK, Necati (Mr.)	Deputy Director, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
ONAL, Elif Esra (Ms.) Secretary of the ASGP	Assistant to the Secretary General, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
AKSELI, Saren (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	
GUNER, Mumtaz (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	
ONAL, Elif Esra (Ms.) DOGANAY, Selim (Mr.) Advisor	Assistant to the Secretary General

BENSAN, Kutlay (Ms.)	
Interpreter	
KARAMAHMUTOGLU, Ali Can (Mr.)	
Interpreter	
TUNEY, Cemalettin (Mr.)	Director of Foreign Relations and Protocol
TAMER, Mehmet (Mr.)	
Interpreter	
SONE, Didem (Ms.)	
Interpreter	
BAYKAL, Derya (Ms.)	Protocol Officer
BAYDAR, Mustafa Fatih (Mr.)	Protocol Officer
BAHCIVAN, Fatih (Mr.)	Protocol Officer
KORU, Ali Naci (Mr.)	
Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
<i>(PJD: Justice And Development Party / Parti de la justice et du développement)</i>	
<i>(CHP: Republican's People Party / Parti populaire républicain)</i>	
<i>(HDP: People's Democracy Party / Parti démocratique populaire)</i>	

UGANDA – OUGANDA

ALITWALA KADAGA, Rebecca (Ms.)	Speaker of Parliament (<i>NRM</i>)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	
ANYAKUN, Esther (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (<i>NRM</i>)
	Foreign Affairs Committee
AKAMBA, Paul (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (<i>Ind</i>)
	Legal Committee
KABAGENYI, Rose (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (<i>NRM</i>)
	Agriculture Committee
SSEBAGGALA, Abdulatif (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (<i>Ind</i>)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Foreign Affairs Committee
MWIJUKYE, Francis (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (<i>FDC</i>)
	Physical Infrastructure Committee
KIBIRIGE, Jane (Ms.)	Clerk to Parliament
Member of the ASGP	
KANGO, Jonathan (Mr.)	IT Officer
KAGANZI, Martha (Ms.)	Principal Clerk Assistant
Secretary of the Group	
BUSIKU, Peter (Mr.)	Principal Private Secretary to the Speaker
KARAMAGI, Edison (Mr.)	Senior Economist
Advisor to the Group	
NASSALI, Mariam (Ms.)	Principal Clerk Assistant
OMODING, Kenneth (Mr.)	Protocol to the Speaker
MUHINDO, Yusuf (Mr.)	Assistant Editor of the Hansard
WABWIRE, Paul (Mr.)	Deputy Clerk, Parliamentary Affairs
Member of the ASGP	
IBANDA, Samuel (Mr.)	
Press	
<i>(NRM: National Resistance Movement / Mouvement de la résistance nationale)</i>	
<i>(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)</i>	
<i>(FDC: Forum for Democratic Change / Forum pour un changement démocratique)</i>	

UKRAINE

TARASYUK, Borys (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (<i>BP</i>)
Leader of the delegation	Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs
IONOVA, Mariia (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (<i>PPB</i>)
	Deputy Chair of the Committee on European Integration

POROSHENKO, Oleksii (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (<i>PPB</i>) Committee on Taxation and Customs Policy
SHKRUM, Aliona (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (<i>BP</i>) Committee on State Building, Regional Policy and Local Self-Government
SOTNYK, Olena (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (<i>PPSU</i>) Secretary of the Committee on European Integration
YEMETS, Leonid (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (<i>PF</i>) Deputy Chair of the Committee on Legal Policy and Justice Acting Secretary General
BODNAR, Petro (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	
PACHESYUK, Yuliya (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Head of Division, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Department
FERENS, Bohdan (Mr.)	Chief Consultant, Parliament
PROTASENKO, Liudmyla (Ms.)	Chief Consultant, Parliament

(*BP*: *Batkivschyna Party / Parti Batkivshyna*)
(*PPB*: *Petro Poroshenko Bloc / Bloc Petro Poroshenko*)
(*PPSU*: *"Samopomich" Union / Union "Samopomich"*)
(*PF*: *People's Front / Front populaire*)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - EMIRATS ARABES UNIS

JASEM AHMAD, Ali (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Member of the Federal National Council
ALDHABBAHI, Faisal (Mr.)	Member of the Federal National Council
AL-JASSIM, Alyaa (Ms.)	Member of the Federal National Council
AL HAI, Jamal (Mr.)	Member of the Federal National Council
AL-BASTI, Afraa (Ms.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs	Member of the Federal National Council
AL-MEHRZI, Mohammed (Mr.) Committee on Middle East Questions	Member of the Federal National Council
AL-MUTAWA, Saeed (Mr.)	Member of the Federal National Council
AL-DHAHRI, Ahmed (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General of the Federal National Council
AL-SHEHHI, Salama (Ms.)	Protocol, Federal National Council
AL SHIHHE, Roudha (Ms.)	Parliamentary Group, Federal National Council
AL MUHAIRI, Juma (Mr.)	Head of the Protocol Section, Federal National Council
AL MANSOORI, Mohamed (Mr.)	Protocol, Federal National Council
AL-AQILI, Ahmad (Mr.)	Chief Parliamentary Communication Coordinator, Federal National Council
EL-NAEIMY, Yasser (Mr.)	Media to the Speaker's Office, Federal National Council
AL-SUWAIDI, Eman (Ms.)	Advisor, Federal National Council
AL-ZAABI, Mariam (Ms.)	Researcher, Federal National Council
ALSHEHHI, Abdulrahman (Mr.)	Head of Communication, Federal National Council
AL SAYEGH, Abdulla (Mr.) Press	
AL ABDOULI, Mohammed (Mr.) Press	

UNITED KINGDOM - ROYAUME-UNI

EVANS, Nigel (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Member of the House of Commons (<i>C</i>)
Rt Hon WHITTINGDALE, John (Mr.)	Member of the House of Commons (<i>C</i>)
HOOPER, Gloria (Baroness)	Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords (<i>C</i>)
Rt Hon DHOLAKIA, Navnit (Lord)	Member of the House of Lords (<i>Lib Dems</i>)
CAMERON, Lisa (Ms.)	Member of the House of Commons (<i>SNP</i>)
CHAPMAN, Douglas (Mr.)	Member of the House of Commons (<i>SNP</i>)
JONES, Graham (Mr.)	Member of the House of Commons (<i>L</i>)

PRITCHARD, Mark (Mr.)	Member of the House of Commons (C)
NIMMO, Rick (Mr.)	Director, British IPU Group
Secretary of the Group	
REES, Dominique (Ms.)	Deputy Director, British IPU Group
TAIT, Lauren (Ms.)	International Project Manager, British IPU Group
LAURENCE SMYTH, Liam (Mr.)	Clerk of Legislation, House of Commons
Member of the ASGP	
BURTON, Simon (Mr.)	Clerk Assistant, House of Lords
Member of the ASGP	
COMMANDER, Emily (Ms.)	House of Lords
Joint Secretary of the ASGP	
MOELLER, Daniel (Mr.)	Senior Committee Assistant, House of Commons
Assistant to the ASGP Secretariat	
<i>(C: Conservative Party / Parti Conservateur)</i>	
<i>(Lib Dems: Liberal Democrats / Démocrates libéraux)</i>	
<i>(L: Labour Party / Parti du travail)</i>	

URUGUAY

GANDINI, Jorge (Mr.)	Speaker of the House of Representatives (NP)
Joint President of the Group	
PASSADA, Ivonne (Ms.)	Member of the Senate (FA)
Leader of the delegation	Labour Issues and Social Security Committee
	Education and Culture Committee
	Public Health Committee
CAMY, Carlos Daniel (Mr.)	Member of the Senate (NP)
	Constitution and Legislation Committee
	Labour and Social Security Issues Committee
	Public Funds Committee
MARTÍNEZ HUELMO, Ruben (Mr.)	Member of the Senate (FA)
	International Affairs Committee
	National Defence Committee
	Public Funds Committee
DE LEÓN, Leonardo (Mr.)	Member of the Senate (FA)
	National Defence Committee
	Environment Committee
	Livestock, Agriculture and Fishery Committee
MAHÍA, José Carlos (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (FA)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs	
MONTERO, José Pedro (Mr.)	Secretary General, Senate
Member of the ASGP	
PIQUINELA, Oscar (Mr.)	Head of International Relations, General Assembly,
Secretary of the Group and of Grulac	House of Representatives
GALVALISI, Carina (Ms.)	Head of Public Relations, House of Representatives
GONZÁLEZ, Cristina (Ms.)	
Diplomat	
<i>(FA: Frente Amplio / Front élargi)</i>	
<i>(NP: National Party / Parti national)</i>	

UZBEKISTAN – OUZBEKISTAN

ISMOILOV, Nurdinjon (Mr.)	Speaker of the Legislative Chamber
Leader of the delegation	
SAIDOV, Akmal (Mr./M.)	Member of the Legislative Chamber
	Chairman of the Committee on Democratic Institutions,
	NGOs and Civil Self-Government Institutes
ESHMATOVA, Feruza (Ms.)	Member of the Legislative Chamber
ATANIYAZOVA, Oral (Ms.)	Member of the Senate

VANUATU

AMBLUS MACREVETH, Edwin (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Deputy Speaker of Parliament
TETER, Raulu Leon (Mr.)	Acting Clerk, Parliament

VENEZUELA

SOLÓRZANO, Delsa (Mrs.) Vice-President of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation	Member of the National Assembly (<i>NT</i>) President of the Committee of Internal Affairs
JABOUR, Yul (Mr.) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the National Assembly (<i>PCV</i>)
GUANIPA, Tomás (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>PPJ</i>) Defence Committee
CORREA, José Gregorio (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>PPJ</i>) Member of the Parlasur
RONDEROS, Oscar (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>PAD</i>)
VERGARA, Sergio (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>VP</i>)
TEIXEIRA, Manuel (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>MP</i>)
MÁRQUEZ, Liz María (Mrs.) MARTINEZ UBIEDA, Alejandro (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Member of Parliament, National Assembly Chief of Multilateral Affairs, National Assembly
MARTINEZ, Andrea Valentina (Ms.) Assistant to Mrs. Solórzano	

*(NT: Partido Un Nuevo Tiempo)**(PCV: Communist Party of Venezuela / Parti communiste vénézuélien)**(PPJ: Partido Primero Justicia)**(PAD: Partido Acción Democrática)**(VP: Voluntad Popular)**(MP: Movimiento Progresista)***VIET NAM**

NGUYEN, Thi Kim Ngan (Ms.) Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly (<i>CPV</i>)
NGUYEN, Van Giau (Mr.) President of the Group, Member of the Executive Committee	Member of the National Assembly (<i>CPV</i>) Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
NGUYEN, Hanh Phuc (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>CPV</i>) General Secretary and Chairman of the Office
HA NGOC, Chien (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>CPV</i>) Chairman of the Ethnic Affairs Committee
BUI THANH, Son (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>CPV</i>) Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
VU, Hai Ha (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>CPV</i>) Vice Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
DUONG QUOC, Anh (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>CPV</i>) Vice Chairman of the Economics Committee
LE THU, Ha (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>CPV</i>) Foreign Affairs Committee
PHAN XUAN, Dung (Mr.) Adviser	Member of the National Assembly Chairman of the Science, Technology and Environment Committee
NGUYEN DUC, Hai (Mr.) Adviser	Member of the National Assembly
LE BO, Linh (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General, National Assembly
PHAN, Minh Tuan (Mr.)	Director General, Department of Foreign Affairs
NGUYEN TUONG, Van (Ms.)	Deputy Director General, Department of Foreign Affairs

NGUYEN, Thi Cam Nhu (Ms.)	Deputy Director General, Department of Protocol Affairs
DAO, Ngoc Cuong (Mr.)	Department of Foreign Affairs
TRAN KIM, Chi (Ms.)	Department of Foreign Affairs
NGUYEN, Thi Quynh (Ms.)	Department of Foreign Affairs
DUONG, Thuy Dung (Ms.)	Department of Economic Affairs
NGUYEN, Thi Hoai Thu (Ms.)	Department of Protocol Affairs
NGUYEN, Quoc Hai (Mr.)	Department of Protocol Affairs
PHAM, Kieu Linh (Ms.)	Department of Foreign Affairs
TRAN, Hong Duc (Mr./M.)	Department of Foreign Affairs
PHUNG, Trung Kien (Mr.)	Department of Protocol Affairs
LE, Minh Thang (Mr.)	Deputy Director General, Department of State Protocol

(CPV: Communist Party of Vietnam / Parti communiste vietnamien)

YEMEN

ALSHADADI, Mohamed (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of Parliament
Leader of the delegation	
SHAMSAN, Shawki (Mr.)	Member of Parliament
MAWDHAH, Abdulwahab (Mr.)	Member of Parliament
ALSALI, Mohammed (Mr.)	Member of Parliament
ALBADANI, Sadeq (Mr.)	Member of Parliament
ALBATARA, Abdulhamid (Mr.)	Member of Parliament
ALZEKRI, Zakarya (Mr.)	Member of Parliament
ALHAMED, Ali (Mr.)	Director General, Secretariat of the Parliament

ZAMBIA – ZAMBIE

MATIBINI, Patrick (Mr.)	Speaker of the National Assembly
President of the Group	
KALOBO, Pavyuma (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>Ind</i>)
	Committee on Youth and Sport
KABANDA, Maxwell (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>MMD</i>)
	Local Government Accounts and Committee on Privileges, Absences and Support Services
KUCHEKA, Prisca Chisengo (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>UPND</i>)
	Vice-Chairperson of the Local Government Accounts and Committee on Media, Information and Communication Technologies
LUO, Nkandu (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>PF</i>)
Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	
MUKOSA, Kalalwe (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>PF</i>)
	Delegated Legislation, Committee on Local Governance, Housing and Chiefs' Affairs
MULENGA, Emmanuel (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>PF</i>)
	Member Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources and Committee on Local Government Accounts
MBEWE, Cecilian Nsenduluka (Ms.)	Clerk of the National Assembly, National Assembly
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP	
CHELU, John (Mr.)	Official, National Assembly
KASHIMBI, Limata (Ms.)	Adviser, National Assembly
MPOLOKOSO, Anthony (Mr.)	Adviser, National Assembly
MUSONDA, Chongo (Mr.)	Official, National Assembly
PHIRI, William Musonda (Mr.)	
Press	

(*Ind*: Independent / Indépendant)

(*MMD*: Movement for Multiparty Democracy / Mouvement pour une démocratie pluraliste)

(*UPND*: United Party for National Development / Parti uni pour le développement national)

(*PF*: Patriotic Front / Front patriotique)

ZIMBABWE

MUDENDA, Jacob Francis (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly (<i>ZANU/PF</i>) Chairperson of the Committee on Standing Rules and Orders Liaison and Coordination Committee
CHAKONA, Paradzai (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>ZANU/PF</i>)
CHIBAYA, Amos (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>MDC-T</i>) Public Service Labour and Social Welfare Committee Youth Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Committee
MHLANGA, Jennifer Nomsa (Ms.) Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade	Member of the National Assembly (<i>ZANU/PF</i>) Mines and Energy Committee Youth Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Committee
MUTOMBA, William (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>ZANU/PF</i>) Industry and Commerce Committee Committee on Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development
MACHINGURA, Raymore (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>ZANU/PF</i>) Portfolio Committee Higher and Tertiary Education Standing Committee on ICT, Postal and Courier Services Clerk of Parliament, National Assembly
CHOKUDA, Kennedy Mugove (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	
CHISANGO, Rumbidzai Pamela (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Principal External Relations Officer, National Assembly
MARIMO, Ndamuka (Mr.)	Director in the Clerk's Office, National Assembly
NYAMAHOWA, Frank Mike (Mr.)	Director in the Speaker's Office, National Assembly
MUKUSHWA, Zvemekria Clive (Mr.)	Aide to the Speaker of the National Assembly
<i>(ZANU/PF: Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front / Union nationale africaine - Front patriotique du Zimbabwe)</i>	
<i>(MDC-T: Movement for Democratic Change (T) / Mouvement pour un changement démocratique)</i>	

II. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS - MEMBRES ASSOCIES**ARAB PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT ARABE**

ALSULAMI, Mishal (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Speaker
ALDUMOR, Manal (Ms.)	Member
BEKKALI, Ouafae (Ms.)	Member
RAHMANIA, Youcef (Mr.)	Member
TAHIR, Hasan (Mr.)	Member
TALAAT, Hossam (Mr.)	Director of Protocol

CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT – PARLEMENT CENTRAMÉRICAIN

COLINDRES, Larissa (Ms.) Leader of the delegation	Deputy Speaker
MUÑOZ, Abelardo (Mr.)	Member

**EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)
ASSEMBLEE LEGISLATIVE EST-AFRICAINE**

NGOGA, Karoli Martin (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Speaker Chairperson of the Commission
JAGO, Woda Jeremiah Odok (Ms.)	Member Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment
BURIKUKIYE, Victor (Mr.)	Member Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution
MNYAA, Mohamed Habib Juma (Mr.)	Member Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources
UWUMUKIZA, Françoise (Ms.)	Member Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources General Purpose Committee
NAMARA, Dennis (Mr.)	Member Accounts Committee General Purpose Committee
SERGON, Florence Jematiah (Ms.)	Member Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment General Purpose Committee
AMODING, Priscilla (Ms.)	Senior Administrative Assistant to the Speaker
BARINDA, Elizabeth (Ms.)	Senior Clerk Assistant
ODIKO, Terah Bobi (Mr.)	Senior Public Relations Officer

**INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF MEMBER NATIONS OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (CIS)
ASSEMBLEE INTERPARLEMENTAIRE DES ETATS MEMBRES DE
LA COMMUNAUTE DES ETATS INDEPENDANTS (CEI)**

GUMEROVA, Lilia (Ms.) Leader of the delegation	Member of the Council of the Federation Deputy Chair of the Science, Education and Culture Committee
OSIPOV, Yuri (Mr.)	Acting Secretary General

**LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT DE L'AMERIQUE LATINE ET DES CARAIBES**

PINEDA GOCHI, Mará del Rocío (Ms.)

Leader of the Delegation

GONZÁLEZ PATRICIO, Rolando (Mr.)

Senator (Mexico)

Secretary, Inter-Parliamentary Relations

Member of Parliament (Cuba)

Committee Secretary

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION (PABSEC)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE POUR LA COOPERATION ECONOMIQUE DE LA MER NOIRE**

CAN, Ramazan (Mr.)

Leader of the delegation

KUÇÜKAYDIN, Fuat (Mr.)

Deputy Speaker

Committee on Petitions of the GNAT

Secretary General

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (PACE)
ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE (APCE)**

TEMMERMAN DE, Jennifer (Ms.)

Leader of the delegation

SAWICKI, Wojciech (Mr.)

RAMANAUSKAITE, Aiste (Ms.)

Secretary

Member

Secretary General

**PARLIAMENT OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY COMMUNITY
PARLEMENT DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ ÉCONOMIQUE ET MONÉTAIRE DE L'AFRIQUE CENTRALE (CEMAC)**

MAHAMAT, Ali Kosso (M.)

Leader of the delegation

BEYEME EVINA, Pierre Francois Guy (M.)

Administrative Secretary to the delegation

WAYOR, Ahmed Moussa (M.)

Adviser

Member

Director, Cooperation and Inter-Parliamentary Affairs

Director, Speaker's Office

III. OBSERVERS – OBSERVATEURS

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE
RODRIGUES BIRKETT, Carolyn (Ms.), Director, Geneva Office

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (OHCHR)
HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME (HCDH)
VALES, Hernan (Mr.), Human Rights Officer

PARTNERSHIP FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH (PMNCH)
PARTENARIAT POUR LA SANTE DE LA MERE, DU NOUVEAU-NE ET DE L'ENFANT
FOGSTAD, Helga (Ms.), Executive Director
McDOUGALL, Lori (Ms.), Representative

JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
PROGRAMME COMMUN DES NATIONS UNIES SUR LE VIH/SIDA
KAKKATTIL, Pradeep (Mr.), Director, Programme Partnership, Innovations and Fundraising
TIWARI, Anand (Mr.), Senior Adviser

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT (PNUD)
CHAUVEL, Charles (Mr.), Team Leader, Inclusive Political Processes

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'EDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE
ALMUZAINI, Abdulaziz (Mr.), Director of the Liaison Office in Geneva
TUKHTABAYEV, Bobir (Mr.), Senior Liaison Officer

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)
FONDS DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LA POPULATION
BARRAGUES, Alfonso (Mr.), Deputy Director, Geneva Office
NUSEIBEN, Siham (Ms.), Executive Relations, Geneva Office

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)
HAUT COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LES RÉFUGIÉS
SMITH, Robert (Mr.), Section Chief, Division of Resilience and Solutions

UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (UN WOMEN)
ENTITÉ DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ÉGALITÉ DES SEXES ET L'AUTONOMISATION DES FEMMES (ONU FEMMES)
LOEW, Christine (Ms.), Director, Liaison Office Geneva

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ (OMS)
BOCCOZ, Michèle (Ms.), Assistant Director-General for External Relations, Office of the Director-General
SAY, Lale (Ms./Mme), Coordinator, Department of Reproductive Health and Research

ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW)
ORGANISATION POUR L'INTERDICTION DES ARMES CHIMIQUES
SHOUKET, Aamir (Mr.), Deputy Chief of Cabinet
RIVERA, Sharon (Ms.), Implementation Officer - Legal

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU COMMERCE (OMC)
EL HACHIMI, Said (Mr.), Adviser, Information and External Relations Division

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (ACP-EU JPA)
ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE PARITAIRE ACP-UE
RIVASI, Michèle (Ms.), Acting Co-President
KONO, Joseph Hyacinthe Owona (Mr.), Co-President of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly

AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION (APU)**UNION PARLEMENTAIRE AFRICAINE**

N'ZI, Koffi (Mr.), Secretary General

CHEROUATI, Samir (Mr.), Director

ARAB INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION (AIPU)**UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE ARABE**

AL-SHAWABKAH, Fayez (Mr.), Secretary General

NIHAWI, Samir (Mr.), Director of Parliamentary Relations

ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)**ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE ASIATIQUE**

MAJIDI, Mohammad Reza (Mr.), Secretary General

AZARIKHAH, Asghar (Mr.), Deputy Secretary General for Administrative and Financial Affairs

ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE (APF)

EZA, Mireille (Mme), Directeur Programme Noria de l'Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie

**FORUM OF PARLIAMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION
(FP- ICGLR)****FORUM DES PARLEMENTS DES LA CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE SUR LA RÉGION DES GRANDS
LACS (FP-CIRGL)**HIGIRO, Prosper (Mr.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*MBODI, Jenny (Ms.), Administrative Assistant / *Assistante administrative***MAGHREB CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL****CONSEIL CONSULTATIF DU MAGHREB**

MOKADEM, Said (Mr./M.), Secrétaire général

PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT (PAP)**PARLEMENT PANAFRICAIN**

NKODO DANG, Roger (Mr.), President

DJAMEL, Bouras (Mr.), Member of Parliament

KABILA, Jaynet (Mrs.), Member of Parliament

REATILE, Mephato (Mrs.), Member of Parliament

SIRIMA, Bissiri (Mr.), Member of Parliament

PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT (PNND)**PARLEMENTAIRES POUR LA NON PROLIFÉRATION NUCLÉAIRE ET LE DÉSARMEMENT (PNDN)**

WARE, Alyn (Mr.), Global Coordinator

NURZHAN, Marzhan (Ms.), Coordinator for Commonwealth of Independent States

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM)**ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE**

PIAZZI, Sergio (Mr.), Secretary General

PUTMAN-CRAMER, Gerhard (Mr.), Representative

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF TURKIC SPEAKING COUNTRIES (TURKPA)**ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DES PAYS DE LANGUE TURCIQUE**

MAMAIUSUPOV, Altynbek (Mr.), Secretary General

YILDIZ, Ali (Mr.), Deputy Secretary General

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION OF BELARUS AND RUSSIA**ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'UNION DU BELARUS ET DE LA FEDERATION DE RUSSIE**

LITIUSHKIN, Vladimir (Mr.), Member of Committee, Head of the delegation

STRELCHENKO, Sergey (Mr.), Secretary General

PARLIAMENTARY UNION OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES (PUIC)**UNION PARLEMENTAIRE DES ETATS MEMBRES DE L'OCI (UPCI)**

KILIC, Mahmut Erol (Mr.), Secretary General

MOHAMMADI SIJANI, Ali Asghar (Mr.), Assistant Secretary General

GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

FONDS MONDIAL DE LUTTE CONTRE LE SIDA, LA TUBERCULOSE ET LE PALUDISME

BOULE, Scott (Mr.), Senior Specialist, Parliamentary Affairs

TAKAYAMA, Makiko (Ms.), Donor Relations Department

CENTRIST DEMOCRAT INTERNATIONAL (CDI)

DAVID, Mario (Mr.), Vice-President

ROSSELLO, Cesar (Mr.), General Coordinator for Eastern Europe, Asia and Pacific regions

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

AYALA, Luis (Mr.), Secretary General

PERRY, Latifa (Ms.), Coordinator

GENEVA CENTRE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF ARMED FORCES (DCAF)

CENTRE POUR LE CONTROLE DEMOCRATIQUE DES FORCES ARMEES

BORN, Hans (Mr.), Assistant Director and Head of Policy and Research Division

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR)

CHARLIER, Benjamin (Mr.), Legal Advisor

SHAKERIAN, Shahrokh (Mr.), Adviser for Diplomatic Capability at the Policy and Humanitarian Diplomacy Division

INTERNATIONAL IDEA

LETERME, Yves (Mr.), Secretary General

KANDAWASVIKA-NHUNDU, Rumbidzai (Ms.), Senior Programme Manager

**ADVISERS TAKING PART IN THE WORK OF THE 138th ASSEMBLY
CONSEILLERS PARTICIPANT AUX TRAVAUX DE LA 138^{ème} ASSEMBLEE**

CAMBODIA – CAMBODGE

OUM, Sarith (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Senate
SRUN, Dara (Mr.) Member of the f	Deputy Secretary-General, National Assembly
KIM-YEAT, Dararit (Mr.)	Executive Director
CHHIM, Sothkun (Mr.)	Director, Senate
SOK, Pisey (Mr.) Secretary to the delegation	Adviser, National Assembly
HOK, Bunly (Mr.)	Adviser, National Assembly
PHAL, Bouddhis (Mr.)	Staff, National Assembly

**SPECIAL GUESTS TAKING PART IN ACTIVITIES FORESEEN ON THE OCCASION
OF THE 138th ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

**INVITES SPECIAUX PRENANT PART A DES ACTIVITES PREVUES A L'OCCASION
DE LA 138^{ème} ASSEMBLEE DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE**

LACY SWING, William (Mr.), Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
AL HUSSEIN, Zeid Ra'ad (Mr.), UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
GRANDI, Filippo (Mr.), UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHR)
GHEBREYESUS, Tedros Adhanom (Mr.), Director General, World Health Organization (WHO)
ÜZÜMCÜ, Ahmet (Mr.), Director-General, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
TAKAMIZAWA, Nobushige (Mr./M.), Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme

LAUBER, Jürg (Mr.), Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York
GÓMEZ CAMACHO, Juan José (Mr.), Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations in New York

Interactive session with regional and other parliamentary assemblies and organizations on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

Séance interactive avec les assemblées et organisations parlementaires régionales ou autres sur la mise en oeuvre des Objectifs de développement durable

DONAT-CATTIN, David (Mr.), Secretary General, Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), New York
BATHILY, Naye (Ms.), Director of the Paris-based External Relations Office, Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB)
DATTA, Neil (Mr.), Secretary, European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development
TERRON, Silvia (Ms.), Public Affairs Manager, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
DOHLMAN, Ebba (Ms.), Head of the Policy Coherence for Development Unit, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
DE BLONAY, Marina (Ms.), Parliamentary Engagement, IRENA Legislators' Forum
RAFI, Shazia (Ms.), Air Quality Asia
KIRK, Sarah (Ms.), Deputy Head of the Secretariat Asia Pacific Regional Director, Global TB Caucus
VAN RIET, Rob (Mr./M.), Director of the Peace and Disarmament Program for the World Future Council

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce

ISLER, Nadia (Ms.), Director, SDG Lab, United Nations
STONE, Steven (Mr.), Director, Economic and Trade Branch, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
WACKERNAGEL, Mathis (Mr.), Founder and CEO, Global Footprint Network

Interactive session on Ensuring accountability and oversight for adolescent health

Séance interactive sur le thème Assurer la responsabilisation et le contrôle en matière de santé des adolescents

MASON, Elizabeth (Ms.), UN Secretary General's Independent Accountability Panel

Workshop on the Implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Atelier sur La mise en oeuvre du Traité d'interdiction des armes nucléaires

MARESCA, Luis (Mr.), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

COLLIN, Jean-Marie (Mr.), ICAN France

HÖGSTA, Daniel (Mr.), ICAN

Forum of Women Parliamentarians

Forum des femmes parlementaires

McCARNEY, Rosemary (Ms.), Permanent Representative of Canada to the UN in Geneva

RANA, Bandana (Ms.), Member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

Forum of Young Parliamentarians

Forum des jeunes parlementaires

PAGES, Ruben (Mr.), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

NYKANEN-RETTAROLI, Pauliina (Ms.), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

STOLBUNOV, Dany (Mr.), Teenergizer Network

NUZHNA, Lada (Ms.), Teenergizer Network

BARCLAY, Heather (Ms.), International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)

GLOSSARY / GLOSSAIRE**English****Titles/Functions:**

Speaker of Parliament
President of the Group

Adviser
Chair/Chairman/Chairperson
Clerk
Deputy Speaker
Head
Leader of the Delegation
Officer
Researcher
Secretary of the Group/delegation
Spokesman

Parliaments:

House of Commons
House of Representatives
National Assembly
People's Representatives

Parliamentary Committees:

Abroad
Agreements
Broadcasting
Building
Citizenship
Complaint Reception
Computer Science
Cross-cutting Issues
Directive Board
Elderly
Fishery
Food
Foreign Affairs
Freedoms
Funding
Gender Equality
Growth
Health/Healthcare
Heritage
Home Affairs
Housing
Human Rights
Intelligence
Investigation/Inquiry
Joint Committee
Labour/Work
Law
Legal
Local Self-government
Missing, Adversely Affected Persons
Oversight
People with Disabilities
Physical Planning, Land Use Planning, Country Planning
Public Expenditure
Public Works
Rehabilitation
Social Welfare
Standing Committee

Français**Titres/Fonctions:**

Président du Parlement
Président(e) du Groupe

Conseiller
Président(e)
Secrétaire général/Greffier
Vice-Président(e)
Chef
Chef de la délégation
Fonctionnaire
Chercheur
Secrétaire du Groupe/ de la délégation
Porte-parole

Parlements :

Chambre des Communes
Chambre des représentants
Assemblée nationale
Représentants du peuple

Commissions parlementaires :

A l'étranger
Approbations
Radiodiffusion
Bâtiment
Citoyenneté
Instruction des plaintes
Informatique
Matières transversales
Comité directeur
Aînés
Pêche
Alimentation
Affaires étrangères
Libertés
Financement
Egalité entre les sexes
Croissance
Santé
Patrimoine
Affaires internes
Logement
Droits de l'homme
Renseignement
Enquête
Comité mixte
Travail
Lois
Juridique
Autonomie locale
Personnes disparues ou lésées
Surveillance
Personnes handicapées
Aménagement du territoire

Dépenses publiques
Travaux publics
Réinsertion
Protection sociale
Comité permanent

Standing Orders/Rules
State Device
Sustainable Development
Trade
Training
Truth
Underprivileged
Ways and Means
Wildlife
Women, Children and Youth

IPU Committees:

Advisory Group on Health
Bureau of Women Parliamentarians
Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians
Committee on Middle East Questions
Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law
Executive Committee
Forum of Young Parliamentarians
Gender Partnership Group
Group of Facilitators for Cyprus
Standing Committee on Peace and International Security
Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade
Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights
Standing Committee on UN Affairs

Règlement
Dispositif étatique
Développement durable
Commerce
Formation
Vérité
Défavorisés
Voies et moyens
Faune
Les femmes, les enfants et les jeunes

Commissions et Comités de l'UIP :

Groupe consultatif sur la santé
Bureau des femmes parlementaires
Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires
Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient
Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire
Comité exécutif
Forum des jeunes parlementaires
Groupe du partenariat entre hommes et femmes
Groupe de facilitateurs concernant Chypre
Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale
Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce
Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme
Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies