Inter-Parliamentary Union
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153rd IPU Assembly and related meetings

Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania
5–9 October 2026

Results of the proceedings

Inter-Parliamentary Union – 2026

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153rd Assembly

1. Inaugural ceremony

The inaugural ceremony of the 153rd IPU Assembly took place at the Arusha International Conference Centre, Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, at 19:30 on Monday, 5 October 2026.

The national anthem of the United Republic of Tanzania, the anthem of the East African Community and the IPU anthem were played.

Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, speaking in a pre-recorded video message, said that it was an honour to welcome delegates to Arusha, and expressed her regret that she had been unable to be there in person. The theme of the Assembly, *Enhancing good governance and empowering communities through inclusivity, trust and opportunities for all*, was particularly pertinent at a time of geopolitical uncertainties, protracted conflicts and socioeconomic challenges. As governments worked together to address those issues, parliaments had a responsibility to hold them to account and maintain cooperation across political and national divides. She wished delegates every success in their deliberations.

Mr. Amos Gabriel Makalla, Arusha Regional Commissioner, said that Arusha had a special history both as a centre of diplomacy and as a hub for exploring the natural beauty and cultural heritage of the region. He assured participants that they would receive a warm welcome from the people of Arusha and encouraged them to make the most of their visit.

Mr. Mussa Azzan Zungu, Speaker of the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania, said that it was an honour for his country to host the IPU Assembly for the first time. It was a particularly fitting location in which to recognize the visionary leadership of Dr. Tulia Ackson as she concluded her tenure as IPU President. Parliaments were institutions of trust seeking to transform differences into dialogue, reconcile competing interests and protect the dignity of every human being. As such, they could provide the transparency, accountability and legal frameworks necessary to establish strong partnerships, in which countries from the Global South and Global North could combine their strengths to promote shared prosperity.

Ms. Susan Ngongi Namondo, United Nations Resident Coordinator in the United Republic of Tanzania, said that the theme of the Assembly was highly relevant as the world confronted the challenges of extreme poverty, conflict and the erosion of trust in public institutions. Parliaments played an irreplaceable role in supporting international efforts to address those challenges by translating political commitments into real results for countries and communities. The United Nations would continue to champion the role of parliaments in holding governments to account and ensuring citizens' voices were heard.

Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, speaking in a pre-recorded video message, congratulated Ms. Anda Filip on her election as the IPU's first woman Secretary General. He said that the theme of the Assembly was especially timely in the light of current challenges, as good governance could make institutions more inclusive and governments more accountable, rebuilding the trust on which societies depended. At the United Nations, improvements in that regard were continuing through the UN80 Initiative and the implementation of the Pact for the Future. In that context, parliamentarians must take bold action for national transformation and international cooperation, making good governance a source of confidence and opportunity.

Ms. Anda Filip, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, expressed her gratitude to the IPU membership for the trust they had placed in her upon her election in April 2026. It was a privilege to serve the IPU as it sought to adapt to changing times while preserving its core purpose of fostering dialogue and cooperation. The IPU had a special role to play in responding to the major issues reshaping societies across the globe. Artificial intelligence was one such issue, offering both opportunities and risks, and requiring urgent attention to ensure democratic oversight of its development and use. Another significant challenge was the erosion of the multilateral system and a lack of space to address disagreements through dialogue. As divisions grew deeper, the role of the IPU in promoting parliamentary diplomacy was more important than ever.

Participants watched dance and musical performances by artists from the United Republic of Tanzania.

Dr. Tulia Ackson, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, said that it had been a great honour to serve as IPU President. The greatest strength of the Organization lay in the capacity of its Members to work together to address the shared global challenges arising from conflicts, threats to international law and human rights, the climate crisis and new technologies, including artificial intelligence. In addition to engaging with that work at the global level, parliamentarians must consider the people and communities they represented, too many of whom were locked out of the institutions that should serve them. Good governance could offer a solution to inequality and exclusion by promoting participation and ensuring that institutions were accountable, transparent and able to deliver the conditions that supported a life of dignity. Parliamentarians had a duty to ensure that every voice was heard, especially those of women, young people, people with disabilities and marginalized groups.

Mr. Mwigulu Lameck Nchemba, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, speaking on behalf of Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, welcomed delegates and wished them fruitful deliberations and a memorable stay in Arusha. His country's commitment to the IPU was shaped by the shared belief that parliaments should serve as a cornerstone of peace, development and democracy. While national situations might differ, the challenges confronting societies transcended borders, calling for cooperation, partnership and dialogue. In that context, the IPU provided an invaluable platform for exchanging experience, strengthening democratic institutions and advancing solutions to common challenges. The pursuit of good governance was ultimately the pursuit of human dignity, ensuring that every citizen was heard, every community empowered and every generation able to thrive. In closing, he congratulated Dr. Ackson on her successful tenure as IPU President, praising her commitment to advancing inclusion and equal opportunity within global parliamentary leadership.

Mr. Mwigulu Lameck Nchemba declared the 153rd IPU Assembly open.

2. Opening of the General Debate

Mr. M.A. Zungu, Speaker of the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania and President of the 153rd IPU Assembly, opened the Assembly on 6 October 2026. He noted that the Assembly was taking place at a time of immense, interconnected global challenges, including inequality, conflict and insecurity, declining trust in public institutions, misinformation and rapid technological advancement. In that context, good governance should be understood in terms of its impact on people rather than on institutions and systems alone. The Assembly was an opportunity to consider how parliaments could respond more effectively to citizens' aspirations and translate national commitments into tangible outcomes through legislation, representation and oversight.

In the United Republic of Tanzania, efforts to advance the objectives mentioned in the theme of the General Debate were centred on the 4Rs philosophy: reconciliation, resilience, reform and rebuilding. Since good governance depended on inclusion and empowerment, the United Republic of Tanzania had introduced a constitutional and legislative framework that guaranteed reserved seats for women – a framework that had helped increase women's representation in Parliament to approximately 40%. In June 2025, the Tanzania Development Vision 2050 had also been adopted, with the aim of building a strong, inclusive and competitive economy by developing human capabilities, advancing social development and promoting environmental integrity and climate resilience.

The challenges facing countries today could not be addressed by any single parliament, government or institution alone but required international cooperation and collective action. The IPU, as a platform for parliamentary dialogue and solidarity, had a significant role to play in bringing together parliamentarians from diverse political systems, cultures and histories, united by a shared responsibility to protect rights, scrutinize governments, safeguard public expenditure, represent citizens, create opportunities for young people, protect vulnerable groups and ensure inclusive development.

Dr. T. Ackson, President of the IPU, said that good governance was about transparent, fair and accountable decision-making, meaningful public participation and the establishment of institutions capable of responding to changing needs. Parliaments were increasingly having to respond to complex challenges at greater speed amid declining public trust. In a polarized world, parliaments must remain places where differences could be debated constructively and where the concerns of the people were not only heard but acted upon.

Parliaments must recognize people and communities as equals, partners and sources of knowledge, while considering the diverse and complex realities that shaped their experiences. Diversity should be viewed as a source of democratic legitimacy and strength rather than a problem to overcome. Listening meant learning from different forms of evidence, drawing on data but also on people's lived

experiences. Trust between the people and their institutions was also at the heart of good governance, but must be earned through transparency, accountability and integrity. Parliamentarians must hold each other to account, ensuring their work was open, accessible and responsive while also addressing corruption. Parliamentarians must trust communities, particularly women, young people, persons with disabilities and other historically underrepresented groups, to contribute, innovate and lead.

It was important to shift the mindsets, attitudes, assumptions and sociocultural norms that were limiting the participation of certain groups. Even when provided with opportunities, people from underrepresented groups did not always take them up due to the perceptions society had of them. An environment must be created in which everyone felt confident in their ability, and their right, to contribute, lead and shape the future. Parliaments must stand together to fulfil the promise of a dignified life for all.

Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, emphasized the importance of women's representation in parliament, which should go beyond mere 50:50 parity to include women of all backgrounds, including young women, Indigenous women and women with disabilities. Noting the continued underrepresentation of women in political leadership, she called on parliaments to commit to improving the situation.

In an increasingly polarized world, trust, as the foundation of politics, was essential. To maintain citizens' trust in democratic institutions, parliamentary leaders must demonstrate transparency, honesty, responsibility and integrity, including by giving women a seat at the decision-making table.

Ms. N. Abu Ghosh (Jordan), President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians, drew attention to the persistent underrepresentation of young people in politics, noting that those under 30 accounted for only 2.8% of parliamentarians worldwide. Progress on youth representation in parliament had stalled since 2023, with the number of young women even declining, while young people's trust and confidence in parliaments was weaker than ever before. Young people were among the groups most marginalized from political decision-making, but they were in fact well placed to identify gaps and develop solutions on issues such as education.

She called for practical measures to bring the voices of young people more fully into parliament, including through dedicated seats or quotas, which were currently used by only around 6% of parliaments worldwide. Parliamentarians were encouraged to reach young people where they were, including in workplaces and community spaces, and through social media. It was important to assess legislation for its impact on young people as well as to raise political awareness so that young people understood their rights and freedoms. In addition to youth participation, inclusivity required taking into account diverse cultures, ethnicities and languages.

Ms. S. Mbode, Vice-Chair of the African Union Advisory Panel on Democratic Elections and Governance, keynote speaker, noted a significant disconnect between parliamentarians and young people. Parliamentarians, who were capable and genuinely committed to serving, were often perceived by young people as mere party representatives. The disconnect was a question of trust, and rebuilding it was a shared duty. Parliaments should see themselves not only through the lens of their legislative, budgetary and oversight functions but also as bridges between citizens' aspirations and the decisions taken on their behalf. Delegates were invited to recognize citizens not only as beneficiaries but as active participants whose ideas and lived experiences offered valuable expertise that could help shape solutions.

Research showed that only around one third of citizens in Africa trusted their parliaments – a significant decline from 15 years ago. By contrast, religious and traditional leaders enjoyed considerably higher levels of trust, owing in part to their close ties to their communities, which enabled citizens to approach and engage with them directly, including in everyday settings. Parliamentarians could learn from their example, rebuilding trust by cultivating greater proximity and presence with the people and by keeping their word.

Young people must be involved in policy development from the outset. It was not enough to send a message of support or to consult them only at the end of a process to validate decisions already made. In her country, Senegal, young parliamentarians had contributed significantly to the development of national policies, including the national action plan on the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, through their active participation. Involving different segments of the population from the beginning fostered a sense of ownership and helped ensure long-term sustainability.

Youth representation would not change without deliberate action. It was therefore commendable that certain countries, notably Ecuador, Rwanda and Uganda, had reserved parliamentary seats for young representatives. Parliaments were encouraged to consider the possibility of quotas for young parliamentarians with a view to reaching the IPU's target of having at least 15% of parliamentarians aged under 30. Equality of opportunity extended beyond parliamentary debate, however, and required civic education, action against corruption and measures enabling women and young people to access land and finance, while recognizing their roles as mediators and peacebuilders.

Lastly, she highlighted three particularly important areas of action: (1) establishing permanent spaces for dialogue with citizens and civil society to ensure meaningful public input into major legislation; (2) strengthening mutual understanding between parliaments and their citizens by training parliamentarians in community realities, as well as training community leaders, including young people, in legislative and budgetary processes; and (3) visiting the communities where people felt most angry and distant and demonstrating to them that politicians would continue to return, listen and remain accountable.

3. Participation

Delegations from 131 Member Parliaments took part in the work of the Assembly*:

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

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

Observers included representatives of:

(i) the United Nations and related organizations: United Nations, Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO);

(ii) parliamentary assemblies and associations: African Parliamentary Union (APU), Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), Collective Security Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly (CSTO-PA), Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR), European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (EPF), International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace (IPTP), Maghreb Consultative Council, Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member States (PUIC), Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF), UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health;

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* For the complete list of IPU Members, see page 45.

** As per the decision of the Governing Council in Madrid in November 2021, the IPU continues to engage with the Committee to Represent Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) for Myanmar. The delegation attends Assemblies in a non-voting observer capacity in accordance with Article 4.2 of the Statutes.

(iii) other partner organizations: Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the World Future Council.

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

Of the 1,133 delegates who attended the Assembly, 647 were members of parliament (613 from Member Parliaments and 34 from Associate Member delegations), including 40 Presiding Officers, and 42 Deputy Presiding Officers. Member Parliament delegations included 240 women MPs (39.2%) and 88 young MPs (14.4%).

In continuation of practices established at recent Assemblies, the 153rd Assembly was an in-person event with adaptations for hybrid participation. All of the non-plenary session rooms were equipped for external engagement and remote interpretation and these technical capacities were well used throughout the Assembly. A total of 92 meetings were held.

The inaugural ceremony, as well as the proceedings of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, Assembly and Governing Council, were live streamed in English and the original language, garnering almost 17,000 views. See the Media and Communications section for more details.

4. Choice of an emergency item

On 7 October 2026, the President informed the Assembly that the following four requests for the inclusion of an emergency item had been received:

1. *Ensuring freedom of navigation, maritime security, and the flow of international trade through maritime corridors and straits, in accordance with international law: A call for urgent parliamentary action* (Bahrain, with the support of the Arab Group and Chile)
2. *Condemnation of the military aggression by the United States of America and Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and of the air and naval blockade imposed by the United States of America, as violations of international law and of the principle of non-intervention* (Islamic Republic of Iran)
3. *Urgent parliamentary action to address climate-related disasters and strengthen resilience in the Himalayan region and other vulnerable regions* (Nepal)
4. *Protecting civilians and critical civilian infrastructure in armed conflicts: Urgent parliamentary action to uphold international law* (Ukraine)

Before the presentations by the authors of their emergency item proposals, the Russian Federation raised a point of order. It opposed the inclusion of Ukraine's proposal on procedural grounds, citing two points: non-respect of the submission deadline and the scope of the proposal not being in line with the statutory requirements for an emergency item. In response, the President explained that, earlier that day, the Assembly Steering Committee had confirmed the admissibility of Ukraine's proposal in both respects.

Ukraine withdrew its proposal after presenting it to the Assembly. The Assembly then proceeded with a roll-call vote on the three remaining items (see pages 57–59).

Proposals 1 and 3 received the requisite two-thirds majority to be accepted. In accordance with Rule 11.2 (b), proposal 3, submitted by Nepal, received the largest number of positive votes and was therefore added to the agenda as Item 9.

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

(a) General Debate: *Enhancing good governance and empowering communities through inclusivity, trust and opportunities for all*
(Item 3)

During the three days of deliberations, some 145 legislators from 106 Member Parliaments and one of the non-voting observer parliaments, including 31 Presiding Officers and 11 young parliamentarians, as well as representatives of 7 Associate Members and 5 permanent observers, contributed to the General Debate. The proceedings of the Debate were webcast, and many of the good practices and recommendations that emerged were reflected in the outcome document.

(b) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security held two sittings, on 6 and 7 October 2026. Mr. H. Mohammad (Malaysia), President of the Standing Committee, chaired both sittings.

At its first sitting, the Committee held two panel discussions back-to-back. The first focused on *The role of parliaments in securing peace in the age of military artificial intelligence*. Discussions examined the growing integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into military systems, including autonomous weapons, intelligence, targeting and decision-making processes. Panellists emphasized that existing international law, particularly international humanitarian law, applies to military uses of AI and that human judgement and accountability must remain central to decisions involving the use of force. They highlighted the need for stronger parliamentary scrutiny throughout the life cycle of military AI systems, particularly in defence procurement, testing and deployment. In the ensuing debate, 20 delegates called for greater transparency, effective safeguards against misuse, stronger international regulation of autonomous weapons and enhanced parliamentary expertise. The importance of ensuring that all countries, including those not developing advanced AI technologies, can participate meaningfully in international governance discussions was also stressed.

The second panel discussion focused on *Shaping peaceful futures: Parliamentary diplomacy, mediation and dialogue for lasting peace*. Panellists highlighted the distinctive contribution of parliamentarians to conflict prevention, confidence-building and peacebuilding, emphasizing their capacity to maintain dialogue when traditional diplomatic channels are constrained and to bridge divides within and between societies. Discussions underlined that parliamentary diplomacy complements rather than replaces executive diplomacy and that it should become more structured and results-oriented. Particular attention was given to the importance of early engagement, fully inclusive dialogue, and sustained follow-up beyond individual parliamentary exchanges. Twelve delegates shared experiences of parliamentary engagement in conflict prevention and reconciliation, stressing the importance of equipping parliamentarians with mediation, negotiation and dialogue skills. The discussion also highlighted the need for clearer institutional mechanisms and practical support from the IPU to strengthen parliamentary contributions to sustainable peace.

At its second sitting, the Committee held an expert hearing on the theme of its next resolution, *Strengthening maritime security and protecting critical infrastructure in times of conflict: The role of parliaments in safeguarding international navigation and global economic stability*. The co-Rapporteurs, Ms. L. Zaburanna (Ukraine) and Mr. M. Almheiri (United Arab Emirates), presented their initial perspectives, emphasizing the importance of freedom of navigation, protection of civilian maritime infrastructure and respect for international law. The invited experts highlighted the interconnected nature of maritime security and its far-reaching consequences for civilian populations and the global economy. They called for stronger national preparedness, strengthened infrastructure resilience, better coordination among maritime authorities and effective parliamentary oversight to address growing threats to maritime infrastructure. In the ensuing debate, 22 delegations took the floor, calling for greater international cooperation and collective responses to address emerging threats. While different views were expressed regarding current conflicts and enforcement measures, there was a broad agreement on the need for a comprehensive and preventive approach to maritime security, firmly grounded in international law.

At the end of the Committee session, elections were held to fill positions on the Committee's Bureau (see page 42).

(c) Standing Committee on Sustainable Development

The Committee met on 7 and 8 October 2026 and held three debates featuring experts from the United Nations, other international organizations and civil society. About 50 delegations were in attendance and 57 delegates took the floor across the three debates. Ms. M.S. Al Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates), President of the Standing Committee, chaired both sittings.

The first debate was entitled *Parliamentary leadership to protect mountain and ocean ecosystems and achieve the 30% conservation goal by 2030*, which corresponds to the title of the resolution that will be presented to the Committee at its next session in May 2027. The co-Rapporteurs, experts and delegates highlighted the importance of effective conservation measures, the need to protect mountain and ocean ecosystems, and the environmental, social and economic benefits of conservation for local communities and society as a whole.

The second debate examined the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on the future of work. At the conclusion of the debate, the Committee adopted a motion entitled *Advancing a rights-based, inclusive and sustainable future of work amid advances in artificial intelligence*. The motion calls on Member Parliaments to use their legislative, oversight, budgetary and representative functions to help ensure that the transition driven by AI is managed fairly, that workers and businesses are equipped to benefit from technological change, and that the gains from AI contribute to inclusive and sustainable development.

The third debate discussed the draft outcome document of the IPU Parliamentary Meeting that will take place in Antalya, Türkiye, at the 2026 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31).

At the end of the Committee session, elections were held to fill positions on the Committee's Bureau (see page 42).

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

(d) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

The Standing Committee held two sittings, on 6 and 8 October 2026, with the acting President of the Standing Committee, Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia), as the Chair.

On 6 October 2026, the Committee considered the draft resolution on *Inclusive social development for all: Parliamentary strategies to promote the rights and empowerment of persons with disabilities*, introduced by the co-Rapporteurs, Ms. C.M. Mumma (Kenya), Mr. C. Lohr (Switzerland) and Ms. F. Öncü (Türkiye).

When examining the draft resolution, the Committee considered 203 amendments submitted by 26 parliaments – Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, China, Czechia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and Viet Nam – and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians. The Forum of Women Parliamentarians expressed support for 12 of the proposed amendments.

The co-Rapporteurs presented the revised draft resolution to the Committee at its final sitting on 8 October 2026. The Committee took final decisions on the text, then adopted the draft resolution. The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed a reservation on preambular paragraph 15. The Russian Federation expressed a reservation on operative paragraph 22.

The Bureau met on 8 October 2026 to consider proposals for the Committee's future work programme. It recommended that the subject of the next resolution should be *The role of parliaments in protecting the civilian population and critical civilian infrastructure in times of armed conflict and insecurity*. It further recommended that the Committee hold two debates, that would not lead to a resolution, at the 154th Assembly in May 2027, on the theme of intergenerational justice and the human rights of future generations, and on sustainable funding to secure the right to health.

The Committee approved both proposals. It also approved the nomination of the co-Rapporteurs for the next resolution. A preparatory debate would take place at the 154th Assembly in May 2027 and the resolution would be finalized at the 155th Assembly in October 2027.

At its final sitting, the Committee elected new members of the Bureau (see page 42). It took note that the Eurasia Group had not put forward a candidate for the presidency of the Committee as foreseen by the agreed distribution of leadership positions for the Standing Committees, and approved the nomination of Ms. F. Abri (Algeria) as Vice-President of the Committee on behalf of the African Group.

(e) Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

The Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs held two sittings, on 7 and 8 October 2026, with its President, Ms. V. Centeno Arteaga (Ecuador), in the Chair.

The first sitting was dedicated to a discussion on the theme *The UN country team in the United Republic of Tanzania as the reflection of a reformed UN system*. The presenters were Ms. S.N. Namondo (United Nations Resident Coordinator in the United Republic of Tanzania) and senior representatives of UN agencies working in the United Republic of Tanzania. The Committee adopted a motion entitled *A United Nations fit for purpose: Towards a Charter review conference*, in which it invited parliaments to discuss the merits of convening a Charter review conference with a view to ensuring a more effective and representative UN.

During its second sitting, the Committee held a panel discussion on the theme *The UN machinery for conflict prevention and resolution: How does it work?* The presenters were: Mr. Guang Cong (Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa) and Ms. S. Gruener (Deputy Executive Director and Programme Director, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation).

In addition, on 6 October 2026, five members of the Bureau of the Committee (Ms. V. Centeno Arteaga (Ecuador), Ms. S. Ataullahjan (Canada), Mr. S.S. Hosseini (Iran, Islamic Republic of), Ms. M. Tender (Portugal) and Mr. O. Zhmerenetskyi (Ukraine)) participated in a field trip to a farm and a health dispensary in Arusha.

At the end of the Committee session, elections were held to fill positions on the Committee's Bureau (see page 42).

(f) Debate on the emergency item

***Urgent parliamentary action to address climate-related disasters and strengthen resilience in the Himalayan region and other vulnerable regions*, submitted by the delegation of Nepal**

The debate on the emergency item was held in the morning of 8 October 2026, with Ms. L. Dlamini, President of the Senate of Eswatini, in the Chair.

Eleven speakers took the floor during the debate, from South Africa, India, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, Timor-Leste, Myanmar, the United Republic of Tanzania, Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Nepal (the author of the proposal).

Delegates expressed support and solidarity with the Government and people of Nepal. Several delegates noted that climate change is affecting various parts of the world, forcing many people to leave their homes, and also that climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable people, who bear little responsibility for causing it. Several delegates underscored the importance of ensuring food security and urged governments to work with local communities to address climate-related disasters.

A delegate mentioned that climate adaptation is not a choice but a developmental necessity for his country. He added that climate finance was not charity or aid but an obligation of developed countries under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

Many delegates called for urgent parliamentary action to address climate change, including public education, climate adaptation and building economic resilience. A delegate added that the IPU must make a public statement directed at participants in the upcoming COP31 meeting, calling for urgent action to finalize the implementation of climate finance commitments made under the Paris Agreement and at COP29, known as the "Finance COP".

Another delegate stated that the consequences of climate change are no longer a future risk, but a present reality for millions of people around the world. He proposed the inclusion of several additional elements in the draft resolution, including a call for governments and parliaments to strengthen climate resilience, enhance food security, and promote sustainable resource management in vulnerable regions. He also encouraged parliaments to report regularly on progress made in implementing climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and resilience commitments.

A delegate from the United Kingdom underscored the importance of sharing data and information across borders to provide early warning of climate-related disasters, citing in particular China's failure to share information that could have helped Nepal to anticipate the 2026 floods.

Nepal, the sponsor of the proposal, concluded the discussion, by thanking delegations for their support and urging all parliaments to translate the resolution into concrete action, dialogue and cooperation.

China requested a right of reply and referred to the statement made by the United Kingdom, calling it a groundless accusation.

The Assembly referred the emergency item to a drafting committee made up of representatives of Canada, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Ukraine.

6. Cremer-Passy Prize 2026

The Cremer-Passy Prize is named after the IPU's founders. It recognizes an exceptional parliamentarian whose work makes a real contribution to the IPU's values and priorities.

In a special ceremony on 7 October 2026, Ms. Rocío Abed de Zacarías, a parliamentarian from Paraguay, was awarded the 2026 Cremer-Passy Prize for her efforts in promoting human rights, the IPU's priority theme of the year.

Ms. Abed de Zacarías' parliamentary work has focused primarily on issues of health, women's rights and social inclusion, including three pieces of legislation where she played a key role. She was a co-proponent of a 2024 law in Paraguay that established a legal right to palliative care for people with terminal or advanced chronic illnesses. She was the lead sponsor of a 2022 law expanding the national programme for cervical and breast cancer prevention, early detection and treatment. She also helped advance a 2023 law on the digital inclusion of older persons. In 2025, she published *Paraguayas en el Poder*, a book presenting the stories of more than 100 women who have held high-level positions across Paraguay. Ms. Abed de Zacarías also contributes actively to the work of the IPU, notably as a member of the Bureau of the IPU Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, representing the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean.

7. Special accountability segment of the General Debate

As at previous Assemblies, the General Debate included a special accountability segment, held on 8 October 2026, on the implementation of IPU decisions and resolutions. It was chaired by Dr. T. Ackson, IPU President. Delegations were invited to contribute with interventions on their actions to implement IPU outcomes.

The IPU President conveyed the importance of translating IPU decisions into national policies and underscored the duty of delegates to submit IPU resolutions to their parliaments, promote their implementation and report the results to the IPU Secretariat. Ms. A. Filip, IPU Secretary General, presented the 2026 reporting exercise for Member Parliaments, which was based on an annual survey circulated to a selection of parliaments from each geopolitical group.

For the 2026 exercise, of the 41 Member Parliaments that were scheduled to report, 35 submitted complete questionnaires – a record response rate of 85%. Two Member Parliaments (Liechtenstein and Togo) reported voluntarily.

Delegations from a total of 15 countries took the floor to share concrete examples of parliamentary follow-up to IPU decisions, with a particular emphasis on the regulation of artificial intelligence (AI), including in relation to the digital transformation of parliaments, as well as on accession to international treaties and on parliamentary diplomacy.

Examples included the following:

- Algeria: Celebrated the election of the first woman President of the National People's Assembly as a significant step for women's empowerment and detailed the Parliament's initiative to increase public openness through digital transformation.
- Canada: While acknowledging the potential benefits of AI, stressed the need to establish clear guardrails such as transparency, accountability and human oversight to ensure that AI serves the people and reflects democratic values.
- France: Presented a military programming law that provides for compensation for pollution arising from military activities, in line with the IPU resolution on *Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development*, adopted by the 150th IPU Assembly in 2025.
- Malawi: Noted progress in women's and children's health, with a stark reduction in maternal mortality – a direct result of increased health budget allocations.
- Mauritius: Described as a milestone the National Assembly's participation in the IPU's World e-Parliament Conference 2009, which significantly contributed to its two-decade-long digital transformation process.
- Thailand: Reported on concrete follow-up action to the IPU resolution on *Parliamentary action against transnational organized crime, cybercrime and hybrid threats to democracy and human security*, adopted unanimously by the 151st IPU Assembly in 2025, including strengthened measures against online fraud and enhanced international cooperation through information exchange databases.

- Tonga: Demonstrated the Legislative Assembly's commitment to international cooperation and parliamentary diplomacy by showcasing the country's accession to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, as well as its contribution to the creation of the Pacific Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in 2025.

Other delegations that took the floor during this segment were: Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Estonia, Lesotho, Portugal, Türkiye and Ukraine.

8. Concluding sitting of the Assembly

At the concluding sitting on 9 October 2026, Ms. J.A. Chowdhury (Bangladesh) and Mr. D. Ndumbaro (United Republic of Tanzania) introduced the Arusha Communiqué on ***Enhancing good governance and empowering communities through inclusivity, trust and opportunities for all*** (see page 47). The Assembly unanimously endorsed the Arusha Communiqué.

Ms. C.M. Mumma (Kenya), Mr. C. Lohr (Switzerland) and Ms. F Öncü (Türkiye), co-rapporteurs of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, presented the resolution ***Inclusive social development for all: Parliamentary strategies to promote the rights and empowerment of persons living with disabilities*** (see page 51). The Assembly adopted the resolution, with a reservation expressed by the Islamic Republic of Iran on preambular paragraph 15 and a reservation expressed by the Russian Federation on operative paragraph 22.

The Assembly took note of the reports of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, presented by member of the Bureau, Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland); of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, presented by its co-Rapporteur, Mr. D. Kyere-Duah (Ghana); and of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, presented by Bureau member, Ms. M. Tender (Portugal) (see pages 63–72).

The Assembly took note of the motion adopted by the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, ***Advancing a rights-based, inclusive and sustainable future of work amid advances in artificial intelligence*** (see page 73) and of the motion adopted by the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, ***A United Nations fit for purpose: Towards a Charter review conference*** (see page 75).

The Assembly approved the subject item for the resolution to be drafted by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, for adoption at the 155th Assembly, together with the co-Rapporteurs that would be working on it (see page 43).

The Assembly unanimously adopted an amendment to the Rules of the Assembly formalizing a ban on the use of props, visual displays and audio/video recordings during interventions in the General Debate.

Ms. A. Kumbodimo Kababile (Democratic Republic of the Congo), rapporteur of the drafting committee, introduced the emergency item resolution, ***Urgent parliamentary action to address climate-related disasters and strengthen resilience in the Himalayan region and other vulnerable regions*** (see page 60). The Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution.

Mr. M. Mottaki (Islamic Republic of Iran), a member of the Drafting Committee, took the floor to underscore that the Committee had agreed that the resolution should focus exclusively on the situation in Nepal and not refer directly to other countries.

Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka (Poland, IPU Vice-President) led a **special segment in tribute to outgoing IPU President, Dr. Tulia Ackson**. A short video was played with highlights of Dr. Ackson's three-year term.

The representatives of the geopolitical groups took the floor to pay tribute to Dr. Ackson and reflect on the 153rd Assembly: Mr. K. Tchaimi Ali (Chad), President of the African Group, Mr. A. Alharbi (Saudi Arabia), representing the Arab Group, Mr. H. Uddin Ahmad (Bangladesh), representing the Asia-Pacific Group, and Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland), Chair of the Twelve Plus Group. They expressed their deep gratitude to Dr. Ackson for her achievements, including making the IPU more vibrant, inclusive and relevant, as well as for the energy and warmth she had brought to the Presidency. They expressed their deep satisfaction at the quality of the debate at the Assembly and at the excellent conditions under which the event had taken place. They expressed their thanks to the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and to the Host Parliament, its Speaker and all its members and staff, as well as to all the people of the United Republic of Tanzania for their warm welcome and generous hospitality. They also thanked the IPU Secretary General and Secretariat for their support. They expressed their congratulations to Mr. M. Dick on his election as IPU President. Finally, they wished all delegations safe travels and looked forward to the 154th Assembly in Geneva in May 2027.

Ms. F. Öncü (Türkiye), Second Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, and Mr. A.K. Abdelgader (Chad), member of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians, also paid tribute to Dr. Ackson and recognized her valuable contributions to the IPU's gender equality and youth participation work.

Ms. A. Filip, IPU Secretary General added her own tribute to Dr. Ackson, noting that she had carried the gavel of the Presidency with enormous elegance, and had always adopted a consensus-driven, patient and dignified approach. She had driven the IPU forward and left it with a stronger voice in the world. On the outcomes of the Assembly, Ms. Filip highlighted the accession of Naoero as the 184th IPU Member Parliament; the adoption of the Arusha Communiqué as a substantive roadmap for parliaments to improve their governance credentials, empower communities and become more open, inclusive and trustworthy; the adoption of a groundbreaking resolution on the rights and empowerment of persons living with disabilities; and the emergency item resolution on a response to the devastating floods in Nepal in August 2026. She congratulated Mr. M. Dick on his election as IPU President and assured him that he would have the full support of the Secretariat in carrying out his important duties. She expressed sincere thanks, on behalf of the whole IPU, to President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Speaker Mussa Azzan Zungu, all the members and staff of the National Assembly, the regional authorities, and all those who had made the Assembly possible, including the IPU Secretariat and the interpreters.

In her concluding remarks, Dr. T. Ackson, IPU President, expressed her profound sense of gratitude to all those who had spoken so kindly about her. She congratulated delegates who had intervened in the General Debate to speak of communities, exclusion, conflict, inequality, the emergence of new technology, and, most importantly, trust. She highlighted the powerful ideas expressed in the Arusha Communiqué: that it was time to return to the basics of representative democracy, that representation was not simply about speaking on behalf of people but about reflecting their lived experiences, aspirations and frustrations and using them to inform the decisions taken in parliament; and that accountability and integrity were democratic necessities. Reflecting on the nature of human cooperation, she urged those present to carry the message back home that diverging interests and opinions should not prevent parliamentarians from working together in pursuit of a common goal. She expressed her joy that Ms. Navi Pillay, a daughter of Africa, had just been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her lifelong work defending human rights and the rule of law. She highlighted some of the milestones of her own Presidency, namely strengthening the accountability of the IPU through the special accountability segment, adopting an IPU anti-harassment policy, formalizing the position of IPU Vice-President as a true deputy to the President, lowering the age threshold for the IPU's definition of "young MPs", and amending the Statutes and Rules to put the collective goal of gender parity at the heart of all the IPU's work. She wished her successor, Mr. M. Dick, all the best and informed him she would always be ready to offer advice and support.

The Assembly agreed that the title IPU Honorary President was to be conferred on Dr. Ackson, and a farewell gift was presented.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. M.A. Zungu, President of the 153rd Assembly and Speaker of the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania, expressed his appreciation to delegates for their active participation, constructive engagement and commitment to inter-parliamentary dialogue. The discussions of the General Debate had shown that its theme was more relevant than ever, and that international gatherings such as the Assembly must be used to set the world on a new trajectory, based on dialogue, dignity, respect, inclusion and solidarity. He urged delegates to ensure that the outcomes of the Assembly would not remain merely words on paper but be turned into legislation, policies and action that would improve the lives of citizens. He congratulated Mr. M. Dick on his well-deserved victory and looked forward to working with him towards a stronger and more effective global parliamentary community. He expressed his appreciation to the President of the United Republic of Tanzania for her unwavering support in bringing the Assembly to Arusha, as well as to the IPU Secretary General and Secretariat, the organizing committee led by the Clerk of the National Assembly, the Arusha Regional Authority, and all the staff and service providers at the Arusha International Conference Centre. Noting that it had been an honour and a privilege for him to preside over the Assembly, he wished participants a safe and pleasant journey home.

Mr. M.A. Zungu declared the 153rd IPU Assembly closed and the national anthem of the United Republic of Tanzania and the IPU anthem were played.

218th session of the Governing Council

1. Election of the President of the 153rd Assembly

At its first sitting on 6 October 2026, the Governing Council proposed that Mr. M.A. Zungu, Speaker of the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania, be elected President of the 153rd IPU Assembly.

2. Election of the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

At its final sitting on 9 October 2026, following a single round of voting by secret ballot, the Governing Council elected Mr. M. Dick (Australia) as IPU President for a three-year term ending in October 2029 (56% of votes, see Elections section).

The outgoing President, Dr. T. Ackson, was made an Honorary President of the IPU.

3. Report of the IPU President

The Governing Council took note of the comprehensive report of the IPU President covering the three years of her mandate, starting October 2023. Areas covered included: institutional reforms; advancing peace and parliamentary diplomacy; promoting inclusivity, youth and gender parity; global advocacy; and supporting sustainable development.

The Governing Council expressed its gratitude to the President for her availability and her much appreciated service to the IPU.

4. Interim report of the Secretary General

The Governing Council heard the Secretary General's report on the activities carried out by the IPU over the previous nine months to implement its Strategy. Since January 2026, the IPU had organized:

- 47 national support activities in 22 countries to build the capacity of parliament institutionally and on key thematic issues
- A total of 63 regional and global events to mobilize and leverage parliamentary action and facilitate learning (42 in person, 19 virtual and 2 hybrid)

The IPU had also launched 14 new publications and tools.

The Secretary General presented a review of activities carried out under each of the IPU's five strategic objectives. Particular focus had been placed on the question of protection of MPs, support to countries in transition or in post-crisis situations, artificial intelligence and digital transformation, and major global initiatives facilitating dialogue, peace and parliamentary diplomacy.

The Governing Council took note of this interim report by the Secretary General. A more comprehensive report on the impact of the IPU's work throughout 2026 will be presented at the next Assembly, as per usual practice.

5. Financial situation of the IPU

The Governing Council received a report on the financial situation of the IPU as at 31 July 2026 and an updated list of unpaid assessed contributions. Reporting on behalf of the Executive Committee, Mr. M. Dick (Australia) noted that the IPU's budget performance was at 91% of expected expenditure for the first seven months of the year and the programme of work was expected to be delivered within budget by the end of 2026. The Organization's finances were currently healthy and stable, and the Legacy Pension Fund had seen a positive return of 4% since the start of the year, currently holding CHF 0.7 million in investments. Voluntary funding continued to support around a quarter of the IPU's budget and was important for delivering activities beyond the core budget. Mr. Dick expressed appreciation to the parliaments and donors who provided regular multi-year funding, in particular Sweden, the European Union, Ireland and the Parliaments of China, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. He noted that the Executive Committee had also discussed the arrears of assessed contributions, which now stood at CHF 2.3 million, and the positive efforts being made to reduce this figure. There would now be a small increase in assessed contributions thanks to the Parliament of Naoero joining the IPU.

6. Consolidated IPU budget for 2027

The consolidated draft budget for 2027 was presented to the Governing Council. The draft budget had been prepared under the supervision of the Sub-Committee on Finance and had been reviewed in detail by the Executive Committee. Reporting on behalf of the Executive Committee, Mr. Dick summarized the draft budget, which had been prepared for a total of CHF 18.9 million to implement the first year of the new Strategy for 2027–2031. Expenditure was budgeted across the three new strategic objectives, with CHF 7.2 million allocated towards building strong and inclusive parliaments, CHF 7.8 million towards facilitating parliamentary diplomacy, dialogue and joint action, and CHF 3.9 million towards strengthening the IPU as a responsive and accountable organization.

Member assessed contributions remained the primary funding source, totalling CHF 12.5 million, supplemented by CHF 4.3 million in voluntary contributions and CHF 2.1 million from other income and reserves. This included an increase of 2% in total assessed contributions for 2027, a smaller rise than in previous years to recognize the challenging global economic conditions facing parliaments. The extra funding was specifically targeted to stimulate IPU work on several priorities within the three strategic objectives, including digital transformation, Member engagement, and policy and capacity building relating to artificial intelligence (AI), democracy, and peace and security.

The Governing Council approved the 2027 consolidated budget.

7. Questions relating to IPU membership and observer status

The Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to approve the request of the Parliament of Naoero to become the 184th Member Parliament of the IPU.

The Governing Council also reviewed the situation of certain parliaments, divided into four categories as follows:

A. Parliaments that are not functioning

- **Afghanistan**
  The UN still does not recognize the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. In February 2026, the UN Security Council extended sanctions on the Taliban and associated groups and individuals.

  Following the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in 2021, the IPU, with the support of some Member Parliaments, had helped some of the prominent MPs in danger in Afghanistan, including Fawzia Koofi, to leave the country. There had been no indication of any attempt to organize elections in the country. The dire humanitarian situation continued, especially for women and girls, whose situation is particularly difficult.

  The UN has reported that over 1.4 million Afghan refugees have had to return to the country. In December 2025, there were indications that various opposition groups were getting together to set up a new opposition coalition. In terms of IPU engagement with Afghanistan, in the absence of a functioning parliament in the country, there is no opportunity to help the lives of people on the ground.

  In 2022, the Governing Council took a decision to recognize as interlocutors the former elected MPs, the vast majority of whom are in exile. They are invited to attend IPU Assemblies and other specialized meetings in a non-voting observer capacity.

  While reiterating its 2022 decision, the Governing Council endorsed the Executive Committee's proposal that the Secretariat keep in contact with other organizations that are working in the country and try to engage them with a view to joining forces and making a difference for the people of Afghanistan generally.

- **Eritrea**
  The situation has not changed much in recent years. The last known sitting of the National Assembly dates back to 2002, and the UN continues to monitor human rights in the country via a Special Rapporteur, whose mandate has recently been extended by another year. No real information about significant developments in terms of parliamentary work has emerged from the country.

  The Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee for the IPU to continue to monitor the situation and to seek any possible entry points for engagement.

- **Haiti**
  The situation in Haiti is marked by significant gang violence following the 2021 presidential assassination, but 316 political parties have recently been authorized for elections, planned for December 2026 and February 2027.

  The Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to welcome the recent developments, call on the authorities to hold elections as planned, and look forward to welcoming a new parliament to the IPU, which could benefit from IPU support once established.

- **Kuwait**
  The Emir dissolved the National Assembly in early 2024 and suspended constitutional articles for up to four years. Many opposition figures have received jail sentences for expressing criticism towards the Emir. The National Assembly Secretariat is still functioning.

  The Governing Council took note of this update and endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee for the IPU to continue monitoring the situation, but also to request information from the National Assembly Secretariat regarding the plans for 2027, as the four-year deadline is approaching fast.

- **Myanmar**
  Myanmar presents a complex challenge, with two competing entities: the Committee Representing the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) and a new junta-backed parliament.
  The junta-backed parliament has requested formal engagement with the IPU. The Executive Committee expressed strong opposition to recognizing the junta-backed parliament, citing the killing of thousands of activists.

  The Governing Council took note of the update the delegation of the CRPH shared with the Executive Committee, the IPU's interlocutor representing Myanmar, including how they are continuing to exercise their legislative and representative role. While reiterating its 2022 decision to recognize the CRPH as its interlocutor, the Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to mandate the Secretary General to engage with the junta-backed authorities in Myanmar on the human rights cases currently before the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, and on the situation of the Rohingya population.

- **Sudan**
  Sudan is experiencing a dire humanitarian crisis due to fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces. Each of the two groups is developing its own governance structures in the territories that it controls. UN peace efforts, carried out jointly with the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Arab League, remain fruitless. The European Union has facilitated dialogue between the different parties, but there have been no significant breakthroughs.

  The Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee for the IPU to continue to monitor the situation in Sudan and to encourage Member Parliaments to take up the issue of the humanitarian situation in the country.

B. Transitional parliaments

- **Burkina Faso**
  In Burkina Faso, several coups d'état took place in 2022, and a transitional legislative assembly was established, leading to the adoption of a charter and a new constitution to guide the governance framework of the country.

  The transition period has been extended to five years and is therefore due to end in July 2029. Political parties have been banned. In the meantime, the Transitional Legislative Assembly has renamed itself the People's Legislative Assembly. The IPU has been supporting Burkina Faso in its work in recent years to accompany its transition.

  The Governing Council took note of this update and endorsed the Executive Committee's recommendation for the IPU to continue to encourage and provide support to this transitional parliament to help it meet its democratic objectives.

- **Guinea**
  Guinea is about to finish its transition. A newly elected National Assembly has been convened, ending the transitional period. Indirect elections for a new Senate are expected to take place before the end of the year.

The Governing Council took note of this positive development and looked forward to welcoming the newly elected National Assembly. It also endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee for the IPU to continue to provide support to the newly elected Parliament in order to strengthen its efforts to maintain constitutional order.

- **Guinea-Bissau**
  The situation in Guinea-Bissau is very sensitive. The 2025 military coup d'état led to the arrest of Speaker of Parliament Mr. Domingos Simões Pereira (who was later released for medical reasons) and the adoption, following a referendum in August 2026, of a new constitution that expands presidential powers. Elections are scheduled for 6 December 2026.

  Further to the recommendation of the Governing Council, the Secretary General has reached out to the authorities through the Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau in New York. She has also written to the Transitional National Council to offer a platform for bringing together the different parties and better understanding the situation.

  The Governing Council took note of this update and endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee for the IPU to continue engaging in efforts to bring together the different parties within the regional context, but also to advocate for inclusive elections as planned.

- **Libya**
  The situation is very volatile in Libya, which faces a standoff between the House of Representatives and the High Council of State over electoral frameworks.

  The IPU has been contacted by a member of the High Council of State to see if there are any opportunities to engage with the IPU. In turn, the IPU has reached out to the House of Representatives to gain more understanding of the interaction between the two houses. According to the response of the House of Representatives, it represents the only legitimate power in Libya, and for the moment, cooperation between the two houses is problematic.

  The Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to encourage the parties in conflict to try to pursue dialogue with a view to facilitating elections in the near future.

- **Mali**
  The transitional charter was revised and extended for five years amid a volatile security situation and coordinated rebel attacks in 2026. The human rights situation is being closely monitored by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. In August 2026, the parliaments of the Alliance of Sahel States met for the first time, bringing together Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

  The Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee for the IPU to continue to monitor the situation in Mali, encourage a prompt return to constitutional order, and continue the dialogue and the support it has been trying to provide.

- **Niger**
  The Advisory Council of the Refoundation, which was set up further to a coup d'état, is continuing its work. It met first in 2025, when the IPU organized an induction workshop for its members on legislative and monitoring functions. The broader situation in Niger is critical, with security and humanitarian issues and a shrinking civic space.

  The Governing Council took note of this update and endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee for the IPU to continue to monitor the situation, provide support and encourage a prompt return to constitutional order.

  Regarding the three countries of the Alliance of Sahel States, the Governing Council took note of the critical security issues in the region. Based both on the report of the IPU President on her mission to Burkina Faso in July 2026 and the briefing meeting that the Secretary General had held with the representatives of these countries, together with the Honorary Secretary General, during the 153rd Assembly, the Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism be given a stronger mandate to assist the Sahelian countries.

- **South Sudan**
  South Sudan has been in transition since 2016, with a transitional national legislative assembly in place. Elections have been scheduled and then postponed several times. Most recently, the National Election Commission announced elections for 22 December 2026, following the removal of two preconditions for elections from the transitional constitution. One of these is related to the revision of the transitional constitution, and the second was to carry out a population census.

The Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the IPU continue to monitor the situation, encourage South Sudan to hold the elections as planned, and support the parliament once it is established.

- **Syrian Arab Republic**
  The People's Assembly met for the first time in July 2026 following a constitutional declaration in 2025; however, a delegation had been unable to attend the 153rd Assembly. After President Al-Assad was ousted in December 2024, a constitutional declaration was signed for a transition of five years in March 2025. Indirect elections were held in October 2025 for part of the Parliament. Most recently, the 70 remaining members were appointed by the President of the People's Assembly, as foreseen in the constitutional declaration.

  The IPU has engaged with the parliamentary authorities in the country to follow up on what the IPU can do to provide support, both at the technical and political levels, to the newly established Parliament.

  The Governing Council welcomed this positive development and endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to pursue engagement with the People's Assembly of Syria and to provide support so that it can carry out its mandate throughout the transition.

  The Governing Council also welcomed and approved the recommendation of the Executive Committee in support of a planned mission by the Secretary General and the President of the Committee on Middle East Questions to the Syrian Arab Republic to assess capacity-building needs, and to explore avenues to advance peace in the region through parliamentary diplomacy.

C. Countries where the political situation is impacting the functioning of parliament

- **Madagascar**
  Following the 2025 coup d'état, the subsequent military transition was led by Colonel Michael Randrianirina, who was sworn in as President for a maximum of two years. The implementation of the transition roadmap started in November 2025. The National Assembly currently holds all legislative power as the Senate was not renewed.

  The country's election commission, CENI, announced a constitutional referendum for June 2027 and presidential elections for October 2027. The roadmap for voter registration is planned to be implemented up to April 2027.

  The suggested national political dialogue within the country met some resistance, especially from young people who have reiterated calls to dissolve the National Assembly and the election commission.

  The Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee for the IPU to monitor the situation, but also to support the National Assembly of Madagascar with a view to making the elections planned for 2027 as inclusive as possible and to ending the transition as planned.

- **Palestine**
  Municipal elections were held in April 2026, with legislative elections planned for November 2026 and presidential elections for 2027. The humanitarian situation in Gaza remains dire, with two-thirds of the population displaced.

  There is deep concern over the tragic situation in Gaza and the West Bank, including as a result of the destruction of infrastructure.

  The Governing Council concurred with the Executive Committee's view that the IPU should continue to promote its roadmap for a two-State solution, and supported the need for informal consultations to maintain a safe space for dialogue between the parties, despite the volatile political environment and upcoming Israeli elections.

  The Governing Council endorsed the Executive Committee's recommendation to urge the authorities to ensure the elections take place as planned and for the IPU to provide any necessary support for the elections, and also to the parliament that will be established as a result.

- **Yemen**
  Yemen remains divided by prolonged conflict, with peace negotiations stagnating due to regional tensions. The UN mission in the country ended in April 2026, and the humanitarian crisis risks leading to a total system breakdown.

The Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee for the IPU to continue to monitor the situation and establish if there is any way in which it can support the House of Representatives in its work.

D. Countries where the political situation constitutes a potential threat to parliament's capacity to function

- **Cuba**
  Cuba is facing a severe energy and economic crisis. Despite fuel shortages, the Cuban Parliament remains functional, sometimes holding virtual meetings. The Secretary General received a letter from the Speaker of the Parliament warning of a potential US military invasion.

  The Governing Council took note of this deep concern and expressed its solidarity with the people of Cuba.

- **Georgia**
  There are significant concerns regarding democratic backsliding, including the banning of opposition parties and restrictions on protests.

  The Governing Council expressed its concern about this political development and endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee for the IPU to continue to monitor the situation.

- **Iran (Islamic Republic of)**
  The situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran was stable in terms of parliamentary functioning, despite mass arrests, internet shutdowns and widening regional conflict.

  Attempts to find a ceasefire and conclude a memorandum of understanding between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America have not resulted in resolution of the conflict or a sustainable peace.

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

- **Lebanon**
  Lebanon has seen the mandate of its National Assembly extended until 2028 due to hostilities with Israel. Despite the difficult security environment, the Parliament continues working, and has recently abolished the death penalty and ratified the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. An IPU mission to the region is planned for the end of 2026.

  The Governing Council welcomed the efforts of the Parliament of Lebanon to continue functioning and endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee for the IPU to continue to monitor the situation.

- **Nepal**
  Following successful elections for both the upper and lower houses in early 2026, the Parliament is now functioning, despite the recent challenges of devastating floods.

  The Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to remove Nepal from the monitoring list.

8. IPU priority theme

The Secretary General presented an update on the implementation of the IPU's 2026 priority theme (respect for human rights), highlighting key initiatives undertaken, including virtual events, activities at the 152nd IPU Assembly in Istanbul to mark the 50th anniversary of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, and the launch of the global campaign *Bring human rights into focus*. She outlined ongoing and upcoming activities, including the digitization of the Committee's historical archives, a national academic event in Luxembourg on 26 October 2026, and the Global Parliamentary Conference on Human Rights in Geneva on 12 and 13 November 2026. She also noted encouraging engagement with the campaign and called on parliamentarians to translate their human rights commitments into concrete action.

The Secretary General also introduced the proposed 2027 priority theme, *Celebrating democracy that delivers for the people*, marking the 30th anniversary of the IPU's Universal Declaration on Democracy. In the face of growing global challenges and democratic backsliding, there was an urgent need to strengthen democracy. The 2027 priority theme will draw on existing and ongoing IPU work, including the promotion of political dialogue and conflict prevention, protection of parliamentarians from intimidation and violence, democratic standards, the Indicators for Democratic Parliaments, responses to political, societal and technological pressures, the role of the opposition, and majority-opposition relations, as well as civic education. The IPU will also launch the 2027 Global Parliamentary Report on parliaments under pressure, which will identify responses to political, societal and technological pressures.

9. Future inter-parliamentary meetings

The Governing Council approved the list of future meetings as recommended by the Executive Committee.

With regard to the 154th IPU Assembly in May 2027 in Geneva, Member Parliaments were encouraged to make the necessary arrangements for their hotel accommodation as soon as possible, as the revised dates (10–14 May 2027) fall during a busy period in Geneva.

10. Reports of committees and other bodies

The Governing Council approved the recommendations contained in the reports on the activities of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (CHRP), the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, the Gender Partnership Group, the Committee on Middle East Questions, the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, the Group of Facilitators for Cyprus, the Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, the Committee on Health, the Working Group on Science and Technology and the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG). The Council endorsed the new appointments to those bodies (see pages 40–43).

11. IPU Cremer-Passy Prize

The Cremer-Passy Prize is named after the IPU's founders. It recognizes an exceptional parliamentarian whose work makes a real contribution to the IPU's values and priorities, linked to the IPU theme of the year.

2026 marks the fourth edition of the prize. To improve its visibility and inclusivity, the Prize Selection Board, composed of former IPU Presidents and prominent parliamentarians from each geopolitical group, proposed the following changes to the Rules:

- Open up nominations by allowing individual parliamentarians, as well as groups of parliamentarians from Member Parliaments and Associate Members, to put forward candidates.
- Make the process simpler with less paperwork; less administration should make it easier for people to participate.
- Allow for exceptional cases. Enable the Board to award the Prize to the runner-up when exceptional circumstances prevent it from giving the award to the original winner, as happened in 2025.
- Strengthen due diligence. The Prize reflects directly on the IPU. Stronger checks would help protect both the Prize and the Organization from reputational risk.

On the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Governing Council approved the proposed amendments to the Rules with a view to raising the profile and prestige of the Prize in the future.

301st session of the Executive Committee

1. Sub-Committee on Finance

The President of the Sub-Committee on Finance, Mr. M. Dick (Australia), informed the Executive Committee of the work of the Sub-Committee, which had met to discuss financial questions ahead of the session of the Executive Committee. The Sub-Committee had reviewed the financial situation of the IPU as at 31 July 2026. The Organization's budget performance was on track for the year so far and its finances were healthy and stable. The situation of voluntary funding was also strong for the remainder of 2026. Accumulated arrears of IPU assessed contributions currently stood at CHF 2.5 million and the Secretariat was following up systematically with the Member Parliaments concerned.

The Sub-Committee had discussed the IPU's draft budget for 2027 and reviewed the budget document, which it presented to the Executive Committee in full. The core budget included an increase of 2% in total assessed contributions to stimulate the implementation of several specific and targeted elements of the new Strategy for 2027–2031 in its first year. The Sub-Committee advised the Executive Committee to recommend the 2027 budget to the Governing Council.

The Executive Committee also reviewed the update on the mobilization of voluntary funding. Mr. Dick expressed his appreciation for the support of the members of the Sub-Committee on Finance and thanked the IPU Secretariat team for their work.

2. Questions relating to IPU membership and observer status

The Executive Committee was pleased to note that efforts to achieve universal membership were paying off, as it had received a request from the Parliament of Naoero for it to join the global parliamentary community as the IPU's 184th Member Parliament.

The Executive Committee unanimously endorsed this request and decided to submit it for the Governing Council's approval.

The Executive Committee also received a request for observer status from the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers Conference (ISC). In conformity with past practice in relation to requests for observer status from organizations with which the IPU was not already familiar, the Executive Committee tasked the Secretariat with seeking more information about this organization to help it to make an informed decision on the request at a future session.

Following an update provided by the Secretariat on Members in arrears, and in order to ensure that the level of arrears for certain Members would not become unmanageable, the Executive Committee decided to invite the Governing Council to suspend the membership rights of Comoros, Guinea, Liberia*, the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu in application of Article 5.3 of the Statutes, due to their long-standing arrears.

The Executive Committee decided to defer the recommendation of similar suspensions for Cuba and the Syrian Arab Republic. In the case of Cuba, the deferral was due to the impact of international sanctions, which were preventing it from keeping up to date with payments. For the Syrian Arab Republic, the Executive Committee recommended giving the Parliament more time as its members had only recently been elected. The Executive Committee also recommended that the Secretariat engage with this Parliament so as to explore avenues for support.

In June 2026, the Executive Committee decided to recommend that the Governing Council accept the participation in the IPU of the National Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela elected in 2025. The recommendation also called on the IPU Secretary General to engage with the Venezuelan authorities, and on the Parliament to strengthen political inclusiveness, ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law, accept IPU support, and address its outstanding financial contributions to the Organization.

The Executive Committee was informed of subsequent discussions between the IPU Secretary General and the Speaker of the National Assembly. The Executive Committee was pleased to note the Speaker's interest to return to the IPU, settle all outstanding arrears, and cooperate with the Organization on outstanding issues, including cases before the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians.

These encouraging developments were reinforced in a hearing that the Executive Committee held with the Venezuelan delegation to the 153rd Assembly, led by the Deputy Speaker. The delegation reported recent legislative progress in the country, including an amnesty law, a hydrocarbons law to boost the economy, and new mining and leasing regulations. The Executive Committee welcomed this good news while also taking note of the significant challenges the country is facing, namely political and economic pressures and the recent major earthquake.

The Executive Committee welcomed the announcement of a forthcoming visit by the Speaker of the National Assembly of Venezuela to Geneva, which will offer an opportunity to explore more avenues for cooperation.

* Liberia paid its arrears in full on 7 October 2026 and thus the suspension of its membership rights did not take effect.

The Executive Committee welcomed the commitment of the Parliament to pay one third of its arrears in the weeks following the Assembly as a starting point, followed by additional payments until the arrears are totally cleared.

3. IPU initiatives in the area of parliamentary diplomacy

The Executive Committee received an update in follow-up to its previous discussions and proposals relating to the enhancement of the IPU's mechanisms on crisis management and parliamentary diplomacy. This update included an overview of mediation efforts and of the work of dedicated bodies such as the Committee on Middle East Questions and the Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, as well as of programmatic work such as the IPU's Science for Peace Schools programme.

The Executive Committee welcomed a proposed mission by the IPU Secretary General and the President of the Committee on Middle East Questions to the Syrian Arab Republic – following a positive response from the authorities – and possibly also to Jordan and Lebanon.

The Executive Committee took note of and commended the IPU's work on disarmament, in support of the ratification of international instruments on weapons of mass destruction.

The Executive Committee welcomed and took note of the IPU's continued efforts to build the capacity of MPs as mediators and peacebuilders, including through workshops such as one being held during the 153rd Assembly.

The Executive Committee was encouraged to hear that cross-cutting issues affecting global peace, such as climate change, artificial intelligence and migration, remain central to the Organization's work.

4. Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

Following extensive discussions and on the basis of a sub-amendment received from Switzerland indicating a lack of consensus among the membership on the proposal, the Executive Committee decided not to take forward for the time being the proposal to introduce provision for a second emergency item at IPU Assemblies. The Executive Committee noted that the IPU already has many mechanisms for responding to urgent situations.

This meant that the only amendment submitted for adoption at the 153rd Assembly was the amendment to the Rules of the Assembly intended to formalize a ban on props, visual displays and audio/video recordings during interventions in the General Debate.

The Executive Committee also agreed that, after a period in which a large number of amendments had been made to the Statutes and Rules, the IPU should now enter a period of consolidating the application of those rules, before considering, under the new IPU President, whether it would be appropriate to start a new amendments process at a later date.

The Executive Committee thanked Ms. N.B.K. Mutti (Zambia), who had capably led the Working Group on amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules, the driving force behind the many amendments adopted under the tenure of IPU President Dr. Ackson, which had served to modernize and enhance the IPU's legal framework.

5. IPU Secretariat

The Executive Committee was informed of staff movements and promotions.

Subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council

1. Forum and Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

The 42nd session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was held on 5 October 2026 with 193 participants in attendance, including 139 parliamentarians (123 women and 16 men) from 73 countries. Dr. Z.A. Hamid (United Republic of Tanzania) presided over the session.

As a contribution to the work of the Assembly, participants examined, from a gender perspective, the draft resolution before the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, entitled *Inclusive social development for all: Parliamentary strategies to promote the rights and empowerment of persons living with disabilities*. The Forum supported several amendments proposed by delegations aimed at enhancing gender equality in and through the draft resolution, all of which were incorporated into the text of the draft resolution.

The Forum held a panel discussion on *Moving from commitment to action: Women's leadership in diplomacy and peacebuilding*. Participants called for gender parity in diplomacy and peacebuilding, stressing that women's proven leadership in preventing conflict and sustaining peace is still not reflected in their access to power as mediators, negotiators, and leaders of diplomatic missions and international organizations. They called for parity in leadership, the institutionalization of women's decision-making authority, and support for women to remain in positions of authority and exercise influence. This ambition extended to climate diplomacy and governance. Participants called for the adoption and effective implementation of Women, Peace and Security National Action Plans, backed by adequate budgets and parliamentary oversight. They also emphasized that justice and survivors' rights must be at the heart of this agenda, highlighting legislative action against femicide as a means to strengthen accountability and prevent further violence. They also called for cross-party cooperation and men's engagement and leadership on this issue.

The Bureau of Women Parliamentarians met on 5 and 8 October 2026. Members exchanged updates on recent legislative developments and initiatives in their respective countries. They took stock of the Assembly's results from a gender perspective and of upcoming initiatives to advance gender equality. They reviewed preparations for the Forum's next session and future work, calling for a focus on legislation to combat violence against women, particularly femicide by current or former intimate partners, including the recognition of coercive and controlling conduct as an aggravating factor.

2. Forum and Bureau of Young Parliamentarians

The Forum of Young Parliamentarians was held on 6 October 2026. It brought together 62 parliamentarians (37% of whom were women) from 48 countries. It was presided over by Ms. N. Abu Ghosh (Jordan), President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Abu Ghosh paid tribute to the outgoing IPU President and thanked her for her leadership in strengthening the Forum. The IPU President encouraged young MPs to continue to use their voice and challenge the status quo.

The Forum held an exchange with Dr. T.A. Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), who highlighted how youth participation was integrated into the work of WHO. He called on parliamentarians to make health a political priority.

Members contributed youth perspectives to the 153rd Assembly, calling for greater transparency, oversight and inclusion to build trust in public institutions. They received an update from the Forum's rapporteur on their proposed amendments to the draft resolution before the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights. In preparation for the 154th IPU Assembly, the Forum appointed Mr. H.E. Hasan (Bahrain) as youth rapporteur for the two draft resolutions and provided perspectives to inform the rapporteur's youth overview report.

Members also reported on new youth developments in their countries. They lamented the fact that only 14% of delegates at the Assembly were young MPs and called for parliaments to include at least one young MP in their delegations. The Forum also held a hearing with candidates for the post of IPU President and drew attention to two forthcoming events: the United Nations Youth Townhall in Germany in December 2026, and the IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Bahrain in 2027.

Earlier in the day, the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians discussed ideas to revitalize the Forum. They agreed to look into devoting more time to Forum meetings at IPU Assemblies and supplementing its current agenda with space for more innovative and interactive sessions.

3. Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

The Committee held its 181st session from 4 to 8 October 2026. Ms. N. Odsuren (Mongolia), President, Ms. M.G. Odhiambo (Kenya), Mr. C. Rendón (Mexico), Ms. L. Fehlmann Rielle (Switzerland), Mr. C. Supphaiboonlerd (Thailand) and Ms. N. Acora Odonga (Uganda) participated in the session. Mr. H. Kamboni (Zambia), Vice-President, and Mr. M. Grujić (Serbia) also participated in the session remotely.

During the session, the Committee examined the situation of 359 parliamentarians (31% of whom are women) in 20 countries. New cases concerning 17 parliamentarians were declared admissible in Argentina (1 MP), Colombia (1 MP), Democratic Republic of Congo (1 MP), India (1 MP), Mauritania (2 MPs), Mongolia (1 MP), Myanmar (7 MPs), Türkiye (1 MP), Uganda (1 MP) and Ukraine (1 MP).

The Committee also held five hearings with the following national delegations: Bangladesh, Türkiye, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Ukraine.

The Committee submitted decisions to the Governing Council for adoption on the situation of 298 parliamentarians in the following countries: Argentina, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Israel, Mauritania, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

See the document detailing the decisions adopted.

4. Committee on Middle East Questions

Since the last Assembly, held in April 2026, the Committee on Middle East Questions had met informally, on 23 and 28 September 2026, to discuss follow-up action agreed at its 84th meeting to coordinate with the Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre on parliamentary actions regarding settlements in the West Bank.

At the 153rd IPU Assembly, the Committee held two sittings, on 6 and 8 October 2026, chaired by its President, Ms. A. Erdoğan (Türkiye). With only four members present, the quorum required under its Rule 6.2 was not met. The Committee was therefore not able to take decisions or adopt follow-up commitments to its discussions as provided for in its Rule 7.2.

At its first sitting, held on 6 October 2026, the Committee held a hearing with Ms. Ö. Irmakkesen, Legal Adviser at the Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre, on international humanitarian law (IHL) as applied to settlements in the West Bank. It also heard a briefing by Mr. R. Friedrich, Director of UNRWA Affairs, West Bank, at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Mr. Friedrich reported an increase in settler violence and harassment, with more than 5,100 incidents recorded in 2026, noting that Operation Iron Wall had displaced more than 34,000 Palestinian refugees, the largest forced displacement in the West Bank since 1967. Based on these exchanges, members recalled that, under international law, ending the occupation of the occupied Palestinian territory is also the responsibility of third States. They noted the urgency of reducing violence against Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Members observed that the unlawfulness of settlements, as consistently affirmed by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and by the UN Security Council, was the subject of broad international consensus. Members underlined the need for parliaments to: use their oversight role to ask governments how they implement the obligations of non-recognition, non-assistance and differentiation identified by the ICJ and by the UN Security Council; review domestic legislation and national policy on trade, investment and services connected with settlements accordingly; and ensure that domestic law criminalizes war crimes – as defined notably in the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court – and that it provides for universal jurisdiction. Parliaments should also ensure that decisions on arms transfers are consistent with their State's obligation to ensure respect for IHL. It was noted that this work is aligned with the resolution adopted by the 152nd IPU Assembly on *The urgent need for concerted parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and support peacebuilding in the Middle East and other regions*. Members expressed a wish that the Committee carry these recommendations forward to Member Parliaments.

Under its rotating regional focus, the Committee then held an exchange with a delegation from the People's Assembly of the Syrian Arab Republic. The delegates welcomed further engagement with the IPU and the Committee, and emphasized that the expertise and support of other parliaments through the IPU were essential, including for developing and harmonizing new legislation contributing to a peaceful environment in the Syrian Arab Republic and the wider region. Responding to members, they confirmed their interest in dialogue and parliamentary diplomacy.

The Committee raised the need to hold another formal in-person meeting, with the participation of its newly elected members, ahead of the 154th IPU Assembly. Istanbul and Geneva were proposed as potential locations. Members further discussed the possibility of a visit to the West Bank, including refugee camps and UNRWA offices. A decision on this matter was deferred until the quorum is reached, potentially at the proposed formal in-person meeting.

5. Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

The Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) met on 7 October 2026. The sitting was chaired by Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka (Poland).

Review of specific situations of humanitarian concern

The Committee received an update on recent developments related to situations of humanitarian concern. It paid particular attention to the humanitarian situation in the Lake Chad Basin. It heard from the parliamentary delegation from Chad, as well as from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The Lake Chad Basin sits at the intersection of humanitarian crisis, regional instability and transnational security risk in West Africa. Armed groups operating across porous borders continue to drive displacement and erode State presence, while climate shocks, resource scarcity and economic fragility deepen vulnerability and fuel recruitment. As of July 2026, more than 3.5 million people had been forcibly displaced, while 8.2 million required humanitarian assistance across the region. As of September 2026, Chad hosted more than 1.5 million refugees (of whom more than 1.4 million had come from Sudan), while nearly 200,000 people were internally displaced in the country.

With regard to the humanitarian situation in Chad, the delegation focused first on the challenge of access to water in refugee-affected and hosting areas, highlighting that this had become a matter of civilian protection and stability, rather than a basic service. An increase in the number of incidents around areas where water is available, and the consequent deterioration of the health of civilians, especially that of displaced populations hosted in refugee camps, have also been observed. In response, Chad is gradually integrating the water infrastructure of hosting areas into the national public service, for the benefit of both refugees and host communities (the *Un système d'eau pour tous* initiative). Regarding the civilian character of asylum, and current challenges related to security in refugee camps in Chad, the delegation stressed the importance of preserving the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and sites, including by placing them in areas located far from conflict zones, thus limiting potential influence and recruitment by armed groups.

The Committee expressed its solidarity with the situation and praised the efforts undertaken by Chadian authorities. The Committee called on IPU Member Parliaments to raise awareness, within their parliaments and geopolitical groups, about this situation and to encourage their governments to increase financial support for humanitarian response efforts. The Committee also considered the proposal to carry out a mission to Chad in the future.

Parliamentary commitments to promote respect for and ensure implementation of IHL

The Committee continued its consideration of the findings of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) report entitled *International Humanitarian Law and the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts*. During this session, Committee members exchanged on the protection of the environment in armed conflict and heard from the ICRC in that regard.

The Committee was also briefed by the ICRC on recent developments regarding the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law and the upcoming meetings of the Global Initiative, namely the Global IHL Dialogue (November 2026, Geneva) and the High-Level Conference on Humanity in War (December 2026, Jordan). It drew attention to the joint letter sent by the IPU Secretary General and the ICRC President to all Presidents of IPU Groups identifying key actions for follow-up, both on the Global Initiative and on the Geneva Declaration on *Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis*, endorsed by the 151st IPU Assembly in October 2025.

Humanitarian disarmament treaties

The Committee continued its work on raising awareness on key humanitarian disarmament treaties. During this session, the Committee was briefed by the Implementation Support Units of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). The Committee welcomed the outcomes of the Third Review Conference of the CCM, which had resulted in the Vientiane Capital Action Plan 2027–2031 and its formal acknowledgement of the role of parliaments and of the IPU. Committee members also welcomed the recent accession to the APMBC by Lebanon and considered potential strategies for parliamentary action in support of the Convention in the lead-up to its 30th anniversary in 2027.

Parliamentary commitments towards ending statelessness

The Committee discussed parliamentary strategies towards ending statelessness in light of the 65th anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness in 2026. Although the Convention has been instrumental towards ensuring the right to a nationality and eradicating statelessness, only 82 States are currently parties to it.

Respect for IHL and the situation in the Middle East

As a follow-up to the resolution *The urgent need for concerted parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and support peacebuilding in the Middle East and other regions*, adopted by the 152nd IPU Assembly in Istanbul, Türkiye, in April 2026, and specifically its operative paragraph 7, the Committee

decided to put forward general recommendations for parliamentary measures to promote respect for IHL and address any further deterioration. These recommendations build on those included in the IPU's October 2025 Geneva Declaration.

The overall objective of the proposed parliamentary measures included in these recommendations is to respect and ensure respect for IHL. Parliaments can use their legislative, oversight, budgetary and representative functions to contribute to the fulfilment of States' obligation to respect and ensure respect for IHL, as reflected in Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions. This includes taking measures to ensure that governments and armed forces comply with IHL, and, where a State has influence over parties to an armed conflict, using that influence to promote those parties' respect for IHL.

In particular, parliamentarians can:

1. *Speak out*: Use their influence as opinion leaders and representatives of the people to raise awareness among public authorities, civil society organizations and constituents about the fundamental rules and principles of IHL, counter misinformation and dehumanizing narratives, and speak out nationally, regionally and internationally when respect for IHL is at risk of being undermined.
2. *Legislate*: Ensure that IHL obligations are fully reflected in national legislation, including by adopting or reviewing legislation on the repression of serious IHL violations, and ensuring that national authorities have the legal means to investigate and prosecute those responsible.
3. *Oversee*: Exercise oversight of government decisions relevant to armed conflict, including decisions related to the use of armed force, arms transfers and participation in peace operations, to ensure that they are consistent with international humanitarian law and that the humanitarian impact of such decisions is clearly taken into consideration.
4. *Approve budgets*: Allocate predictable and multi-year resources for the implementation of IHL, including for national IHL capacity-building, the functioning of relevant national structures, and recurrent budgets for IHL training for armed and security forces.
5. *Bring IHL to parliament*: Ensure that IHL is mainstreamed across the work of parliament, including by establishing a parliamentary body dealing with matters pertaining to IHL, integrating IHL expertise into parliamentary research and legislative services, building the knowledge and expertise of parliamentary staff, and building partnerships with national IHL committees, humanitarian organizations including the International Committee of the Red Cross and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and relevant civil society organizations.

Future activities of the Committee

The Committee invited members to join the third and final webinar in its IHL webinar series, entitled *Complying with IHL in large-scale conflicts: Key preparedness measures*. The Committee also agreed to organize, in the near future, an event on cyberwarfare and IHL.

6. Committee on Health

The IPU Committee on Health met on 5 October 2026 with eight members in attendance.
The Committee members examined issues and shared good practices and lessons learned from their countries on increasing domestic funding for health, sustaining the HIV/AIDS response and leveraging technology for the training of health workers, as well as on legislation on mental health, gender-based violence and adolescent health, and on inclusive policymaking in relation to the health of persons with disabilities.

The Committee also held a dialogue with partners on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and HIV/AIDS in the context of the changing donor landscape. The members exchanged with experts from the World Health Organization (WHO), the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, UNAIDS, the United Nations Population Fund, the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights, and the Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS and Health Service Organizations.

In response to the concerns raised in the dialogue, the Committee adopted a statement to express concern that reductions in official development assistance for health are disrupting the continuity, accessibility and sustainability of essential SRHR and HIV/AIDS services, disproportionately affecting communities in vulnerable situations. It called for parliaments and governments to remove legal, policy, financial and service-delivery barriers, ensure equitable and non-discriminatory access to prevention and services, and provide adequate and sustainable domestic financing for essential SRHR and

HIV/AIDS programmes. It also emphasized the importance of continued cooperation among parliaments, governments, civil society, communities and development partners, as well as the exchange of good practices to strengthen health systems and sustain services amid a changing international funding environment.

The Committee discussed the importance of health prevention with experts from WHO and UNICEF, with a focus on vaccination. The discussions highlighted challenges in relation to vaccine hesitancy, misinformation, and equity in access to vaccines between countries and regions. They underscored the importance of rebuilding trust after the COVID-19 pandemic by understanding people's lived experiences, translating scientific information into clear communication for the public and putting equity at the centre.

The Committee requested that the IPU Secretariat prepare a one-year workplan to follow up on the issues discussed.

7. Group of Facilitators for Cyprus

The Group of Facilitators for Cyprus did not hold its session due to the snap parliamentary elections that prevented the representatives of the Turkish Cypriot political parties from attending the Assembly.

The two facilitators, Mr. H. Carneiro (Portugal) and Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland), met in order to discuss practical modalities, such as the two open vacancies in the Group, as well as matters pertaining to how the Group can best support dialogue with political party representatives from both sides of the island. In this regard, it was noted that the last meeting of the Group, where representatives from both sides were able to attend, took place at the 150th IPU Assembly in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in 2025.

The facilitators reflected on suggestions made during earlier Group meetings that could facilitate more proactive engagement between the political parties in Cyprus. The facilitators regretted that these suggestions had not yet come to fruition. They stressed their continued commitment to the work of the Group and its mandate to facilitate dialogue, and looked forward to the proactive engagement of the parties.

The facilitators also discussed the latest developments on the island and in the dialogue process, as reflected in the most recent report of the UN Secretary-General on the mission of good offices in Cyprus. They agreed to continue their efforts to arrange a meeting with the Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Cyprus and to invite the UN Development Programme Cyprus Office to brief the Group at the upcoming 154th IPU Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland.

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

At its 17th meeting, the Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine expressed deep concern over the growing toll of the conflict on civilians and civilian infrastructure. The meeting was chaired by Mr. A. Al Nuaimi (United Arab Emirates) and attended by Dr. T. Ackson (IPU President), Mr. A. Bagbin (Ghana), Mr. C. Abela (Malta) and Ms. A. Filip (IPU Secretary General).

The Task Force continued its substantive discussions with both delegations on the issue of children separated from their parents and close relatives. It received additional information from the parties concerning cases previously submitted and agreed to maintain its follow-up on outstanding cases. The Task Force also pursued the discussions initiated at its previous meeting concerning persons allegedly deprived of their liberty. It took note of the information provided by the delegations and agreed to continue exploring whether its good offices could facilitate further exchanges.

The Task Force also discussed the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, highlighting the responsibilities of parliamentarians in protecting civilians and promoting respect for international humanitarian law. It encouraged both delegations to focus on what their own parliaments could do, through the exercise of their legislative, budgetary, oversight and political functions, to help reduce the impact of the conflict on civilians. It also emphasized the importance of remaining attentive to the realities faced by affected populations and to the human consequences of the conflict. Particular attention was drawn to the need to protect essential civilian infrastructure and services as the winter months approach.

The Task Force further noted the possibility of renewed negotiations at the intergovernmental level in the coming months and expressed the hope that, in due course, these could be accompanied by a parallel and complementary parliamentary track. Members reiterated the importance of maintaining channels of parliamentary dialogue as part of broader efforts towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The Task Force agreed to continue its work between Assemblies and to remain in close contact with both delegations on the issues discussed. It will continue to follow developments and international negotiations, facilitate exchanges where useful, and explore opportunities for further parliamentary engagement.

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

The High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG) held its 21st meeting on 5 October 2026. The meeting was chaired by Ms. M. Guerra Castillo (Mexico).

Throughout the meeting, participants placed particular emphasis on moving from discussion to concrete parliamentary action and developing practical tools to support parliaments in responding to terrorism and violent extremism.

Participants congratulated the Secretariat on the work undertaken in developing and refining the IPU reference framework on the definition of terrorism. They highlighted the framework as a significant achievement of the Group and welcomed its potential as a practical reference resource for parliaments in their legislative and oversight work.

A major part of the discussion focused on advancing implementation of the Call of the Sahel. Participants stressed the need to move from recommendations to tangible results on the ground, based on the priorities and realities of Sahel countries and with their parliaments playing a central role. They emphasized the importance of stronger coordination with regional parliamentary organizations and direct engagement with national parliaments, as well as the need to avoid duplication of efforts. The planned parliamentary visits to Burkina Faso and Niger were discussed as opportunities to identify national priorities and concrete areas for parliamentary action.

The discussion on children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups generated a strong call for practical support to parliaments. Following a presentation by a representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), participants emphasized the importance of prevention, protection, rehabilitation and reintegration, as well as the need to address the vulnerabilities that facilitate recruitment and exploitation. It was proposed that the HLAG, together with UNODC, develop practical guidance for parliamentarians, including tools for parliamentary oversight and legislative review, and simple indicators to monitor prevention, identification and reintegration.

The Chairperson informed members of the outcomes of the webinar on victims of terrorism. Participants stressed that recognizing victims' rights in legislation is not sufficient unless those rights can be effectively exercised through access to justice, assistance and reparation. They emphasized the need for practical tools to support implementation and proposed further developing the platform of the IPU's existing programme on counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism as a resource for parliamentarians. In particular, it was suggested that the programme's interactive map could provide country-specific information on national institutions responsible for assisting victims of terrorism, in cooperation with UNODC.

Overall, participants called for policy discussions to be translated into practical tools and guidance that parliamentarians can use in their legislative, budgetary and oversight work. Issues proposed for further consideration by the HLAG included the links between trafficking in persons, organized crime and terrorism; the relationship between natural resources and terrorism; and the subject of the financing of terrorism.

10. Working Group on Science and Technology

The Working Group on Science and Technology (WGST) held one sitting, on 7 October 2026. The meeting was chaired by Mr. N. In-na (Thailand), Vice-Chairperson of the Working Group.

A major part of the meeting was devoted to a joint Arusha–Quy Nhon dialogue between parliamentarians and scientists on *Parliamentary and scientific diplomacy in times of conflict*. The exchange highlighted the need for stronger and more regular engagement between the scientific and parliamentary communities, particularly as scientific and technological developments are increasingly outpacing existing institutional and regulatory frameworks. Participants underlined the importance of timely, independent and accessible scientific advice to support legislation, oversight and informed parliamentary decision-making, and agreed on the value of continuing the dialogue between parliamentarians and scientists.

During a tour de table, members shared recent developments in their parliaments relating to science and technology. These included new parliamentary structures and national strategies on AI, legislation on AI, data protection and cybersecurity, strategic foresight mechanisms, and the use of AI-supported tools within parliaments. Members supported stronger exchanges of good practices and the development of a broader overview of parliamentary structures, legislation and approaches to science, technology and AI.

In discussing the IPU Strategy for 2027–2031, members called for science, technology and innovation to be more closely connected with the wider work of the Organization. They supported stronger cooperation between the Working Group and other IPU bodies on cross-cutting issues and encouraged the development of a stronger global evidence base on parliamentary approaches to science and technology.

The Working Group also reviewed the proposed Annex to the *IPU Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology* on AI ethics. No new textual amendments were proposed. In light of the rapid evolution of AI, members considered that the work undertaken on the Annex should form part of a broader and more holistic IPU approach to AI. The Group was briefed on the IPU's expanding AI programme, including parliamentary dialogue, policy guidance, international engagement, capacity-building and the responsible use of AI within parliaments. Members considered the Working Group well-placed to help coordinate this work and set priorities.

Members revisited the proposal for a dedicated retreat on the IPU Strategy and the Organization's holistic approach to AI, with an invitation from the United Arab Emirates to host remaining open. The new leadership and Secretariat will continue considering the objectives, timing and format of such a retreat.

The meeting concluded by reaffirming the importance of continued cooperation between parliaments and the scientific community and of ensuring that scientific and technological progress contributes to peace, sustainable development and human well-being.

11. Gender Partnership Group

The Gender Partnership Group held its 54th session on 4 and 8 October 2026. In attendance were Ms. S. Mikayilova (Azerbaijan) in the Chair, Mr. K. Vanlouwe (replacing Mr. A. Gryffroy, (Belgium) and Mr. M. Ali Sera (Indonesia).

As per its mandate, the Group reviewed the state of women's participation in national parliaments, as well as in IPU bodies and Assemblies. It examined in particular the composition of delegations at the 153rd Assembly. As of 9 October 2026, 39.4% of the delegates at the Assembly were women (see page 98), which is the highest share ever achieved, above the previous record 39% women delegates in Nusa Dua in 2022 and in Madrid in 2021. At this Assembly, 40 delegations out of 136 (29.4%) were gender-balanced, meaning that they were composed of 40–60% women or men. This is a higher percentage than at the last Assembly (see page 99). Of the 136 delegations present, 130 were composed of at least two delegates, of which 9 were all-male (6.9%). All in all, four delegations were subject to sanctions at this Assembly.

The Group took stock of ongoing efforts to implement the *Policy to prevent and address harassment, including sexual harassment, at IPU Assemblies and other IPU events*. It welcomed the fact that the policy was increasingly being used and that incidents were being addressed. The Group also noted with appreciation the recent steps taken by national parliaments and regional parliamentary assemblies to adopt similar policies or enhance existing ones. It highlighted the importance of independent reporting mechanisms to ensure the effectiveness of such policies.

The Group took stock of developments in parliaments whose delegations it had met in recent years. In Algeria, following the July 2026 elections to the National People's Assembly, the share of seats held by women decreased further from 8.1% to 6.1%. On a more positive note, a woman had been elected as Speaker for the first time in the country's history. The Group expressed its hope that this development would serve as a catalyst for increased women's representation at future elections in Algeria. In Oman, women hold 20% of seats in the appointed State Council but are not currently represented in the elected Shura Council. In 2026, a royal decree was adopted reserving 11 seats for women, to be applied at the next election in 2027. The Group welcomed this development and encouraged other parliaments to also adopt legal frameworks aimed at advancing women's representation.

As per its mandate, the Group held a dialogue session with the delegation of The Gambia, with a view to discussing how to improve women's representation in parliament. This followed the first dialogue held with the delegation in October 2025 during the 151st IPU Assembly. The Gambian delegation informed the Group about recent steps taken to enhance the representation of women in the National Assembly, which currently stands at 8.6%. The Select Committee on Gender, Children and Social Welfare had proposed to reserve 14 seats for women and 2 seats for persons with disabilities, and had raised awareness among MPs on this matter. The proposal, which is required to take the form of a government bill owing to its financial implications, is currently under consideration by the government at the initiative of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare. The Group expressed its hope that the bill could be considered before the April 2027 elections.

The delegation reiterated its concerns regarding persistent barriers that can prevent women from running as candidates, such as harmful social norms, a lack of financial resources, and limited public awareness and political party support. The need for MPs to conduct community outreach was therefore also noted, so as to enhance understanding of the importance of women's political participation. Efforts were also required to encourage more political parties to adopt voluntary quotas, to financially support women candidates and to engage male parliamentarians as champions.

The Group asked the IPU Secretariat to consider support that could be provided for ongoing efforts in The Gambia, with a view to enhancing women's representation ahead of the 2027 elections.

Other activities and events

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

On 5 October 2026, the IPU President and Secretary General met with the Chairpersons of the geopolitical groups, the Presidents of the Standing Committees and the Presidents of the other specialized bodies of the IPU.

As the IPU President and Secretary General were delayed at the opening of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, Ms. M.S. Al Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates), President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, opened the meeting on their behalf. She recalled the scope and mandate agreed at the previous session, establishing the joint meeting as a consultative forum for anticipating emerging issues, strengthening coordination across IPU bodies and providing input into key organizational processes.

Introducing the discussion on human rights, the IPU's priority theme for 2026, the IPU Secretary General provided an overview of the activities undertaken throughout the year, including events on the rights of persons with disabilities, international human rights law and artificial intelligence. She also highlighted the IPU's *Bring human rights into focus* campaign, aimed at protecting the rights of parliamentarians and strengthening parliamentary action to promote human rights through legislation, oversight and policymaking. She encouraged participants to support the campaign within their respective bodies and national parliaments and outlined forthcoming initiatives, including the Global Parliamentary Conference on Human Rights, scheduled to be held in November 2026 in Geneva.

Ms. N. Odsuren (Mongolia), President of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, emphasized the importance of closer cooperation with national parliaments to protect parliamentarians facing threats, intimidation and other human rights violations.

Mr. H. Mohammad (Malaysia), President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, recalled that the Committee's Bureau had proposed organizing an event on the implementation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, in partnership with the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, which was scheduled to take place on 7 October 2026 during the Assembly.

Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia), acting President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, called for stronger coordination and information-sharing across IPU bodies, including more regular updates on cases concerning the human rights of parliamentarians. She also raised the need to consider different time zones when organizing virtual activities to facilitate participation from all regions.

Ms. M. Guerra Castillo (Mexico), President of the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, highlighted the importance of protecting the rights of victims of terrorism. In response, the IPU President indicated that, as with the Committee on Middle East Questions, the mandate of the High-Level Advisory Group would be reviewed with a view to strengthening its work and the IPU's support to countries affected by terrorism and violent extremism.

Turning to the implementation of the IPU Strategy for 2027–2031, Ms. K. Jabre, IPU Director of Programmes, presented its main objectives and the arrangements envisaged for its implementation. She recalled that the Strategy had been developed through an extensive consultation process involving more than 1,000 individuals from 111 countries. She outlined the proposed implementation mechanisms, including annual workplans, regular reporting, closer alignment of the work of IPU bodies with strategic objectives, and stronger monitoring and evaluation. She invited participants to reflect on how their respective bodies could contribute to the implementation and dissemination of the Strategy.

The IPU Secretary General then introduced the proposed process for developing a Member engagement strategy in 2027, as foreseen in the new Strategy. She outlined the different dimensions of Member engagement, encompassing institutional participation, political processes, programmatic activities, and communications, as well as opportunities to strengthen relationships at the national, regional and global levels. She presented a proposed three-phase process involving mapping and data collection, stakeholder consultations, and the preparation of a first draft for consideration at the next Assembly in May 2027.

In the ensuing discussion, participants expressed support for the new Strategy and exchanged views on practical ways to strengthen its implementation. Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland), Chair of the Twelve Plus Group, emphasized the importance of translating the Strategy into concrete action and offered the support of the geopolitical groups in facilitating contacts, partnerships and thematic cooperation. He suggested that the geopolitical groups could regularly review implementation of the Strategy, including by placing it on their agendas at least once a year.

Ms. M.S. Al Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates) outlined three proposed areas of focus for the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development: climate action and environmental resilience; inclusive sustainable development; and technology and innovation. She also proposed making greater use of Standing Committees to sustain cooperation with national parliaments between Assemblies, including through targeted thematic initiatives.

Mr. K. Al Maawali (Oman), President of the Arab Group, stressed the need for adequate resources, monitoring mechanisms and more regular communication with Member Parliaments, including through virtual meetings.

Mr. A. Kolotou Tchaïmi (Chad), President of the African Group, expressed support for the Strategy and emphasized the need to take account of regional specificities and provide tailored assistance to geopolitical groups.

Mr. R. Edwards (Chile), President of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, highlighted the opportunities and challenges arising from rapid developments in artificial intelligence and suggested giving emerging technologies a more prominent place in the IPU's policy priorities.

In closing, the IPU President reflected on progress in implementing the IPU Strategy for 2022–2026, noting that the majority of objectives had been achieved across several areas, while elements not fully implemented had been carried forward into the new Strategy. She encouraged participants to familiarize themselves with the Strategy for 2027–2031 and to share suggestions on how best to support its implementation, including through written contributions from their respective geopolitical groups to the IPU Secretariat.

2. Informal consultation on *Pathways to peaceful coexistence in the Middle East*

This informal consultation was held on 5 October 2026 as a closed session. It brought together 20 IPU officeholders and heads of delegation to exchange on specific ways in which parliamentary diplomacy can concretely contribute to efforts for peaceful coexistence and mutual recognition between peoples and States in the Middle East. The consultation was moderated by Ms. A. Filip (IPU Secretary General) and Mr. A. Bagbin (Ghana). Dr. T. Ackson (IPU President) opened and closed the session. Participants were from the following delegations: Armenia, Bahrain, France, Jordan, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom. They represented many of the IPU's bodies that deal with crisis situations affecting peace and security.

The consultation built on various IPU dialogues, resolutions and commitments in recent years in response to the escalation of conflict and humanitarian crises in different parts of the world, especially in the Middle East, including: the IPU President's mission to Israel and Palestine in November 2023; the resolution on *The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine* (150th IPU Assembly, Tashkent, Uzbekistan); the Geneva Declaration on *Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis* (151st IPU Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland); the emergency item resolution on *The urgent need for concerted parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and support peacebuilding in the Middle East and other regions*, and the special session on *Advancing the two-State solution for Israel and Palestine: Pathways to peace in the Middle East* (152nd IPU Assembly, Istanbul, Türkiye); and the ongoing efforts of the IPU Committee on Middle East Questions.

The session was divided into two parts. The first part invited reflection on parliamentary experiences and efforts to recognize a two-State solution for Israel and Palestine, respect international humanitarian law, and use mediation and dialogue as tools for fostering peaceful coexistence. The second part looked ahead to how parliamentary diplomacy, and the IPU mechanisms that accompany it, could contribute further to peaceful coexistence and mutual recognition. Inputs were heard from parliamentarians involved in different IPU mechanisms or who had specific country experiences on the relevant themes. The floor was then opened for responses and discussion.

The consultation highlighted a recurring gap between the adoption of resolutions during IPU Assemblies and their implementation at the national level. Participants stressed that parliamentary diplomacy would only be credible if commitments were translated into concrete national and international action through legislation, budgetary decisions, oversight of government policy and sustained follow-up. At the same time, participants repeatedly affirmed the need for continued dialogue, despite the loss of trust over the years, particularly as parliamentarians could keep dialogue channels open when formal diplomatic channels ceased to function.

Participants underlined the fact that respect for international law, and international humanitarian law in particular, was the foundation of any lasting peace. They also affirmed that there could be no sustainable peace without justice and accountability, which must not be selectively applied. The oversight and legislative roles of parliament were noted as being particularly important in this regard. The suffering of civilians must not be weaponized for electoral gains.

Views differed, however, on the conditions required for meaningful dialogue and peaceful coexistence. Some emphasized that coexistence could not advance in and between Israel and Palestine without an end to occupation and the realization of Palestinian rights and sovereignty. Others stressed the importance of engaging all available parliamentary and societal voices capable of building bridges across divides.

Much of the discussion relating to Israel and Palestine centred around support for the two-State solution, in line with the 2025 IPU resolution on this subject. A concern was raised about the viability of this proposal at the present time, given the situation of occupation, impunity and violence in Gaza and the West Bank, including settlement expansion and forced displacement.

Diverse views were shared regarding different challenges to peace, security and coexistence. Experiences of reconciliation in Europe after the Second World War, as well as in Northern Ireland and South Africa, were cited to illustrate the role of sustained contact between societies, and of international solidarity, in building peace.

A number of possible avenues for parliamentary action were proposed, including the following:

- Bring relevant IPU resolutions back to national parliaments and encourage their implementation, such as by allocating more budgetary resources for humanitarian assistance.
- Encourage parliamentarians to visit areas of conflict to see the situation on the ground first-hand.
- Identify other parliamentarians willing to engage in inter-parliamentary dialogue on peaceful coexistence in the Middle East.
- Strengthen the dialogue capacities of parliamentarians by offering training in mediation, negotiation and conflict resolution.
- Encourage cross-party dialogue and parliamentary friendship groups with the legislatures of Israel and Palestine with a view to building relationships and fostering interest in dialogue.
- Advise fellow parliamentarians, as well as governments, on insights gained through dialogue processes and, where necessary, challenge government positions.
- Engage the newly elected legislatures of Israel and Palestine following the upcoming elections.

- Encourage national action and inter-parliamentary cooperation around humanitarian commitments amenable to all parties to conflict, such as accounting for missing persons and releasing detainees, as well as child protection.
- Engage in efforts to counter hate speech and misinformation.
- Use the arts as a tool for fostering peaceful coexistence.
- Develop a common parliamentary method for peace, which could apply in different contexts of conflict.

Despite the difficult and polarized geopolitical environment in which this consultation took place, there was widespread support for continued parliamentary diplomacy efforts, particularly as a means of building trust. Participants nevertheless emphasized that meaningful dialogue required political will, participation from all sides, and credible follow-up. Most participants were of the view that efforts should be made to include all parties to the conflicts. Parliamentary diplomacy must always complement government efforts.

Participants emphasized that the consultation should mark the beginning of a sustained dialogue process, combining immediate humanitarian responsibilities with efforts towards justice, mutual recognition and peaceful coexistence. Some also mentioned that the consultation format could be replicated to cover other conflicts. It was noted that the IPU Strategy for 2027–2031 provided a road map for continuing this dialogue, with its dedicated Strategic Objective on facilitating parliamentary diplomacy, dialogue and joint action.

3. Panel discussion on *The role of parliamentarians in the Abolition of the Death Penalty*

This panel discussion, held on 6 October 2026, was jointly organized by the IPU and the International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP). The session was attended by some 30 participants, including parliamentarians from Bangladesh, Germany, Kenya, Mongolia, Pakistan, Spain and Thailand. The discussion was moderated by Ms. C. Roth (Germany) and featured the following panellists: Ms. B. Lochbihler (Commissioner, ICDP; former Member of the European Parliament), Ms. S. Kayitesi (Commissioner, ICDP; former Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Rwanda), Ms. M. Odhiambo (Kenya) and Mr. C. Supphaiboonlerd (Thailand).

Panellists reviewed global and African trends towards abolition and discussed the particular role that parliamentarians can play in moving the issue forward, including in countries that retain the death penalty. Ms. Lochbihler (ICDP) highlighted the continuing global trend towards abolition, while noting that executions remain concentrated in a relatively small number of States. Ms. Kayitesi (ICDP) reflected on developments in Africa and on the importance of sustained political, legal and public engagement in advancing abolition. Ms. Odhiambo (Kenya) described developments in her country, including a private member's bill which could not proceed after its sponsor became a minister, while stressing that another parliamentarian could still take it forward. Mr. Supphaiboonlerd (Thailand) addressed the incompatibility of the death penalty with human rights and underlined the importance of engaging young parliamentarians in abolition efforts.

In the discussion, which included questions from the floor, participants stressed the need for public education and informed debate, particularly following high-profile and atrocious crimes, when sensational reporting and public anger can strengthen calls to retain or reintroduce capital punishment. In particular, panellists focused on the usefulness of engaging in compelling storytelling to underline the conditions of torture endured by those who are found guilty by legal systems that are prone to error. They also emphasized the importance of ensuring that the victims of the most atrocious crimes are supported, including through dedicated funds that can offer some measure of compensation and thus appease calls for the death of the accused. Both panellists and participants from the floor also stressed the importance of continued IPU engagement with parliaments to support and strengthen parliamentary action on the death penalty. The exchanges further highlighted the importance of parliamentarians providing political leadership rather than simply following shifts in public opinion.

4. Workshop on *Strengthening parliamentary responses to terrorism: Introducing the IPU reference framework*

The workshop, held on 6 October 2026, provided an opportunity to present the IPU reference framework on the definition of terrorism to a broader parliamentary audience and to examine its potential practical use in national legislative and oversight work. The IPU Secretariat presented the

framework, explaining its purpose, the three cumulative elements underpinning the proposed definition of terrorism, and the main safeguards and exclusions it contains. The presentation highlighted that the framework is a response to the continuing absence of a universally agreed international definition.

The discussion confirmed strong interest in the framework as a practical, non-binding reference tool for parliaments. It was emphasized that the framework is not intended to replace national definitions or serve as a model law, but rather aims to support parliaments in reviewing whether existing legislation is sufficiently clear and precisely delimited, whether appropriate safeguards are in place, and whether gaps, inconsistencies or areas requiring stronger parliamentary oversight can be identified.

Mr. B. Saul, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, welcomed the framework and highlighted its broad consistency with international human rights law, international humanitarian law and relevant international standards. He warned that vague or overly broad definitions of terrorism can contribute to arbitrary detention, excessive use of force, unjustified surveillance and undue restrictions on fundamental freedoms. He also emphasized the importance of distinguishing terrorism from other forms of criminality, even where links may exist with organized crime.

During the debate, participants stressed the need to combine effective security measures with legal clarity, human rights safeguards, accountability and international cooperation. Particular attention was given to emerging digital threats, online radicalization, new forms of terrorist financing, the links between terrorism and organized crime, the rights and protection of victims, accountability in counter-terrorism operations, the risk of double standards, and questions relating to State terrorism and State-sponsored terrorism. Parliamentarians from countries directly affected by terrorism, particularly in the Sahel, underlined the practical relevance of the framework for reviewing domestic legislation and strengthening parliamentary oversight.

The discussion also reflected strong appreciation for the work done by the IPU to transform a complex and long-standing debate on the definition of terrorism into a concrete tool for parliamentarians. A central message emerging from the workshop was that effective counter-terrorism efforts and the protection of human rights should not be regarded as competing objectives, and that clear, precise and proportionate legislation strengthens both security and the rule of law.

The discussion also raised a number of issues that could merit further consideration by the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, and by the IPU more broadly, including terrorist financing, digital threats and online radicalization, the links between terrorism and organized crime, State and State-sponsored terrorism, accountability, victims' rights, and issues related to the Sahel.

5. Workshop on *Critical minerals for shared prosperity: Strengthening parliamentary oversight*

This workshop, held on 6 October 2026, featured three parliamentarians with direct experience of critical minerals and the mining sector: Mr. U. Clement-Lund (member of the Standing Committee on Mining and Energy of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile), Ms. I. Kitwa Godalena (member of the Economic, Financial and Budgetary Committee of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and a licensed mining agent) and Ms. Uyanga Bold (member of the State Great Hural of Mongolia and former Deputy Minister of Mining and Heavy Industry). The session was moderated by Ms. S. Quimbaya (former Country Director, United Republic of Tanzania, National Democratic Institute).

The panellists emphasized the essential role of parliaments in overseeing a sector that, in some mineral-producing countries, represents up to 25% of gross domestic product. They highlighted several oversight tools, including establishing lists of critical or strategic minerals, adopting and reviewing mining legislation, revising mining codes, and creating parliamentary committees of inquiry. Good practices included redistributing mining revenues to local governments, strengthening environmental safeguards, and building technical expertise within parliament to reduce dependence on information provided by the executive.

The open-floor discussion generated numerous interventions and questions. Participants focused on the environmental damage caused by mining and mineral processing, and on the need to protect vulnerable groups, particularly women and children working in the sector. Several delegations proposed creating an inter-country dialogue platform, noting that the environmental consequences of mining are often shared and require international cooperation. Participants also suggested initiating a process towards an international convention on the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of mining.

The discussion nevertheless offered grounds for optimism, particularly regarding emerging technologies that could make mineral processing more environmentally responsible. Panellists stressed the importance of maintaining an attractive mining sector within a robust environmental framework.

Finally, panellists and participants jointly called for a common parliamentary platform to address these issues. They also expressed a strong commitment to continuing work and sharing experiences.

6. Workshop on *Mental health across generations: Coping with digital overload, economic pressure and uncertainty*

The workshop, held on 7 October 2026, provided an opportunity for participants to exchange experiences and perspectives on addressing mental health challenges, and to discuss practical parliamentary approaches that promote prevention, resilience and community-based mental health responses. It was the first workshop on this issue held in the context of an IPU Assembly, following on from the Committee on Health's discussion, at the 152nd Assembly, of mental health as one of the main challenges facing our societies.

The workshop was moderated by Mr. M.I. Ravalia (Canada), who highlighted that mental health has increasingly been recognized as a cross-cutting human rights and development issue, and as crucial for people's well-being.

Mr. D. Chisholm (Mental Health Specialist, World Health Organization, joining online) spoke of the multifaceted nature of mental health, noting that it requires a holistic and equitable response. He stressed the need to review existing mental health legislation and adopt new laws underpinned by a people-centered, human rights-based approach. He provided examples of sector-specific guidance and called for the adoption of product safety standards for new technologies.

Ms. E. Muteka (Namibia) emphasized the importance of investing in the well-being of young people. She explained that her parliament had adopted a new mental health law in response to mental health challenges faced by young people in the country, including alarming rates of suicide. She further spoke of the need to focus on prevention and early intervention, expand community-based interventions, and address stigma.

Ms. I. Stamatović (Serbia) reminded participants that mental health is an essential part of development at the individual and societal levels, that new technologies are developing faster than the capacity of societies and policies to adapt, and that youth are facing uncertainty about their future. She called for closer collaboration between parliaments and technical experts to develop practical solutions.

Mr. S. Jaiswal (India) shared the initiatives taken in his country to expand prevention, infrastructure, and access to mental health services. He highlighted the new challenges posed by new technologies, including digital addiction, which is a public health threat. Data collection, awareness-raising in communities, and stronger collaboration among all stakeholders are required for a comprehensive mental health response.

Ms. E. Milaho (Programme Coordinator, Akili Tulivu) spoke of her experience in supporting a youth-led digital platform to enable young people in the United Republic of Tanzania to better understand their feelings and to connect with mental health experts. She called for adequate budgetary allocations to support mental health initiatives, for standards for digital products, including on data protection, and for greater youth participation in policymaking.

Delegates from Botswana, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lesotho, Malawi, Monaco, the Netherlands, Pakistan and Uzbekistan took the floor in the interactive discussion. They highlighted challenges in regulating social media, shifting mentalities so that mental health is considered a political and global issue, and ensuring mental health responses in crisis and emergency settings. Participants called for people to be heard, for education to be strengthened, and for the mental health consequences of new legislation adopted in different sectors to be assessed.

7. Workshop on *Promoting ethical artificial intelligence serving child rights*

This workshop on 7 October 2026 was moderated by Mr. K.K.P. Kouassi (Côte d'Ivoire) and featured a panel of experts: Ms. S. Abdella, a researcher from the Global Centre on AI Governance in South Africa; Mr. A. Read, an AI and parliamentary specialist at the IPU; and Mr. A. Farrugia, former Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malta, who joined remotely. The workshop was aimed at providing parliamentarians with the tools and knowledge necessary to legislate effectively to protect children in an increasingly automated world.

Ms. Selam Abdella defined “Responsible AI” as a framework that shifts focus from technical features to duty-bearers, specifically calling on governance actors to be accountable for technological implications. She highlighted that children are often the “canaries in the coal mine” for technology, yet children’s rights remain one of the weakest and slowest-growing indicators in global AI indices.

Mr. Farrugia emphasized that the role of parliaments is paramount, since AI issues are not merely technical but involve fundamental rights and accountability. He shared Malta’s experiences as one of the first European countries to establish a dedicated parliamentary committee on AI in 2024.

Mr. Read presented a recently published IPU issue brief on *Protecting children’s rights in the age of AI*, specifically focusing on mental health and education. He cited research showing that adolescents using social media for more than three hours a day face an increased risk of poor mental health outcomes.

Mr. Kouassi presented five legislative provisions that he urged parliamentarians to implement before the next Assembly. First, an “algorithmic nutri-score” for childhood, where AI services would be rated A through E based on the level of data collection and addictive design. Second, a non-regression clause that would legally prevent any software update from lowering existing protection levels. Third, a provision to reverse the burden of proof, requiring AI providers to prove they meet due diligence obligations if a minor is harmed. Fourth, a suspensive veto for children, which would allow a panel of minors to delay the deployment of school-based AI for 30 days. Finally, a calculation contribution, whereby platforms monetizing children’s attention would pay 0.1% of local revenue into a public fund for protective AI development.

The discussion included contributions from numerous delegates, who highlighted local challenges. A delegate from Ireland highlighted the establishment of Ireland’s AI office and the difficulty of prosecuting international companies. Delegates from Burkina Faso and Malawi raised concerns about terrorist recruitment of children online and the risk of children in rural areas becoming an AI-excluded generation. A delegate from Pakistan argued that strong commercial interests often undermined regulation, as safety curbs potentially reduced corporate profits. The panel concluded that, in light of the global nature of AI, individual national laws are insufficient; effective protection requires multilateral cooperation and international treaties to hold multinational corporations accountable.

8. Workshop on *What’s on our plates? Delivering healthy food in a changing climate*

The workshop, held on 7 October 2026, brought together 42 parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from 19 countries, representing all regions of the world, to identify parliamentary action to reduce methane emissions from agriculture and organic waste while strengthening food security. Drawing on expert contributions from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Stockholm Environment Institute, alongside parliamentary experiences from Latvia and Uruguay, participants explored how improving livestock productivity, preventing food loss and waste, and better managing organic waste can reduce methane emissions while supporting farmers’ livelihoods. Discussions highlighted the role of legislation, public investment and parliamentary oversight in putting these measures into practice.

Interventions from delegates from Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, India, Lesotho, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru and Uzbekistan broadened the exchange of national experiences on food security and waste management. The discussion identified opportunities for legislative exchange and technical assistance relevant to methane reduction, emphasizing that measures must reflect national circumstances and development priorities. The IPU outlined tailored support to help parliaments identify methane mitigation priorities, strengthen legislative and budgetary responses, and hold governments accountable for implementation.

9. Parity debate on *Women and men parliamentarians united for safe politics online*

On 8 October 2026, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians organized a parity debate, with 61 participants, including 37 parliamentarians (22 women and 15 men) from 32 countries. Mr. H.E. Hasan (Bahrain), member of the IPU Bureau of Young Parliamentarians, moderated the debate.

The debate opened with a fireside chat between Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), President of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, and Mr. D. Pacheco, Honorary President of the IPU. Their testimonies highlighted the personal and psychological toll of online violence on parliamentarians and their families, how online violence connects with offline violence, and how intimidation silences voices and pushes parliamentarians out of politics. They also shared their tips for resistance and resilience to online violence and reflected on possible reporting possibilities and legal recourses.

Panelists shared gender-disaggregated data and information on the prevalence and forms of online violence against parliamentarians, and examples of legal and policy responses as solutions. The role of boys and men was also reflected upon and good practices shared.

Data and analysis from the IPU, UN Women and Equimundo informed calls for technology companies' accountability, effective remedies and approaches to prevention that tackle the norms underlying abuse. Ms. C.M. Mumma (Kenya) highlighted how digital platforms had opened politics up to greater scrutiny, citing young people's demands for transparency. She urged parliaments to catch up with technological advances and strengthen laws against cyberbullying and technology-facilitated violence.
Ms. L. Gumnior (Germany) called for laws enabling those targeted to regain control over their images – including in cases of AI-generated content – backed by effective enforcement, accessible reporting and timely removal mechanisms.

Testimonials and contributions from the floor reinforced the view that protection cannot rely on individual resilience alone; the need for legislation to prevent, protect against and penalize online acts of violence against politicians was key. That role was even more crucial at times when online violence was pushing many young people, especially young women, away from political participation and leadership.

Online platform security was a must, and parliamentarians had a central role to play in advancing that endeavour through their legislative and oversight functions. Participants called for platform design that counters misogynistic content, and responses to violence that safeguard freedom of expression. Participants urged the IPU to support parliamentary action through model legislation and engagement with technology companies. They called for consistent protection across borders to address gaps in national remedies. They encouraged women and men to act together, and to engage men and boys through positive alternatives to a culture of dominance.

10. Panel discussion on *Beyond commitments for peace: The role of parliaments in the enforcement of international humanitarian law and international human rights law*

On 7 October 2026, the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law jointly held a panel discussion entitled *Beyond commitments for peace: The role of parliaments in the enforcement of international humanitarian law and international human rights law*. The panellists were Ms. E. Misola Richard (Legal Adviser, International Committee of the Red Cross), Ms. L. Baig (Principal Legal Advisor/Officer-in-Charge of the Arusha Prosecutor's Office, International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals – IRMCT), Hon. Lady Justice I. Daud Aboud (Judge, African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights) and Mr. G. Mulanya (Kenya). The moderator of the event was Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka (Poland), IPU Vice-President.

The panel examined mechanisms for enforcing international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL) at the international, regional and domestic levels, and highlighted the role of parliaments in ensuring that international commitments are translated into national action.

Ms. Misola Richard clarified that, as parties to treaties, States have an obligation to adopt implementing legislation and ensure that their domestic legal systems are fully equipped to address IHL and IHRL violations effectively. This includes ensuring that war crimes – notably as defined under the Geneva Conventions – are criminalized within domestic legal frameworks, and that the same applies to other serious international crimes addressed in instruments such as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), with the principle of universal jurisdiction incorporated into domestic laws. Judicial authorities also need to be granted the jurisdiction necessary to address such crimes effectively.

Ms. Baig expanded on the legacy of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), formerly hosted in Arusha, in the prosecution of international crimes, particularly the crime of genocide. She also commented on the current work of the IRMCT, tasked with completing the remaining work of the ICTR and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), and its current efforts to provide capacity-building to national prosecutors, enabling them to prosecute violations of IHL and IHRL at the domestic level and carry the objectives of the IRMCT forward.

Justice Aboud shared her view on the importance of having a regional mechanism such as the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, able to ensure accountability for human rights violations on the African continent while taking into account local realities. She encouraged parliaments to pursue efforts to ratify regional human rights instruments, including the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, and to review their own legislation in light of the African Charter and the judgments of the court, even those delivered against other States.

Finally, Mr. Mulanya presented the Kenyan International Crimes Act, adopted in 2008, as an example of how international obligations can be incorporated into domestic law. He explained how the Act enabled national courts to prosecute serious international crimes and provided a framework for cooperation with the ICC.

Participants from various countries and observers (Algeria, Bahrain, Cambodia, India, Ireland, Jordan, Malawi, Malta, Morocco, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Parliamentarians for Global Action) shared how they have been pursuing efforts in their respective parliaments to put in place and support mechanisms aimed at enforcing IHL and IHRL. Some participants also proposed the establishment of an annual parliamentary compliance review and the development of a parliamentary implementation review framework within the IPU, which would provide national parliaments with practical tools to ensure compliance, scrutinize implementation and identify gaps. Other participants spoke about specific legislative initiatives taken by their parliaments to address violations of IHL and IHRL effectively. Overall, participants agreed on the importance of taking up the question of accountability as a key priority to fight impunity and prevent any further violations.

11. Joint IPU–ASGP session: *How parliaments respond to pressure: An open discussion with MPs and Secretaries General*

This session, held on 9 October 2026 and co-organized by the IPU and the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP), brought together MPs and Secretaries General to discuss how parliaments are responding to the pressures facing democratic institutions. It was moderated by Mr. D. Kyere-Duah (Ghana). Participants were invited to test the preliminary findings of the *Global Parliamentary Report 2027*, a forthcoming joint IPU and United Nations Development Programme publication, against their own experience.

Representatives of the IPU Secretariat introduced the report and presented its emerging findings. The central message is that what protects democratic function is resilience built into the institution itself, rather than resilience that depends on individual leaders. The research covers four connected fields of pressure: political, societal and technological pressures, and pressures on MPs and staff.

On the subject of political pressures, one participant asked whether the research covers parliaments that cannot operate under democratic conditions. Participants stressed that parliament is part of a wider constitutional ecosystem. In a crisis, the courts may play a decisive role, and parliamentary administrations can support them by explaining parliamentary practice and privilege. Other pressures raised included rules that limit MPs' ability to scrutinize government bills, and the disruption caused when government coalitions collapse. One participant urged parliaments to make fuller use of the levers they already hold, such as public policy evaluation, and not to become mere recording chambers for the executive.

Turning to societal pressures, participants noted that public pressure can be positive when it holds parliament to its mandate. MPs described a persistent mismatch of expectations: constituents often judge them on jobs, financial help and attendance at family events rather than on legislative work. It was noted that youth-led protest movements have successfully pressed for changes in parliamentary representation. Participants agreed that transparency and proactive communication could ease these pressures. One participant observed that openness adopted out of conviction differs from openness imposed under pressure.

On the issue of technological pressures, participants noted that technology can also act as a counter-pressure. In one case, citizens kept democratic mobilization going after the executive shut down the internet. A recurring concern was donor- or consultant-led projects that install systems that are hard to change and are designed with too little involvement from parliamentary staff. Some parliaments described using artificial intelligence (AI) to support legislative work and public transparency portals. Others warned that heavy reliance on externally developed AI could weaken parliamentary sovereignty.

In relation to pressures on MPs and staff, MPs described constant demands from constituents and community leaders, including the expectation of round-the-clock availability, alongside their constitutional duties. They shared practical coping strategies, such as staffed constituency offices and daily summaries of constituents' concerns. A senior official asked what motivates MPs to keep serving under such strain. Another participant described the situation as one of limited resources set against unlimited demands.

In closing, the researcher invited further input through a survey and follow-up conversations ahead of the publication of the report in May 2027. Mr. Kyere-Duah (Ghana) concluded that, despite these pressures, parliaments still have a job to do. He called for collective efforts to assert parliamentary independence.

Elections and appointments

1. President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Three candidates ran for the post of IPU President: Ms. S. Gafarova (Azerbaijan), Mr. M. Dick (Australia) and Mr. R. Edwards Silva (Chile).

In a single round of voting, Ms. S. Gafarova obtained 124 votes (38%), Mr. M. Dick obtained 182 votes (56%) and Mr. R. Edwards Silva obtained 21 votes (6%).

The Governing Council consequently elected Mr. M. Dick (Australia) as President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for a three-year term, ending in October 2029.

The outgoing President, Dr. T. Ackson (United Republic of Tanzania), was made an Honorary President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

2. Executive Committee

The Governing Council elected the following members to the Executive Committee:

Asia-Pacific Group
- Ms. J.A. Chowdhury (Bangladesh) for a four-year term ending in October 2030

Group of Latin America and the Caribbean
- *The Governing Council agreed to postpone the election to this seat until the 154th Assembly in May 2027.*

Twelve Plus Group
- Mr. G. Almeland (Norway) for a four-year term ending in October 2030

3. Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

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

African Group
- Ms. F. Abri (Algeria), to complete the term, ending in May 2027, of a regional representative who was no longer a member of parliament

4. Bureau of Young Parliamentarians

The Forum elected the following member to its Bureau:

Group of Latin America and the Caribbean
- Mr. F.J. Farias Bailon (Mexico), to complete the term, ending in May 2027, of Mr. W. Soto (Peru), who is no longer a member of parliament

5. Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

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

Eurasia Group
- *A vacancy remains for this Group*

Group of Latin America and the Caribbean
- *A vacancy remains for this Group*

Twelve Plus Group
- Mr. C. Abela (Malta)
- Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine)

The Committee furthermore elected Mr. M.A. Nader (Iraq) as its Chair, for a one-year term, renewable once.

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

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

African Group
- Ms. E. Ninsiima (Uganda)
- *A vacancy remains for this group*

Eurasia Group
- *A vacancy remains for this group*

7. Working Group on Science and Technology

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

Eurasia Group
- *A vacancy remains for this Group*

Group of Latin America and the Caribbean
- Ms. K. Cariola Oliva (Chile)

Twelve Plus Group
- Ms. K. Hay (Canada)
- Mr. A. Pinotes Batista (Portugal)

The Working Group elected Mr. N. In-na (Thailand) as Chairperson and Mr. A. Hashim Khoori (United Arab Emirates) as Vice-Chairperson.

8. Committee on Middle East Questions

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

Eurasia Group
- Mr. V. Aleksanyan (Armenia)
- *A vacancy remains for this group (a woman)*

Group of Latin America and the Caribbean
- Mr. J. Brito (Chile)

African Group
- Ms. N.S. Dembélé-Diarra (Côte d'Ivoire)

Asia-Pacific Group
- *A vacancy remains for this group (a woman)*

9. Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

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

- Mr. M.A.M. Al-Kubaisy (Iraq)
- Ms. V. Grippo (Italy)
- Mr. H. Carneiro (Portugal)

10. Committee on Health

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

- Ms. A.W. Chishti (Pakistan)
- Ms. Z.A. Hamid (United Republic of Tanzania)

The Committee re-elected Ms. O. Ataniyazova (Uzbekistan) as its President for a one-year term.

11. Group of Facilitators for Cyprus

The Governing Council elected two Facilitators for a four-year term ending in October 2030:

- Mr. X. Iacovelli (France)
- Mr. M. Daly (Ireland)

12. Internal Auditors for the 2027 accounts

The Governing Council appointed the following Internal Auditors for the 2027 accounts:

- Mr. A. Fonseca (Portugal)
- Mr. R.B. Abdul (Sri Lanka)

13. Bureaux of the Standing Committees

The Standing Committees elected the following members to their respective Bureaux:

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

African Group

- Ms. J. Ayacho (Uganda) to complete the second term of Ms. S. Amero, which ends in May 2027

Arab Group

- Mr. B.I. Al Bin Mohammed (Bahrain) to complete the second term of Mr. S. Ahmad, which ends in October 2027

Asia-Pacific Group

- Mr. H. Mohammad (Malaysia) for a second term, ending in October 2028

Eurasia Group

- Ms. T. Vardanyan (Armenia) for a first term, ending in October 2028
- *A vacancy remains for this Group*

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development

African Group

- Mr. R. Otsmane (Algeria) to complete the first term of Mr. M.A. Bouchouit (Algeria), which expires in October 2027

Arab Group

- Mr. M.Z. Maher (Tunisia) for a second term, ending in October 2028

Eurasia Group

- *Two vacancies remain for this Group*

The Committee also approved a request from the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean to replace Mr. C.A. Rendón García (Mexico) with Mr. N. Castellano (Paraguay) as the Committee's Vice-President. Mr. Rendón García will remain a Bureau member.

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

African Group

- Ms. F. Abri (Algeria) to complete the second term, ending in May 2027, of Ms. F. Ilimi (Algeria), who is no longer a member of parliament

Asia-Pacific Group

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

Eurasia Group

- *A vacancy remains for this Group*

In accordance with the agreed distribution of leadership roles, Ms. F. Abri (Algeria) was elected as Vice-President of the Standing Committee. The Presidency remains vacant.

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

African Group

- Mr. P. Mushelenga (Namibia) to complete the first term of Mr. J. Uerikua (Namibia), ending in October 2027

Arab Group

- Ms. Z. Abdulamir Ebrahim (Bahrain), to complete the first term of Ms. M. Aldhain (Bahrain), ending in May 2027
- Mr. F. Al-Nouiri (Libya) for a second term

Asia-Pacific Group
- *A vacancy remains for this Group*

Eurasia Group
- *A vacancy remains for this Group*

Group of Latin America and the Caribbean
- Mr. R.H. Soto Mardones (Chile) for a first term
- Mr. J.C. Beltré Méndez (Dominican Republic) for a first term

14. Rapporteurs

On the proposal of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, the Assembly appointed Ms. H. Fayez (Bahrain) and Ms. T. Tasheva (Ukraine) as co-Rapporteurs for the subject item *The role of parliaments in protecting the civilian population and critical civilian infrastructure in times of armed conflict and insecurity.*

Media and communications

The 153rd IPU Assembly delivered record results on social media, with Instagram emerging as the leading channel for coverage of the event. The Assembly also attracted strong participation from national and regional media, including the Swahili language editions of international outlets.

Social media

As of 10 October 2026, IPU-produced Instagram content (posts, reels and stories) had generated 482,852 views, up from 404,000 at the previous Assembly.

The IPU's Instagram account gained 1,519 new followers during the Assembly, compared with 423 at the last Assembly and 215 at the Assembly before. Several local influencers helped amplify IPU content, including IPU President Dr. Tulia Ackson, who has a substantial national social-media following in the United Republic of Tanzania. The IPU team's strategic collaborations contributed significantly to this growth.

Instagram's audience is young: 42.4% of the IPU's followers are aged 25–34, and 62% are male. This aligns with the IPU communications strategy's objective of reaching younger audiences.

To reinforce this approach, the IPU team started to populate its new TikTok channel with more youth-oriented content. During the Assembly, the account generated more than 5,000 views, an encouraging start.

The Assembly was also used to raise the profile of the newly created IPU Secretary General Instagram account. Three short videos, entitled *My first Assembly as IPU Secretary General*, attracted a combined 16,000 views as of 10 October 2026.

By contrast, the IPU's other institutional platforms (X, Facebook and LinkedIn) recorded lower figures than at previous Assemblies. This was partly due to the shift in resources and coverage towards Instagram, and partly due to access challenges in the host country.

Traditional media

Over the 10-day period of the Assembly, the IPU produced five press releases and news articles. Media participation was exceptionally strong, particularly among national outlets, including television. Several regional and international journalists also attended, some taking part in a press stake-out held at the start of the Assembly.

Media monitoring recorded more than 3,000 mentions as of 10 October 2026. While this is below the 4,000 mentions recorded for the 152nd Assembly in Istanbul, Türkiye in April 2026, it compares favourably with the 2,500 clippings at the 151st Assembly in Geneva and is almost on a par with the 3,210 recorded at the 150th Assembly in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The figures likely underestimate total reach, as television and radio monitoring was not included because of budget constraints.

National media accompanying their delegations made a substantial contribution to coverage, particularly those from Azerbaijan, Ghana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nigeria, Paraguay, Russian Federation, South Africa, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

Web, livestream and video on demand

As of 10 October 2026, some 17,000 viewers had watched livestreams of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, the Governing Council and Assembly sessions – above the Assembly average of 10,000 viewers.

Video extracts of General Debate speeches remained popular with delegates. The communications team responded to around 20 requests for video-on-demand material, most of them related to the General Debate.

MP interviews

A dozen experts and members of parliament were interviewed during the Assembly, principally on human rights – including the rights of persons with disabilities – as well as on climate change, good governance, parliamentary diplomacy and counter-terrorism.

Publications, campaigns and video products

In the lead-up to the Assembly, the communications team produced a special edition report and a tribute video marking the end of IPU President Tulia Ackson's three-year term. During the Assembly, the team also published an issue brief on artificial intelligence and children's rights.

The Assembly provided a further platform to promote the IPU's annual campaign, *Bring human rights into focus*. A dedicated campaign booth attracted strong interest and the campaign was promoted across a range of meetings. During the Assembly, 27 parliamentarians signed up to become IPU human rights champions.

Photography

A team of around 10 photographers from the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania captured hundreds of high-quality images across approximately 100 sessions, bilateral meetings and side events. The IPU communications team curated and distributed the photographs to Member Parliaments and for publication. This is a particularly appreciated service that helps amplify the Assembly beyond the borders of the host country.

Membership of the Inter-Parliamentary Union[1]

Members (184)

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

Associate Members (15)

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

1 As at the close of the 153rd Assembly.
* Non-participating Members or Associate Members (all rights suspended)
** Members participating in the work of the IPU in a non-voting observer capacity

Agenda, resolutions and other texts of the 153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. Election of the President of the 153rd Assembly

2. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda

3. General Debate on the theme *Enhancing good governance and empowering communities through inclusivity, trust and opportunities for all*

4. Special accountability segment on the implementation of IPU resolutions and other decisions

5. *Inclusive social development for all: Parliamentary strategies to promote the rights and empowerment of people living with disabilities*
(Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights)

6. Reports of the Standing Committees

7. Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 155th IPU Assembly and appointment of the co-Rapporteurs

8. Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

9. Urgent parliamentary action to address climate-related disasters and strengthen resilience in the Himalayan region and other vulnerable regions

Arusha Communiqué

Enhancing good governance and empowering communities through inclusivity, trust and opportunities for all

Endorsed by the 153rd IPU Assembly
(Arusha, 9 October 2026)

We, parliamentarians from around the world, gathered at the 153rd IPU Assembly in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, reaffirm that good governance and community empowerment are mutually reinforcing and are key to building trust in public institutions and to promoting the welfare and development of peaceful societies.

Effective, accountable, inclusive and transparent institutions create the conditions for people to exercise their rights and participate in decisions that affect their lives. At the same time, empowered communities bring lived experience, knowledge and innovation that can help institutions respond more effectively to people's needs. Community engagement is a powerful means to build links between people, whether at a local level or within other groups, including underrepresented and marginalized groups. Democracy begins in the community and is strengthened when people's voices are connected to decision-making at every level.

Parliaments have a responsibility to bridge the gap between communities and institutions, as set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions. In the face of growing pressures – including rapid technological developments, violence and conflicts, widening inequalities, rollbacks on human rights and gender equality, and overlapping social, economic, climate-related and environmental crises – we believe our role, and indeed our priority, is to invest in efforts and action that build inclusivity, trust and opportunities for all.

First, we affirm that parliamentary work needs to be grounded in people's realities. The true test of good governance is what it delivers in people's lives, so as to ensure equal opportunities for all. We therefore call for laws, policies and budgets to be informed by diverse forms of evidence, including scientific and quantitative data, official statistics, local and community knowledge, and people's lived experiences. We especially emphasize the need for parliamentarians to be present in and available to the communities they represent, particularly those that are remote or affected by crisis.

Acknowledging the variety of lived realities, and in particular those of people in vulnerable and marginalized situations, is crucial. Vulnerability is context-specific, dynamic and often multidimensional, and addressing it requires an understanding of the historical, social and cultural contexts in which people and communities live and what barriers exist to equal participation in society and public life. We emphasize that connecting different forms of evidence can help parliaments to appreciate how resource allocations, laws and policies affect people in practice, as well as to identify unintended consequences and respond to emerging needs. Parliamentary work should address both the immediate impacts and the underlying causes of vulnerability, including discriminatory laws, unequal access to resources and services, and social norms, so as to create enabling conditions for populations in vulnerable and marginalized situations to access opportunities and exercise their rights.

Second, we underscore the importance of accountability, transparency and integrity, and of institutions listening, responding to people's concerns and demonstrating that engagement can lead to change. Trust between people and institutions lies at the heart of good governance and community empowerment. In order to build that trust – and foster stronger links and genuine partnerships with the communities they serve – parliaments need to take concerted action to prevent and address corruption; uphold a culture of integrity in their work; examine current challenges and, where needed, engage in reforming and developing mechanisms for greater transparency and ethics in politics and in the wider public sector; build internal capacity for stronger oversight; and work in partnership with other key stakeholders.

We emphasize the importance of communities being informed and engaging with the institutions that represent them. Civic education has a vital role to play in strengthening people's understanding of democracy and of their rights and responsibilities, as well as of parliamentary roles and responsibilities. Parliaments should work to make their institutional and decision-making processes understandable, accessible and relevant to society at large. Such understanding contributes to a culture of accountability. When introduced early, civic education can help encourage the participation of young people in public life. Civic education should also be extended to include training for community leaders on legislative and budgetary processes.

We stress that misinformation and disinformation undermine trust and evidence-based decision-making, disempowering people and weakening social cohesion. Parliaments should serve as role models: communicating in accessible and culturally appropriate ways, providing reliable sources of information, strengthening public resilience to misinformation and disinformation, and promoting respectful and evidence-based public debate.

We acknowledge the specific challenges of fragile, conflict and crisis settings, where institutions and communities may face heightened levels of mistrust, exclusion and insecurity. We call for responses in such contexts to be adapted to local realities and developed in consultation with affected communities, including displaced persons, survivors of conflict and violent extremism, and those impacted by natural disasters and climate-related events, among others. Their knowledge and experiences should inform recovery and peacebuilding efforts. Victims of displacement, conflict and violence should be recognized not only as beneficiaries of protection, but also as contributors to more resilient, inclusive and cohesive societies.

Third, we call for parliaments to become more open institutions that look beyond traditional public engagement mechanisms and build stronger partnerships with communities. We also call for parliaments to be more inclusive, which means ensuring the participation of both citizens and other members of the community – including migrants, refugees and stateless persons – and creating mechanisms for ongoing exchanges to identify needs and priorities, develop solutions and provide feedback on their implementation.

As members of parliament, we have the power and capacity to convene and facilitate dialogue in communities, to build bridges across political and social divides, and to contribute to the peaceful resolution of tensions. We acknowledge the need to build our skills in terms of outreach and to develop creative and practical ways of bringing people's concerns, experiences and aspirations into formal parliamentary processes, so that communities can engage with the decisions that affect them.

New technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), are changing how people interact with public institutions and exercise their rights. They are creating new opportunities for participation and access to information and public services, and are especially important for engaging young people; but they may also contribute to widening digital divides and inequalities, including gender biases, as well as facilitating the spread of misinformation and disinformation and undermining human rights. Parliaments should hold open and informed discussions about the opportunities and challenges presented by AI and other digital technologies, and develop guidelines and frameworks setting out how such technologies can be used responsibly to enhance public outreach and engagement, while safeguarding data protection and data sovereignty.

The diversity of society also needs to be reflected in the composition of parliaments. We call attention to those who, owing to persistent barriers, still struggle to have their voices heard in decision-making processes and to access leadership positions, including women, young people, persons living with disabilities, and marginalized or other underrepresented groups. We are concerned that progress in the representation of women and youth in parliaments is stalling. We need to remain vigilant and pursue efforts by building conducive legal frameworks, providing incentives, mentorship and skills-building support, and addressing cultural and social biases that can limit access to decision-making.

Fourth, we commit to sustaining our efforts for good governance and community empowerment by addressing long-term challenges. We see parliaments as important spaces for anticipating the future, bringing together and debating diverse views to build common ground for generations to come. We also value communities as sources of innovation and locally owned solutions. We remain convinced that parliamentary cooperation and peer learning will continue to serve as critical channels for sharing effective approaches to community engagement, thus strengthening social cohesion, evidence-informed decision-making and the governance of emerging challenges arising from technological, social, economic and environmental change.

Having identified these opportunities, we pledge to:

Ground parliamentary work in people's lived realities:

- Put evidence-based decision-making at the heart of parliamentary work by strengthening internal capacity to analyse and use data, ensuring the availability of disaggregated data and developing partnerships that facilitate access to, and the generation of, diverse forms of data and evidence.
- Assess the differentiated impacts of laws, policies and budgets – particularly on women, youth, and groups experiencing multiple forms of exclusion and vulnerability – both before and after their implementation, and strengthen relevant indicators and mechanisms to support parliamentary oversight.
- More systematically integrate local knowledge, first-hand accounts and lived experiences into the work of parliamentary committees and other parliamentary bodies, bearing in mind that communities are a source of ideas, solutions and innovation.
- Develop, test and evaluate innovative public engagement approaches and establish mechanisms to communicate how public input has been considered and translated into action.

Strengthen the accountability, transparency and integrity of parliamentary institutions:

- Strengthen mechanisms to prevent and address corruption, including through: stronger standards for the conduct and accountability of parliamentarians; strengthened oversight mechanisms and capacity; closer collaboration between parliaments and audit institutions, other oversight bodies, local authorities and civil society; and more transparent and accessible public information on parliamentary decision-making and the use of public resources.
- Promote public understanding of democratic institutions by investing in civic education, ensuring equal opportunities for boys and girls in all their diversity to engage with democratic institutions from an early age, and expanding opportunities for participation in community-level institutions and local decision-making.
- Ensure that accurate, responsible and evidence-based information is used in parliamentary debates and communications, strengthen capacities to identify and address misinformation and disinformation both within parliament and in wider society, and build public resilience through accessible information, media and information literacy, and respectful public debate.
- Strengthen parliamentary capacities to engage with new technologies, including AI, and to harness the opportunities they present to enhance public participation and access to information, while anticipating and addressing associated risks and putting in place safeguards where needed.

Work to make parliaments more open and inclusive:

- Map patterns of underrepresentation in parliaments using past and current data, and identify the intersecting structural, social and institutional barriers that limit the equal participation and representation of women, youth, persons with disabilities and other groups that have historically been underrepresented, with a view to developing practical measures to address such inequalities.
- Provide training for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff on dialogue, mediation and partnership-building, and establish frameworks for structured and sustained collaboration between parliamentarians, communities and other stakeholders.
- Tailor parliamentary communication approaches and messages to the specific contexts and preferred channels of different groups, involve community leaders in developing and disseminating locally relevant information, and strengthen outreach to communities that are remote, underserved or at risk of exclusion from public decision-making processes.
- Consider how the responsible use of AI and other digital tools within parliaments can help enhance community outreach and engagement, and develop capacities, guidelines, frameworks and oversight mechanisms in that regard.
- Consider creating spaces for regular dialogue with communities in order to collect input throughout parliamentary processes and provide feedback on parliamentary work.

Sustain efforts to address long-term challenges:

- Strengthen parliamentary mechanisms for addressing long-term and intergenerational challenges, including through foresight, long-term impact assessment, and systematic consideration of the interests of future generations in legislation, budgeting and oversight.

- Consider establishing or strengthening parliamentary committees of the future.

We express our gratitude to the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania for bringing us together for this important debate on good governance and community empowerment. We pledge to take this Communiqué back to our respective parliaments and to disseminate it as widely as possible at the national and local levels.

We call upon the IPU to continue supporting our efforts through its existing programmes, initiatives, mechanisms and tools, including the *Indicators for Democratic Parliaments* and the *Plan of action for gender parity in parliaments*.

Together, we reaffirm our commitment to shaping a future with the people, not simply for the people; to listening to the communities we represent; and, in exercising our legislative, budgetary and oversight functions, to putting their needs and priorities at the heart of parliamentary action.

Inclusive social development for all: Parliamentary strategies to promote the rights and empowerment of persons with disabilities

Resolution adopted by consensus* by the 153rd IPU Assembly
(Arusha, 9 October 2026)

The 153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Noting that there are 1.3 billion persons with disabilities globally, making up approximately 16% of the world's population, and *reaffirming* that the inclusion and equal participation of persons with disabilities is a human right and a matter of human dignity, equal citizenship, democratic representation, the rule of law and sustainable development, and not simply of social policy or welfare, and is essential to building more inclusive societies, stronger economies and democratic resilience, and to achieving social development for all,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 2006 United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol, and the commitments of States under other major international human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Underscoring that the CRPD requires States Parties to integrate the protection and promotion of the human rights of persons with disabilities into all policies and programmes, eliminate discriminatory laws and practices, ensure accessibility, provide reasonable accommodations, adopt effective facilitative laws and appropriate administrative and other measures, utilize the maximum of their available resources to ensure implementation, and closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, notably through their representative organizations, thereby promoting their empowerment as active agents of social, economic, cultural and political development,

Noting relevant United Nations resolutions, initiatives and guidance documents, including the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy, UN General Assembly resolution 80/197 (2025) on *Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: amplified barriers in diverse contexts*, and UN Human Rights Council resolution 58/22 (2025) on *The impact of anti-personnel mines on the full enjoyment of all human rights*,

Expressing concern that, despite near-universal ratification of the CRPD, persons with disabilities continue to face significant structural barriers and discrimination, including in the context of education, healthcare, employment, social protection, access to justice, political participation, digital services, independent living, transportation, and access to buildings, public spaces and services, owing in part to gaps in the development and monitoring of effective implementing policies, laws, regulations and strategies at the national level, to limited or non-existent budgetary allocations and oversight on enforcement, and to persistent stigma, prejudice, harmful stereotypes, beliefs, and discriminatory attitudes and practices that undermine the rights, dignity and participation of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities,

Acknowledging that rights often remain unfulfilled aspirations in the absence of adequate budgetary allocations, and of reliable, up-to-date and disaggregated data to inform evidence-based parliamentary decision-making, effective institutional coordination, the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, and robust oversight, accountability and enforcement mechanisms,

Noting that "nothing about us, without us" constitutes a fundamental democratic and legal principle that requires the meaningful, regular and effective participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes, including through their representative organizations, which in turn provides decision-making bodies with a deep understanding of the needs of persons with disabilities and of the challenges and barriers they face,

Recognizing that persons with disabilities in all their diversity, particularly women and girls, children and young persons, older persons, persons living in rural areas or in poverty, persons affected by conflict and disasters such as those injured by landmines and other explosive remnants of war, and persons with psychosocial disabilities or in other vulnerable or marginalized situations, may experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination arising from age, sex, gender, type of disability, socioeconomic status, geographic location and other personal or situational circumstances,

Recognizing also that early identification, early intervention and inclusive family and community-based support are essential to ensuring the rights, development and well-being of children with disabilities,

Expressing concern that women and girls with disabilities are disproportionately exposed to gender-based violence, abuse and exploitation, including within institutional and domestic settings, and that they continue to face particular barriers in accessing healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health services, and exercising their reproductive rights, as well as in bodily autonomy, access to justice, economic independence, and political and public participation, on an equal basis with others,

Recognizing that young persons with disabilities encounter particular barriers in education, specialized vocational training, employment, political participation and digital accessibility, and that such barriers are compounded by the inadequate physical accessibility of infrastructure and of public buildings, spaces and services, and *recognizing further* that psychosocial disabilities and mental health conditions are becoming an increasingly pressing reality among young people, requiring targeted and inclusive policy responses,

Noting that the political representation of persons with disabilities is essential for democratic legitimacy and inclusive and effective decision-making, but that persistent legal, physical, sensory, communication, digital, economic and societal barriers limit the ability of such persons to vote, stand for election, campaign, participate in political parties, access parliamentary premises and resources, and exercise elected office, and that women with disabilities in particular may face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination,

Acknowledging that parliaments have a responsibility to ensure the equal and adequate representation, and meaningful participation, of persons with different disabilities, including through consultation with their representative organizations, and to integrate issues affecting such persons into all sectoral policies and laws, into budgetary allocations and into parliamentary oversight activities, and *recognizing* that parliaments are uniquely positioned to advance disability-inclusive social development through their legislative, budgetary, oversight and representative functions,

Noting that digital technologies, artificial intelligence and assistive technologies offer significant opportunities for persons with disabilities, while also posing risks of new forms of exclusion and discrimination, and *emphasizing* the importance of ensuring accessibility, affordability and digital literacy so that technological innovation contributes to empowerment and inclusion rather than widening inequalities,

Emphasizing that persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected by situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, terrorism, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters, especially in the context of climate change, which in turn often result in newly acquired disabilities and in displacement, and that disability inclusion should constitute a core component of policies on disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action and crisis management; and *recalling* Article 11 of the CRPD and UN Security Council resolution 2475 (2019) on the protection of persons with disabilities in armed conflict,

Emphasizing also that the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, including those who are displaced and those who are veterans, during armed conflicts and humanitarian crises should not be limited to emergency response, but must extend to conflict prevention, peacebuilding, reconstruction and recovery efforts, thereby ensuring that the needs of persons with disabilities are not overlooked across all stages of crisis response and beyond,

Recognizing that, owing to compounded forms of discrimination and harmful social norms, caregiving responsibilities in many countries fall disproportionately on women and girls, and that strengthening approaches centred on independent living, community-based support services, personal assistance, respite care, caregiver support, social protection, and accessible public services both upholds the autonomy of persons with disabilities and reduces the burden of unpaid care, while fostering the social and economic empowerment of such persons and their participation in community life,

1. *Urges* parliaments to use their legislative, budgetary, oversight and representative functions, within their respective constitutional and legal frameworks, to translate the obligations of their States under the CRPD into tangible laws and policies that promote, protect and ensure the rights and empowerment of persons with disabilities, with particular attention to the situation of women and girls with disabilities, and to ensure that domestic laws and national political actions do not contravene the CRPD;

2. *Calls upon* all parliamentarians to advocate strongly for the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in society, to raise public awareness of their rights and capabilities, and to contribute to changing societal attitudes regarding persons with disabilities, including the stereotypes to which women with disabilities are subjected, in line with a rights-based approach;

3. *Calls upon* parliaments to review and, where appropriate, reform legislation to ensure full alignment with the CRPD, to remove restrictions on the rights, freedom, independence or participation of persons with disabilities, including restrictions on legal capacity and restrictive laws or practices that perpetuate guardianship regimes or institutionalization, to prevent unnecessary institutionalization and promote community-based alternatives, and to prohibit all forms of discrimination on the basis of disability;

4. *Also calls upon* parliaments to ensure effective access to justice for persons with disabilities, including through procedural and age-appropriate accommodations, accessible legal information and legal aid, accessible complaint mechanisms, and appropriate training for judicial and law-enforcement personnel;

5. *Urges* parliaments to: mandate disability inclusion and disability-responsive budgeting across all public policies; systematically mainstream disability across all sectoral laws, policies and budgets; establish dedicated budget lines to support persons with disabilities, including in terms of accessibility, assistive technologies, inclusive education systems, independent living, individualized support, family and community-based support mechanisms, and social protection for such persons and their families, as well as the effective participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities; and ensure that such support systems advance the equitable sharing of caregiving responsibilities and do not entrench disproportionate reliance on unpaid care provided by women and girls;

6. *Calls upon* parliaments to regularly monitor the state of implementation of the rights set out in the CRPD, including by requiring governments to establish disaggregated data-collection systems based on age, sex, type of disability, geographic location, socioeconomic status, displacement status and cause of disability, including conflict-and disaster-related causes, among other criteria, while ensuring confidentiality, privacy and data protection, and to utilize the data collected via such systems in evidence-based legislative, budgetary and oversight processes;

7. *Encourages* parliaments to establish dedicated parliamentary mechanisms, including permanent or specialized committees, focal points or regular reporting procedures, to monitor the implementation of the CRPD, assess progress against measurable indicators and follow up on recommendations issued by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and *also encourages* parliaments to ensure that such mechanisms work in close cooperation with relevant parliamentary committees, recognizing that disability issues cut across multiple sectors and policy areas;

8. *Calls upon* parliaments to use their legislative, budgetary, oversight and representative functions to ensure that national frameworks designated or established in accordance with Article 33(2) of the CRPD to promote, protect and monitor implementation of the Convention are independent and adequately mandated and resourced, and that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations participate fully in monitoring processes, including by ensuring that sufficient resources are available for their participation in such processes in cooperation with the public administration;

9. *Urges* parliaments to ensure that parliamentary rules and practice respect the principle of "nothing about us, without us", in line with the obligation under Article 4(3) of the CRPD, and to entrench regular, accessible mechanisms to consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in lawmaking, budgetary and oversight processes, through early engagement, prior and timely access to information in accessible formats, reasonable accommodations where required, and transparent feedback on how their contributions were considered;

10. *Also urges* parliaments to enhance the representation of persons with disabilities in parliaments, local governments and other decision-making bodies, including by ensuring their effective right to vote and to be elected, and by reviewing electoral legislation, parliamentary rules of procedure and political party regulations on the basis of accessibility, reasonable accommodations and non-discrimination, and to consider temporary special measures, quota systems, candidate support mechanisms and coverage of the costs of reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities;

11. *Further urges* parliaments to develop specific mechanisms aimed at strengthening the political participation of women and young persons with disabilities, including: mentoring and leadership development; international networking opportunities and support for candidates, parliamentarians, activists and representative organizations; accessible and non-discriminatory candidate recruitment and selection, campaign finance and reasonable accommodation support; measures to prevent and respond to violence against, and harassment of, people with disabilities in political and public life; and mechanisms for participation in youth councils, youth parliaments and other consultative processes;

12. *Calls upon* parliaments to: adopt, adequately fund and oversee gender- and disability-responsive laws, policies and services to prevent and respond to all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities; ensure accessible and survivor-centred reporting, protection, health and justice services; and safeguard the legal capacity and bodily autonomy of women and girls with disabilities, as well as ensure their free and informed consent and their equal access to sexual and reproductive health information and services;

13. *Also calls upon* parliaments to ensure that parliamentary premises, proceedings, procedures and services, including documents, voting systems and digital platforms, are accessible to persons with disabilities, including through the use of sign language interpretation, captioning, Braille, audio materials, assistive technologies, and easy-to-read and plain-language formats where appropriate, as well as to promote the recruitment of persons with disabilities within parliamentary institutions, and to conduct regular accessibility audits of all aspects of parliamentary operations;

14. *Urges* parliaments to promote and oversee the progressive achievement of universal accessibility for persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others and without discrimination, across public infrastructure, transportation, housing, digital environments and essential public services, including healthcare, education, and cultural and sports facilities and activities, through enforceable accessibility standards and effective compliance mechanisms;

15. *Calls upon* parliaments to strengthen inclusive education systems by allocating sufficient resources for accessible school and higher education infrastructure, teacher training, assistive technologies, individualized support mechanisms, including appropriate psychological and mental health support, and family support systems, as well as accessible career guidance and support for the transition from secondary education to tertiary education, with particular attention to ensuring that girls and women remain in the education system;

16. *Also calls upon* parliaments to ensure that the principles of universal design and barrier-free accessibility are applied in the planning, reconstruction and development of public spaces, housing, transport and the built environment, so that recovery from conflict, disaster or crisis does not reproduce physical barriers but advances an accessible and inclusive environment for all;

17. *Further calls upon* parliaments to legislate for and adequately resource the following, through adequate public investment and accessible health infrastructure, with particular attention to surges in demand arising from armed conflict and other emergencies: disability-inclusive universal health coverage, including equitable access to quality health services; comprehensive rehabilitation, such as the provision, fitting and maintenance of assistive devices and prosthetics; mental health and psychosocial support; and affordable assistive technologies;

18. *Calls upon* parliaments to: ensure the rights of persons with disabilities to decent work are realized, including through the duty to provide reasonable accommodations and adopt anti-discrimination policies; develop measures, in accordance with respective national laws and policies, such as reservations or quotas in public employment, as well as paid internship programmes, mentoring opportunities and entrepreneurship support schemes, with particular attention to the integration of women and young persons with disabilities, and of those living in rural, remote and underserved areas, into the labour market, and to providing appropriate psychological and mental health support in the workplace; and support the socioeconomic reintegration and return to work of persons who acquire disabilities, including in the context of conflict, through vocational rehabilitation, retraining and reasonable accommodations;

19. *Encourages* parliaments to support the active participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in peacebuilding, reconstruction and post-conflict decision-making efforts, recognizing that peace and community rebuilding cannot be inclusive and sustainable unless the rights and needs of all segments of society are taken into account;

20. *Urges* parliaments to establish and strengthen legislative and oversight frameworks to ensure that artificial intelligence and digital technologies are accessible, inclusive, non-discriminatory and fully consistent with the principles of equality and human dignity, including by promoting accessibility by design and involving persons with disabilities in the design and evaluation of algorithms, while reinforcing effective human oversight and accountability mechanisms to prevent unethical, discriminatory, exclusionary or harmful outcomes affecting persons with disabilities;

21. *Calls upon* parliaments, through legislation, budgetary allocations and oversight, to ensure that national and local civil protection, disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness systems, including in the context of conflicts, humanitarian crises and climate change, are inclusive of persons with disabilities and developed in close consultation with their representative organizations, in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 2475 (2019);

22. *Affirms* the obligation of a State responsible for internationally wrongful acts, including serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, to make full reparation for the injury caused, and *also affirms* that persons who acquire disabilities as a result of such violations should have effective access to remedies, rehabilitation and compensation, including through internationally established compensation mechanisms;

23. *Calls upon* parliaments to ensure that persons with disabilities who are internally displaced or who are refugees enjoy full and equal access to accessible humanitarian assistance, protection, healthcare, rehabilitation and the replacement of assistive devices, are included in registration and data systems on an equal basis with others, and are supported in achieving durable solutions, including voluntary, safe and dignified return;

24. *Condemns* the unlawful forcible transfer and deportation of persons with disabilities, including children, from their families, communities or places of habitual residence, in particular in situations of armed conflict or occupation, as a grave violation of international law, including international humanitarian law, and *urges* parliaments and the international community to take all measures within their power to secure the immediate cessation of such practices and the safe return and reunification of such persons with their families and communities, without delay;

25. *Encourages* IPU Member Parliaments to include parliamentarians with disabilities in IPU meetings and international parliamentary delegations, and to provide for the inclusion of parliamentarians with disabilities beyond existing delegation size limits in order to ensure the presence of disability perspectives;

26. *Encourages* parliaments to promote the meaningful participation of parliamentarians with disabilities in international parliamentary cooperation efforts, election observation missions, parliamentary diplomacy activities and leadership positions within regional and global parliamentary organizations, ensuring the provision of reasonable accommodations and accessibility measures where required;

27. *Invites* the IPU, within its existing mandate, programme of work and available resources, to: organize regular meetings, thematic workshops, parliamentary networks and regional experience-sharing mechanisms to facilitate the exchange of good practices among Member Parliaments concerning the rights of persons with disabilities; and provide, upon request, capacity-building support;

28. *Urges* the IPU to establish, under the authority of the Governing Council, a permanent forum, standing committee, partnership group, focal point or similar standing institutional mechanism, in which parliamentarians with disabilities are meaningfully represented, to ensure the sustained representation, visibility and participation of persons with disabilities across all areas of the IPU's work, strengthen institutional continuity on disability rights and parliamentary inclusion, assess the implementation of this resolution by national parliaments, support the exchange of good practices, and promote the effective participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in parliamentary processes.

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* - The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed a reservation on preambular paragraph 15.
- The Russian Federation expressed a reservation on operative paragraph 22.

Ensuring freedom of navigation, maritime security, and the flow of international trade through maritime corridors and straits, in accordance with international law: A call for urgent parliamentary action

Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Bahrain, with the support of the Arab Group and Chile for the inclusion of an emergency item

Results

Affirmative votes..... 877
Negative votes 33
Abstentions 209

Total of affirmative and negative votes ..910
Two-thirds majority.....607

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Albania	*Absent*			Ghana	*Absent*			Norway			12
Algeria	*Absent*			Greece	13			Oman	12		
Andorra	10			Guyana	*Absent*			Pakistan			22
Angola	15			Hungary	12			Palestine	12		
Armenia	*Absent*			Iceland			10	Paraguay	10		
Australia	14			India	23			Peru	*Absent*		
Austria	12			Indonesia			22	Poland	15		
Azerbaijan	*Absent*			Iran (Islamic Republic of)		19		Portugal	13		
Bahrain	11							Qatar	11		
Bangladesh	*Absent*			Iraq	16			Republic of Korea	*Absent*		
Belarus	*Absent*			Ireland	12			Republic of Moldova	10		
Belgium	13			Italy	17						
Belize	*Absent*			Japan			20	Romania	13		
Bhutan	2		8	Jordan	13			Russian Federation	*Absent*		
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	*Absent*			Kazakhstan	*Absent*						
				Kenya	*Absent*			Rwanda	*Absent*		
				Kyrgyzstan	*Absent*			Samoa	*Absent*		
Botswana	11			Lao People's Dem. Republic	8		4	San Marino	10		
Brazil	10							Saudi Arabia	15		
Bulgaria	*Absent*			Latvia	11			Senegal	*Absent*		
Burkina Faso	*Absent*			Lesotho	11			Serbia	6		6
Cambodia	13			Libya	*Absent*			Seychelles	*Absent*		
Cameroon			14	Liechtenstein	*Absent*			Slovenia	11		
Canada	16			Lithuania	11			Somalia	*Absent*		
Chad			13	Luxembourg	*Absent*			South Africa	*Absent*		
Chile	13			Malawi	14			Spain	8		8
China	17		6	Malaysia	15			Sri Lanka	*Absent*		
Côte d'Ivoire			15	Maldives	10			Switzerland	12		
Croatia	8		2	Mali	10			Tajikistan	*Absent*		
Cyprus	11			Malta	10			Thailand	18		
Czechia	13			Mauritania	12			Timor-Leste	11		
DR of the Congo	*Absent*			Mauritius	*Absent*			Togo	*Absent*		
Denmark	12			Mexico	*Absent*			Tonga	*Absent*		
Djibouti	11			Micronesia (Fed. States of)	*Absent*			Türkiye	*Absent*		
Dominican Rep.	13							Turkmenistan	*Absent*		
Ecuador	13			Monaco	10			Uganda	*Absent*		
Egypt	20			Mongolia	*Absent*			Ukraine	15		
Equatorial Guinea	11			Montenegro	*Absent*			United Arab Emirates	13		
Estonia	11			Morocco	15						
Eswatini	*Absent*			Mozambique			15	United Kingdom	18		
Fiji	10			Namibia			11	United Republic of Tanzania	18		
Finland	12			Naoero	*Absent*						
France	18			Nepal		14		Uruguay	10		
Gambia (The)	*Absent*			Netherlands			13	Uzbekistan	*Absent*		
Georgia	*Absent*			Niger	*Absent*			Viet Nam	12		8
Germany	19			Nigeria	22			Zimbabwe	*Absent*		

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

Condemnation of the military aggression by the United States of America and Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and of the air and naval blockade imposed by the United States of America, as violations of international law and of the principle of non-intervention

Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Islamic Republic of Iran for the inclusion of an emergency item

Results

Affirmative votes 110
Negative votes 558
Abstentions 451
Total of affirmative and negative votes ..668
Two-thirds majority 445

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Albania	*Absent*			Ghana	*Absent*			Norway		12	
Algeria	*Absent*			Greece		13		Oman	12		
Andorra		10		Guyana	*Absent*			Pakistan			22
Angola			15	Hungary		12		Palestine		10	2
Armenia	*Absent*			Iceland		10		Paraguay			10
Australia		14		India			23	Peru	*Absent*		
Austria		12		Indonesia			22	Poland		15	
Azerbaijan	*Absent*			Iran (Islamic Republic of)	19			Portugal		13	
Bahrain		11						Qatar			11
Bangladesh	*Absent*			Iraq	6		10	Republic of Korea	*Absent*		
Belarus	*Absent*			Ireland		12		Republic of Moldova		10	
Belgium		13		Italy		17					
Belize	*Absent*			Japan			20	Romania		13	
Bhutan			10	Jordan		13		Russian Federation	*Absent*		
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	*Absent*			Kazakhstan	*Absent*						
				Kenya	*Absent*			Rwanda	*Absent*		
				Kyrgyzstan	*Absent*			Samoa	*Absent*		
Botswana			11	Lao People's Dem. Republic			12	San Marino		10	
Brazil			10					Saudi Arabia		15	
Bulgaria	*Absent*			Latvia		11		Senegal	*Absent*		
Burkina Faso	*Absent*			Lesotho			11	Serbia			12
Cambodia	13			Libya	*Absent*			Seychelles	*Absent*		
Cameroon			14	Liechtenstein	*Absent*			Slovenia		7	4
Canada		16		Lithuania		11		Somalia	*Absent*		
Chad			13	Luxembourg	*Absent*			South Africa	*Absent*		
Chile	5	8		Malawi			14	Spain		16	
China	13		10	Malaysia	15			Sri Lanka	*Absent*		
Côte d'Ivoire			15	Maldives			10	Switzerland		12	
Croatia		8	2	Mali	10			Tajikistan			
Cyprus		6	5	Malta		10		Thailand	6	6	6
Czechia		13		Mauritania		12		Timor-Leste			11
DR of the Congo	*Absent*			Mauritius	*Absent*			Togo	*Absent*		
Denmark		12		Mexico	*Absent*			Tonga	*Absent*		
Djibouti			11	Micronesia (Fed. States of)	*Absent*			Türkiye	*Absent*		
Dominican Rep.		13						Turkmenistan	*Absent*		
Ecuador			13	Monaco		10		Uganda	*Absent*		
Egypt		18	2	Mongolia	*Absent*			Ukraine		15	
Equatorial Guinea			11	Montenegro	*Absent*			United Arab Emirates		13	
Estonia		11		Morocco		15					
Eswatini	*Absent*			Mozambique			15	United Kingdom		18	
Fiji			10	Namibia	11			United Republic of Tanzania			18
Finland		12		Naoero	*Absent*						
France		18		Nepal			14	Uruguay			10
Gambia (The)	*Absent*			Netherlands		13		Uzbekistan	*Absent*		
Georgia	*Absent*			Niger	*Absent*			Viet Nam			20
Germany		19		Nigeria			22	Zimbabwe	*Absent*		

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

Urgent parliamentary action to address climate-related disasters and strengthen resilience in the Himalayan region and other vulnerable regions

Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Nepal for the inclusion of an emergency item

Results

Affirmative votes..... 901
Negative votes 78
Abstentions 140

Total of affirmative and negative votes ..979
Two-thirds majority.....653

Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Albania	*Absent*		
Algeria	*Absent*		
Andorra	10		
Angola	15		
Armenia	*Absent*		
Australia	14		
Austria	8		4
Azerbaijan	*Absent*		
Bahrain		11	
Bangladesh	*Absent*		
Belarus	*Absent*		
Belgium	13		
Belize	*Absent*		
Bhutan	10		
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	*Absent*		
Botswana	11		
Brazil	10		
Bulgaria	*Absent*		
Burkina Faso	*Absent*		
Cambodia	13		
Cameroon	14		
Canada	16		
Chad	13		
Chile	13		
China	23		
Côte d'Ivoire	15		
Croatia	5		5
Cyprus	11		
Czechia	3		10
DR of the Congo	*Absent*		
Denmark	12		
Djibouti	11		
Dominican Rep.	13		
Ecuador	13		
Egypt		15	5
Equatorial Guinea	8		3
Estonia		4	7
Eswatini	*Absent*		
Fiji	10		
Finland	12		
France	14		4
Gambia (The)	*Absent*		
Georgia	*Absent*		
Germany	19		
Ghana	*Absent*		
Greece	13		
Guyana	*Absent*		
Hungary	4		8
Iceland	10		
India	23		
Indonesia	22		
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	19		
Iraq			16
Ireland	12		
Italy	17		
Japan	20		
Jordan		13	
Kazakhstan	*Absent*		
Kenya	*Absent*		
Kyrgyzstan	*Absent*		
Lao People's Dem. Republic	12		
Latvia	11		
Lesotho	11		
Libya	*Absent*		
Liechtenstein	*Absent*		
Lithuania			11
Luxembourg	*Absent*		
Malawi	14		
Malaysia	15		
Maldives	10		
Mali	10		
Malta	10		
Mauritania		12	
Mauritius	*Absent*		
Mexico	*Absent*		
Micronesia (Fed. States of)	*Absent*		
Monaco	10		
Mongolia	*Absent*		
Montenegro	*Absent*		
Morocco	5		10
Mozambique	15		
Namibia	11		
Naoero	*Absent*		
Nepal	14		
Netherlands	13		
Niger	*Absent*		
Nigeria	22		
Norway	12		
Oman			12
Pakistan	22		
Palestine		8	4
Paraguay	10		
Peru	*Absent*		
Poland	15		
Portugal			13
Qatar	6		5
Republic of Korea	*Absent*		
Republic of Moldova	10		
Romania	13		
Russian Federation	*Absent*		
Rwanda	*Absent*		
Samoa	*Absent*		
San Marino	10		
Saudi Arabia		15	
Senegal	*Absent*		
Serbia	12		
Seychelles	*Absent*		
Slovenia	11		
Somalia	*Absent*		
South Africa	*Absent*		
Spain	16		
Sri Lanka	*Absent*		
Switzerland	12		
Tajikistan	*Absent*		
Thailand	18		
Timor-Leste	11		
Togo	*Absent*		
Tonga	*Absent*		
Türkiye	*Absent*		
Turkmenistan	*Absent*		
Uganda	*Absent*		
Ukraine	5		10
United Arab Emirates			13
United Kingdom	18		
United Republic of Tanzania	18		
Uruguay	10		
Uzbekistan	*Absent*		
Viet Nam	20		
Zimbabwe	*Absent*		

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

Urgent parliamentary action to address climate-related disasters and strengthen resilience in the Himalayan region and other vulnerable regions

Resolution adopted unanimously by the 153rd IPU Assembly
(Arusha, 9 October 2026)

The 153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Expressing deep concern at the disaster on an unprecedented scale that struck the Rasuwa–Bhotekoshi region of Nepal on 26 August 2026, and *expressing its deepest condolences* for, and solidarity with, the people and communities affected by the multidimensional and devastating impacts of the disaster,

Recalling the purposes, principles and values of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) which, as set out in its Statutes, Rules and Strategy, is the global organization of national parliaments working to advance questions of international interest and express its views on such issues with the aim of bringing about action by parliaments and their members,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Welcoming the unanimous advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 23 July 2025 on the obligations of States in respect of climate change, and *affirming* the importance of the Court's advisory opinion as an authoritative contribution to the clarification of existing international law,

Underscoring that States' obligations pertaining to the protection of the climate system and other parts of the environment from anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, in particular the obligation to prevent significant transboundary harm under customary international law, are obligations *erga omnes*,

Reaffirming the commitment made in the Paris Agreement of 2015 to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels,

Recalling decision 1/CP.21 of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on *Adoption of the Paris Agreement*, through which the international community pledged to mobilize US$ 100 billion annually, including to finance the reduction of atmospheric CO_2 emissions in developing countries,

Recalling also the commitments agreed at COP29, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, to deliver on the New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance by mobilizing at least US$ 300 billion annually for developing countries by 2035, with developed countries taking the lead, and the call to scale up climate finance from all public and private sources to at least US$ 1.3 trillion annually by 2035,

Stressing that climate change is an existential threat of civilizational proportions and that the well-being of present and future generations of humankind depends on an immediate and urgent response to it,

Acknowledging that climate-induced disasters such as storms, floods, glacier melt, glacial lake outburst floods, rockfalls, avalanches, landslides and droughts pose a borderless threat to current generations as much as to the future of humanity, and that the climate crisis is no longer a distant warning but instead a present, daily reality,

Noting with concern that wars of aggression and other armed conflicts generate significant greenhouse gas emissions through military operations, landscape fires, attacks on energy infrastructure, and the destruction of forests, wetlands and other carbon sinks, and that such emissions undermine the efforts of States to meet their commitments under the Paris Agreement,

Recognizing that the Himalayan region is the roof of the world and that the ecosystem services it provides underpin the growth of civilizations and the livelihoods of over 2 billion people living along river basins and in coastal zones,

Recognizing also that developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, have contributed the least to anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere,

Recognizing further the important role of local communities, Indigenous peoples and women in disaster preparedness, adaptation planning and resilience-building,

Welcoming the Sagarmatha Sambaad organized by the Government of Nepal in Kathmandu in 2025 under the theme *Climate Change, Mountains and the Future of Humanity*, and its outcome document, the *Sagarmatha Call for Action*, which called for collective efforts towards the fulfilment of obligations for climate mitigation and adaptation,

Recalling the address delivered by the United Nations Secretary-General at the 81st session of the UN General Assembly on 22 September 2026, in which he emphasized the observations and concerns he had expressed in Nepal in 2023 relating to accelerating glacier melt and the caving in of the rooftops of the world, and in which he stressed the urgent need for climate action, including climate justice focused on adaptation and finance,

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

1. *Expresses appreciation* to the international community for providing immediate relief assistance to Nepal for the people and communities affected by the Rasuwa–Bhotekoshi disaster;

2. *Encourages* the international community to maintain its focus beyond this current immediate relief, in order to sustain the political will needed to support medium- and long-term rehabilitation, as well as risk reduction efforts in view of future climate-related disasters;

3. *Calls upon* Member Parliaments to use their legislative, budgetary and oversight functions to strengthen nationally determined climate action consistent with the Paris Agreement goal of holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels;

4. *Calls upon* governments and parliaments to strengthen food security and climate-resilient agriculture in vulnerable mountain, coastal and dryland regions, including through investments in resilient food systems, sustainable water management and locally adapted agricultural practices;

5. *Encourages* parliaments to integrate the interests of future generations into climate, disaster risk reduction and reconstruction policies, including through effective parliamentary oversight and long-term impact assessments;

6. *Urges* Member Parliaments to consider the implications of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the obligations of States in respect of climate change, in the exercise of their legislative, budgetary and oversight functions;

7. *Encourages* Member Parliaments to intensify parliamentary diplomacy and strengthen coordinated engagement through the mechanisms of the IPU and its geopolitical groups in order to build international consensus on the transboundary sharing of climate data, in advance and in real time, as well as on regional and international collaboration on early warning systems, particularly in transboundary mountain and river-basin regions;

8. *Calls for* the open and timely sharing of scientific data across borders in order to strengthen early warning systems and disaster preparedness;

9. *Also calls for* cooperation and the exchange of best practices among parliaments in mountain regions, delta regions and other climate-vulnerable areas, including small island developing States;

10. *Calls upon* the world's parliaments, acting through the IPU and other appropriate parliamentary channels, to show readiness to support all genuine efforts aimed at reducing climate-induced disasters and ensuring speedy recovery and reconstruction;

11. *Encourages* Member Parliaments to make collective efforts to ensure equitable and simplified access for developing countries, particularly those vulnerable to climate change, including small island developing States and mountainous least developed countries, to international climate finance including scaled-up grants and concessional finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building from bilateral and multilateral sources, including the operating entities and funds of the financial mechanism under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement and alternative sources;

12. *Calls for* investment in climate-resilient infrastructure and nature-based solutions that reduce disaster risks while safeguarding essential public services;

13. *Calls upon* the international community and relevant financial institutions to ensure that assistance provided to countries affected by environmental disasters does not further exacerbate their debt burden, while taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, as well as different national circumstances;

14. *Calls upon* the Member Parliaments of developed countries to support efforts to strengthen the disaster preparedness of developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change;

15. *Requests* the IPU to facilitate the exchange of parliamentary good practices, support capacity-building and report on parliamentary action taken to implement this resolution;

16. *Calls upon* Member Parliaments to report on their actions taken in follow-up to this resolution in the special accountability segment at future IPU Assemblies;

17. *Requests* the IPU Secretary General to circulate this resolution to all Member Parliaments, to the UN Secretary-General and to multilateral development funds, with a view to mobilizing international support for enhancing parliamentary accountability for climate justice.

Report of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

Noted by the 153rd IPU Assembly
(Arusha, 9 October 2026)

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security held two sittings, on 6 and 7 October 2026, with its President, Mr. H. Mohammad (Malaysia), in the chair.

On 6 October 2026, the Standing Committee held two panel discussions, on *The role of parliaments in securing peace in the age of military artificial intelligence* and on *Shaping peaceful futures: Parliamentary diplomacy, mediation and dialogue for lasting peace*. On 7 October 2026, it held an expert hearing on the subject of its next resolution, *Strengthening maritime security and protecting critical infrastructure in times of conflict: The role of parliaments in safeguarding international navigation and global economic stability*.

Panel discussion on *The role of parliaments in securing peace in the age of military artificial intelligence*

This panel discussion was moderated by Mr. C. Law (United Kingdom), with contributions from Ms. A. Lakrafi, Parliamentary Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF); Ms. E. Misola Richard, Legal Adviser at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); Ms. D. Lui, Programme Manager at the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF); and Mr. J. Glenn, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of the Millennium Project. The discussion focused on the growing use of artificial intelligence (AI) across military operations and decision-making and its implications for international humanitarian law (IHL), human control and democratic accountability. Panellists highlighted the need to consider the broader implications of military and weaponized AI, beyond autonomous weapons alone. Twenty delegates took the floor in the ensuing debate.

Ms. E. Misola Richard (ICRC) recalled that existing IHL rules apply to the use of AI in armed conflict, including those on distinction, proportionality and precautions in attack. She cautioned against treating the presence of a human operator as sufficient in itself, noting that meaningful control requires the operator to have the necessary knowledge, time, information and authority to challenge or stop an AI-supported action. The risks associated with unreliable data and excessive reliance on their outputs underscore the need for rigorous testing, legal safeguards and appropriate human oversight. She also emphasized the importance of analysing incidents and learning from operational experience.

Ms. A. Lakrafi (APF) highlighted the cybersecurity and practical accountability aspects of military AI. She stressed that no digital system can be presumed free of risk. MPs therefore need to determine who designs, validates and updates AI systems, what data those systems use, how they can be compromised, and who remains responsible when their outputs influence decisions involving human life. Although MPs cannot be expected to become engineers, they need to have access to independent expertise and sufficient institutional capacity to ask informed questions and identify unacceptable uses.

Ms. D. Lui (DCAF) placed these issues within democratic security-sector governance. She argued that parliamentary scrutiny should cover the entire life cycle of an AI-based system, from policy choices and procurement to deployment, upgrades, incident reporting and, finally, review or withdrawal. Defence procurement offers a key opportunity to establish safeguards for the responsible and accountable use of military AI systems. Effective parliamentary oversight should therefore begin before acquisition and should continue throughout a system's operational life.

Mr. J. Glenn (Millennium Project) encouraged parliaments to examine current systems while anticipating more advanced and potentially more autonomous forms of AI. He warned that the pace of technological development could surpass both regulatory processes and public understanding. He called for stronger parliamentary foresight, international discussion of common safety requirements, and practical guidance on emerging risks, including those associated with artificial general intelligence. He suggested that the IPU help MPs prepare for both immediate oversight requirements and future technological developments.

During the debate, delegations expressed concern about the humanitarian, legal and security consequences of incorporating AI into military decision-making. Many stressed that responsibility for the use of force must remain with human decision makers and States, and that IHL obligations must continue to apply regardless of technological sophistication. Several speakers called for the development of clearer international rules governing autonomous weapons, with some advocating for a legally binding instrument. The role of parliamentary engagement in ongoing multilateral processes, including those under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, was also highlighted.

Participants highlighted the range of legislative, budgetary and oversight tools available to parliaments to ensure effective scrutiny of military AI systems. Particular concerns were raised regarding the capacity of parliaments – especially in countries that do not develop such technologies themselves – to evaluate suppliers' claims and understand operational risks. Delegations also discussed the necessary balance between transparency and legitimate defence confidentiality. Sensitive information might require protected procedures, but secrecy should not exempt security institutions from democratic accountability. Although some statements referred to ongoing conflicts and geopolitical rivalries, the discussion showed broad convergence of views on the need for meaningful human responsibility, parliamentary expertise and inclusive international governance.

Panel discussion on *Shaping peaceful futures: Parliamentary diplomacy, mediation and dialogue for lasting peace*

The second panel discussion was moderated by Mr. T. Malang from the University of Zurich.
The panellists were Mr. M. Chungong, former IPU Secretary General; Mr. J. Abdul (Malaysia), Speaker of the House of Representatives; Ms. S. Faruqui (Pakistan); and Ms. E. Misola Richard (ICRC).
Discussions explored how parliamentarians could contribute to conflict prevention, dialogue, mediation and peacebuilding within countries and across national borders, while respecting their representative and constitutional mandates. Twelve speakers took the floor during the debate.

Mr. M. Chungong (former IPU Secretary General) situated parliamentary diplomacy within the founding purpose and experience of the IPU as a forum for dialogue, including in conflict and post-conflict situations. He stressed that external actors should facilitate rather than impose solutions, with the parliaments concerned retaining ownership of the process. Engagement also needs continuity beyond individual missions or Assembly meetings, coordination with executive authorities when appropriate, and the inclusion of both government and opposition voices. He called for sustainable mechanisms, concrete avenues for cooperation and road maps capable of ensuring that engagement is sustained over time.

Mr. J. Abdul (Malaysia) emphasized the possibility for MPs to maintain communication between societies when formal relations between States are strained. He referred to regional parliamentary experience within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and called for parliamentary diplomacy to be better institutionalized so that it does not depend entirely on individual officeholders. Training in negotiation, mediation, confidence-building and conflict prevention, as well as investment in younger political leaders, can strengthen the ability of parliamentary actors to prioritize dialogue and compromise over confrontation.

Ms. E. Misola Richard (ICRC) explained that compliance with humanitarian obligations can help preserve the conditions for political dialogue, even though IHL does not in itself resolve the underlying causes of conflict. The protection of civilians, and respect for humanitarian obligations, can help alleviate suffering and reduce grievances, which in turn can create the conditions for lasting peace. She distinguished humanitarian diplomacy and the ICRC's confidential operational engagement from political negotiation, stressing that legal obligations must not be treated as bargaining instruments. Parliamentary contacts with sensitive actors require a careful assessment of their purpose and limitations, and of their possible consequences for the individuals concerned.

Ms. S. Faruqui (Pakistan) underlined the need to measure the results rather than the frequency of parliamentary contacts. MPs can help explore solutions and defuse misunderstandings without every exchange constituting a formal governmental position. However, dialogue has limited value if it ends as soon as participants leave the room. She proposed setting up clearer follow-up arrangements and focal points, and establishing institutional memory. She also suggested considering the establishment of a small professional parliamentary mediation and dialogue facility within the IPU Secretariat, to be activated with the consent of the parliaments concerned.

In the ensuing debate, delegations described parliamentarians as potential early-warning actors because of their contact with communities and their knowledge of tensions related to land, resources, political competition and exclusion. They highlighted the contribution parliaments can make before crises through prevention, during crises by maintaining dialogue, and after crises by supporting reconciliation and translating peace agreements into lasting commitments. Inclusion was widely emphasized: opposition parties, women, young people, civil society and community representatives can strengthen the legitimacy and effectiveness of peace processes. Members also recalled the importance of dialogue within States, as well as across borders.

Speakers did, however, acknowledge the limits of parliamentary action. It was noted that MPs are political actors, not necessarily neutral traditional mediators, and that their mandates do not confer authority to negotiate on behalf of governments. Participants emphasized the need to strike a balance between confidentiality and public accountability, as well as between dialogue and respect for international law and the pursuit of accountability in the event of violations. Concrete proposals emerging from the discussion included guidelines and training on parliamentary dialogue and mediation, the establishment of networks of expertise, the need for institutional follow-up, and the use of humanitarian or community-shared concerns as entry points for building trust. The discussion underscored the need to make parliamentary engagement for peace more structured and more inclusive and to make sure it follows a results-oriented approach.

Expert hearing on the theme of the Committee's next resolution, *Strengthening maritime security and protecting critical infrastructure in times of conflict: The role of parliaments in safeguarding international navigation and global economic stability*

On 7 October 2026, the Standing Committee held an expert hearing to inform the drafting of its next resolution. The hearing opened with presentations by the co-Rapporteurs, Ms. L. Zaburanna (Ukraine) and Mr M. Almheiri (United Arab Emirates). The presentations were followed by expert contributions from Ms. E. Misola Richard (ICRC), Ms. D. Lui (DCAF), and Mr. F.C. Onuoha, Coordinator of the Security, Violence and Conflict Research Group, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, as well as by a debate involving 22 delegations.

Ms. L. Zaburanna (Ukraine), co-Rapporteur, called for the establishment of a solid legal foundation for freedom of navigation and the protection of merchant shipping and civilian infrastructure.
She highlighted the growing threats to maritime shipping and their broader economic repercussions, notably the rise in transport costs and the prices of essential goods. She also expressed concern regarding illicit and opaque maritime activities, including "shadow fleets", and underlined the importance of translating international standards into domestic law and ensuring the effective enforcement of such law, including through relevant budget allocations.

Mr. M. Almheiri (United Arab Emirates), co-Rapporteur, called for a pragmatic and universally relevant resolution. He stressed that the consequences of disruptions to maritime routes are felt in both landlocked and coastal countries, affecting essential goods and medical supplies. The protection of shipping must also cover the physical and digital infrastructure that makes shipping possible. He called for the drafting of a text firmly grounded in applicable international law and the relevant standards of the International Maritime Organization, and in terms that would allow broad support to be secured among Member Parliaments.

Ms. E. Misola Richard (ICRC) pointed out that IHL applies to naval warfare, including the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution, and that merchant shipping and civilian maritime infrastructure remain protected unless and until they become military objectives under the applicable rules. She highlighted the impact that damage to critical maritime infrastructure and commercial activities has on civilian populations. She also emphasized that parliaments can help prevent or mitigate these consequences by ensuring that appropriate legal frameworks, preparedness measures and coordination mechanisms are in place before crises occur. She also referred to humanitarian access, the protection of neutral shipping and seafarers, and the naval warfare workstream of the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law.

Ms. D. Lui (DCAF) described maritime security as a governance challenge requiring effective coordination among a wide range of public and private actors. She warned that fragmented or overlapping responsibilities can undermine crisis preparedness and response. She encouraged

parliaments to clarify institutional mandates, identify accountability gaps and use their oversight powers to assess the effectiveness of national frameworks. She also stressed that involving stakeholders beyond the government sphere and establishing clear lines of accountability were essential for national resilience and international cooperation.

Mr. F.C. Onuoha (University of Nigeria, Nsukka) emphasized that maritime security depends on the resilience of an interconnected system of infrastructure, maritime activities and essential services. He warned that increasingly complex and hybrid threats, combined with vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure and disparities in national capabilities, require a more comprehensive approach to maritime security. He called for strengthened national preparedness, improved maritime surveillance and closer regional cooperation. He also stressed the importance of parliamentary oversight of security operations and the role of dialogue in conflict prevention and resolution.

The debate highlighted broad support for an approach to maritime security based on human, economic and societal resilience. Delegations stressed that disruptions at sea have significant consequences for the security of civilian populations, access to essential goods and economic stability. They called for the establishment of a clear legal framework based on the Charter of the United Nations, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, applicable IHL and other relevant maritime instruments. They also mentioned the need to take into account the different legal requirements applicable to times of peace and armed conflict, and identified several assets requiring effective protection, including civilian shipping and critical maritime infrastructure.

Delegations also emphasized the importance of prevention, national preparedness and the resilience of essential maritime services. They called upon parliaments to exercise their constitutional powers to strengthen national capacities and ensure the effective implementation of international obligations. They also called for strengthened international cooperation, particularly in terms of information-sharing and support for countries with limited resources. However, differences of views emerged regarding responsibility in specific maritime crises and how best to balance rule enforcement and accountability with restraint and de-escalation.

Overall, the discussions reaffirmed that lasting peace and security require more than just a response to immediate threats: they also depend on prevention, the protection of people, and legal safeguards. Participants highlighted the essential role of parliaments in preventing conflict, ensuring democratic accountability and promoting international cooperation and dialogue.

Report of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development

Noted by the 153rd IPU Assembly
(Arusha, 9 October 2026)

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development held its sittings on 7 and 8 October 2026. Both sittings were chaired by the Committee President, Ms. M.S. Al Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates).

Debate on the theme of the Committee's next resolution, entitled *Parliamentary leadership to protect mountain and ocean ecosystems and achieve the 30% conservation goal by 2030*

The topic of the next resolution was introduced by three experts: Ms. Soo-Young Hwang, Programme Management Officer, Rights and Governance Unit, Law Division, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Mr. M. Langa, Chairperson, Alliance for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for Conservation in Africa (AICA); and Mr. R. Feingold, Chair of the Global Steering Committee of the Campaign for Nature, and former member of the Senate of the United States of America. The co-Rapporteurs, Ms. C. Roth (Germany), Mr. D. Kyere-Duah (Ghana) and Ms. A. Shakya (Nepal), also addressed the Committee at the opening of the debate, sharing their personal perspectives on the theme.

Ms. Soo-Young Hwang (UNEP) set the context by recalling the core objectives of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and outlining the legal foundations required to achieve the 30x30 target. She highlighted how international commitments must be effectively translated into domestic legislation and emphasized the necessity of incorporating a human rights-based approach, including the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, to build robust and enforceable conservation laws.

Mr. M. Langa (AICA) focused on inclusive governance, land rights and the central role of communities. Questioning traditional top-down conservation models, he strongly urged parliamentarians to enact more inclusive laws. He underscored that the 30x30 target cannot be delivered without the active leadership and full involvement of Indigenous peoples and local communities, illustrating how securing land tenure rights and supporting community-based natural resource management directly yield positive conservation outcomes.

Mr. R. Feingold (Campaign for Nature) emphasized that turning global targets into reality requires sustained political will and adequate funding, while acknowledging that conservation is not always seen as the immediate top priority, given differing national contexts. Stressing the need for cross-party consensus, he outlined concrete financial proposals, including creating dedicated legacy conservation funds prioritizing Indigenous communities and small island developing States (SIDS), requiring commercial sectors that utilize nature to contribute financially, and earmarking specific portions of Global North climate budgets directly for biodiversity conservation.

Each of the three experts concluded their respective presentations by putting forward three concrete proposals to the co-Rapporteurs for actionable legislative steps, legal measures and parliamentary actions.

Following the experts' presentations, 26 delegates shared national experiences, legislative progress and policy challenges. Delegates highlighted rapid advancements in national strategies, as well as the use of technology for monitoring, strict law enforcement, and transparent parliamentary leadership. They stressed that shared ecosystems like mountains and oceans transcend national borders, requiring active parliamentary diplomacy, cross-border cooperation and regional capacity-building.

Delegates also raised concerns regarding climate justice, the vulnerability of front-line nations, financing gaps, and the difficulty of implementing conservation laws during armed conflict. Interventions underscored the need to link conservation with agriculture and sustainable development, treat nature protection as a vital investment rather than a cost, involve youth and local governance, and treat the 30% conservation goal as a baseline minimum.

The co-Rapporteurs summarized their key takeaways to guide the drafting of the resolution:

- Ms. C. Roth (Germany) emphasized the importance of drawing on existing positive national examples, ensuring justice and rights for Indigenous peoples, mobilizing direct financial support and accelerating the protection of marine ecosystems.

- Mr. D. Kyere-Duah (Ghana) stressed the critical gap between establishing laws and effectively protecting ecosystems on the ground, and called for equitable financing mechanisms, enhanced parliamentary oversight, and capacity-building.

- Ms. A. Shakya (Nepal) highlighted the intrinsic linkages between climate change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, while emphasizing the need to reinforce the central role of Indigenous communities.

Panel discussion on *Artificial intelligence and the future of work*

The debate examined how artificial intelligence (AI) is changing how work is organized, valued and distributed; automating tasks across sectors; shifting demand for skills; raising key questions regarding labour rights, social protection and economic inequality; and also creating new opportunities for productivity and innovation.

The topic was introduced by three experts: Ms. J. Berg, Senior Economist, International Labour Organization (ILO); Mr. S. Broecke, Senior Economist, Artificial Intelligence, Future of Work and Skills, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); and Ms. S. Abdella, Researcher, Global Center on AI Governance (GCG). Mr. A. Read (IPU Secretariat) moderated the discussion with the experts.

Ms. J. Berg (ILO) set the global context by presenting findings on potential occupational exposure to generative AI. She emphasized that AI is more likely to augment than fully replace jobs, though young entrants and women in administrative roles face distinct vulnerabilities. She stressed the necessity of involving workers directly in the design and governance of workplace AI tools (“workers in the loop”), supported by strong social protection frameworks.

Mr. S. Broecke (OECD) addressed labour market trends across OECD countries, noting that aggregate employment remains high despite automation pressures. He stressed that task automation can offset demographic labour shortages if managed through proactive employer-funded retraining and oversight. In his closing reflections, he emphasized that acknowledging the potential of AI does not mean ignoring its real risks and dangerous impacts; rather, the central responsibility for policymakers lies in governing how technology is used and establishing rigorous, ongoing monitoring.

Ms. S. Abdella (GCG) focused on governance, equity, and ethical dimensions from the perspective of developing economies and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). She outlined the role of parliaments in establishing workplace labour standards, regulating algorithmic management, and investing in digital infrastructure and retraining to prevent the deepening of economic divides.

Following the experts’ presentations, 25 delegates shared national experiences, legislative progress and policy challenges. Delegates highlighted the need to balance AI-driven productivity gains with robust safeguards against job displacement, worker surveillance and algorithmic bias. They emphasized the vital responsibility of parliamentarians to protect vulnerable groups, adapt taxation systems to automated economies, and address technological shifts in complex contexts, including geopolitical crises.

Interventions also underscored the urgency of proactive public policies centred on lifelong learning, vocational training and strengthened social safety nets. Delegates repeatedly highlighted that international cooperation, capacity-building and technology transfer are essential to bridging the global digital divide and ensuring an inclusive transition across all economies.

At the conclusion of the debate, the Committee adopted a motion entitled *Advancing a rights-based, inclusive and sustainable future of work amid advances in artificial intelligence*. The motion calls on Member Parliaments to use their legislative, oversight, budgetary and representative functions to: protect labour rights; mandate human oversight; expand public investments in education, reskilling and

social protection; request disaggregated data to monitor labour market impacts; promote equitable access to digital infrastructure for developing nations and SMEs; and strengthen international cooperation to foster inclusive AI governance.

Preparations for the Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31) in Türkiye

The third debate focused on preparations for the IPU Parliamentary Meeting at COP31, scheduled to take place on 16 November 2026 in Antalya, Türkiye. The Meeting co-Rapporteurs, Ms. S. Sitou (Australia) and Mr. O. Üçüncü (Türkiye), both participating online, presented the preliminary draft outcome document, structuring their remarks around complementary priorities.

Ms. S. Sitou (Australia) framed the global climate urgency and praised the cooperation between Türkiye and Australia, while emphasizing the need for increased access to climate finance for developing nations, particularly SIDS and least developed countries, as well as for adaptation, resilience and the integration of Indigenous knowledge.

For his part, Mr. O. Üçüncü (Türkiye) focused on the operational elements of the draft outcome document and on the vision of Türkiye as host country, highlighting the pivotal role of parliaments in implementing and overseeing nationally determined contributions, and in promoting clean energy, the circular economy, zero-waste approaches and fiscal accountability.

Following the presentations, five delegates took the floor to share their suggestions for additional elements to include in the draft outcome document. They emphasized the need to mobilize more predictable, accessible and equitable climate finance, while substantially increasing financial and technical support for countries most vulnerable to climate change. Deliberations also underscored the urgency of strengthening parliamentary climate diplomacy and ensuring rigorous tracking of national commitments. The contributions and recommendations provided during the debate will inform the continued drafting of the outcome document, with a view to reinforcing the role of parliamentarians in advancing ambitious, just and resilient climate action at COP31.

Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

Noted by the 153rd IPU Assembly
(Arusha, 9 October 2026)

The Standing Committee held two sittings, on 7 and 8 October 2026, with its President, Ms. V. Centeno Arteaga (Ecuador), presiding as Chair. After opening the session, Ms. Centeno Arteaga invited all present to adopt the agenda of the session and approve the summary record of the previous session, held at the 152nd IPU Assembly in Istanbul in April 2026.

Panel discussion on *The UN Country Team in the United Republic of Tanzania as the reflection of a reformed UN system*

Presenters: Ms. S.N. Namondo (United Nations Resident Coordinator, United Republic of Tanzania) and several members of the UN Country Team.

During its first sitting, which was attended by 43 delegations, the Committee held a discussion with Ms. S.N. Namondo (UN Resident Coordinator in the United Republic of Tanzania), who was accompanied by senior representatives of several UN entities. The discussion focused on the functioning of the UN Country Team in the United Republic of Tanzania, the role of the Resident Coordinator, cooperation between the UN and parliament, and the implications of ongoing UN reform and funding pressures.

The Resident Coordinator placed the discussion in the broader context of pressure on the global development agenda. She noted that progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals remains insufficient, while geopolitical challenges and significant financing constraints are affecting development cooperation. Against this background, the UN80 initiative aims to make the UN system more coherent, streamlined, cost-effective and fit for purpose. In the United Republic of Tanzania, the work of the UN Country Team is governed by the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, agreed with the Government. The framework focuses broadly on people, prosperity, the planet and an enabling environment, including access to education, health, nutrition and protection, as well as sustainable livelihoods, natural resource management, and more representative, accountable and rights-focused institutions.

The central theme of the discussion was the importance of stronger and more systematic cooperation between UN Country Teams and national parliaments. The Resident Coordinator highlighted the experience of the United Republic of Tanzania, including UN support to parliamentary committees in reviewing legislation, budgets and audit reports, as well as work on public hearings, e-Parliament initiatives and gender equality. A recent example concerned HIV financing. Following reductions in external funding, the Government introduced measures to mobilize additional domestic resources. Parliament subsequently examined their implementation when revenues proved lower than expected, illustrating its important oversight role.

The Resident Coordinator highlighted several proposals for improving cooperation between the UN and parliament:

- UN Country Teams could provide annual briefings to parliament ahead of the budget cycle, allowing parliamentary committees to receive relevant evidence before key decisions are taken.
- Engagement should become more regular and structured, rather than depending on ad hoc contacts.
- The UN should increasingly engage parliament, particularly because many issues considered by parliament cut across the mandates of several UN agencies.
- Parliament and the UN Country Team could hold a yearly exchange on the implementation and results of the cooperation framework.
- Experiences and lessons learned from different countries could be shared more systematically with the IPU, helping to institutionalize good practices across countries.

Members broadly welcomed stronger engagement between Resident Coordinators, UN Country Teams and national parliaments. The delegation of Malta emphasized the importance of engaging parliaments throughout the policy cycle, while the delegation of Bangladesh highlighted the role of parliament in translating international commitments into domestic legislation and national budgets. The delegation of

India stressed the importance of national ownership and the need for development solutions to reflect national priorities, while the delegation of Türkiye called for regular dialogue between parliaments, Resident Coordinators and UN agencies.

The discussion also addressed funding constraints and overlapping mandates. The Resident Coordinator explained that reduced resources require the UN to identify efficiencies and reconsider its ways of working. While decisions on institutional mandates and possible consolidation belong to Member States, Resident Coordinators can improve coordination and cooperation between agencies at the country level.

UN representatives shared examples of cooperation with parliament in the United Republic of Tanzania, including work on nutrition, immunization and gender-responsive budgeting, as well as engagement with parliamentary committees.

The Secretariat of the Standing Committee noted that, although parliamentary engagement has been incorporated into the mandate of Resident Coordinators following IPU advocacy, it does not appear to be reflected adequately in their performance evaluations. The Resident Coordinator suggested that this issue could be pursued through dialogue between the IPU and the UN. She also encouraged national parliaments to proactively invite Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams to engage with them.

The Chair concluded by emphasizing the importance of enabling parliaments to benefit more fully from UN programmes and of strengthening the role of Resident Coordinators while respecting national priorities.

Towards a more effective and representative United Nations: Consideration of a motion calling for a conference to review the Charter of the United Nations

In this session, following on from the discussion held during its session at the 152nd Assembly, the Standing Committee considered the motion entitled *A United Nations fit for purpose: Towards a Charter review conference*, proposed by the delegation of Portugal.

The debate revealed broad support for the motion, which encourages parliaments to support discussion with governments on the call for an Article 109 Charter review conference, with participants noting that the institutional structures created in 1945 do not adequately reflect the geopolitical realities and challenges of the 21st century. The delegation of Slovenia emphasized that a review of the Charter should aim to strengthen rather than weaken the UN, as well as improve its effectiveness and give greater voice to underrepresented countries and regions. The delegations of Malawi and Zimbabwe supported the motion, highlighting the need for UN Security Council reform and greater African representation, including permanent membership. They also stressed the importance of transparency, accountability and more equitable representation.

The delegation of the United Kingdom reaffirmed the importance of the UN for international peace, security, human rights and development, while recognizing the need to improve its effectiveness.

At the end of the debate, the Chair recognized consensus support for the motion and encouraged members to take concrete action to advance its objectives.

Overall, the session ended with two connected messages. First, UN reform must translate into practical improvements at the country level, with stronger coordination, greater efficiency, clear national ownership and more systematic engagement with parliaments. Second, reform also needs to address the broader institutional architecture of the UN so that it becomes more representative and capable of responding effectively to contemporary global challenges.

Panel discussion on *The United Nations machinery for conflict prevention and resolution: How does it work?*

Presenters: Mr. Guang Cong (Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa) and Ms. S. Gruener (Deputy Executive Director and Programme Director, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation).

Mr. Guang Cong (Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa) outlined the different mechanisms available to the UN for preventing and resolving conflicts. These include preventive diplomacy, mediation, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, sanctions and, as a last resort, enforcement measures.

Drawing on experience in the Horn of Africa, he explained that the UN uses different instruments depending on the situation, including special political missions, peacekeeping operations, special envoys and Resident Coordinators. He emphasized that effective conflict prevention requires a sound understanding of local circumstances, as there is no single approach suitable for all situations. Strong coordination with regional organizations is essential, as are maintaining constructive relations with host governments and ensuring that local communities are involved.

Mr. Guang Cong highlighted the important role of parliamentarians in preventing and resolving conflicts, referring to examples from South Sudan where cooperation between the UN and parliamentarians have helped address intercommunal violence.

Ms. S. Gruener (Deputy Executive Director and Programme Director, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation) presented the UN peacebuilding architecture, focusing on the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Fund and the Peacebuilding Support Office. She explained that the Peacebuilding Commission brings together governments, international financial institutions, civil society and other partners to support nationally owned peacebuilding priorities.

Referring to the 2025 review of the peacebuilding architecture, Ms. Gruener highlighted the need for stronger coordination, better understanding of prevention activities and more predictable financing. She encouraged parliamentarians to support national prevention strategies and to use their legislative, budgetary and oversight functions to translate peacebuilding commitments into action.

During the discussion, parliamentarians reaffirmed the importance of strengthening the capacity of the UN to prevent conflicts, rather than it responding only after violence has escalated. Several delegations emphasized the need to translate early warning into early action, address the underlying causes of conflict, and reinforce cooperation between the UN and regional organizations.

Representatives of several countries stressed the importance of preventive diplomacy, mediation, national ownership and regional cooperation. The delegation of Burkina Faso highlighted the challenges facing the Sahel region and called for stronger engagement between national parliaments, UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams.

Other delegations drew attention to specific conflicts and challenges. The delegation of Chad questioned how the UN is adapting its mechanisms to current threats, including terrorism, and raised concerns about the perceived selectivity of international interventions. The delegation of Bahrain emphasized the importance of dialogue and preventive diplomacy, while the delegation of India highlighted the country's long-standing contribution to UN peacekeeping and stressed the importance of national ownership and of combating terrorism. The delegation of Bangladesh called for sustained international engagement, accountability, and conditions for voluntary, safe and dignified return.

In their concluding remarks, the panellists reiterated the fact that effective conflict prevention depends on political will, timely action, inclusive approaches and stronger cooperation between international, regional and national institutions. They also emphasized the importance of involving women and young people in peace processes and of ensuring that prevention and peacebuilding receive adequate resources. They called for closer and more systematic engagement between the UN, regional organizations and national parliaments.

The Chair concluded by condemning attacks against civilians, particularly children, and underscored the importance of parliamentary engagement and the IPU's role in promoting peace and dialogue.

Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee

Elections were held to fill vacant seats on the Bureau of the Committee (see page 42).

Other business

The Chair recalled the importance of following up on motions previously adopted by the Committee, including those concerning gender equality in the UN General Assembly, Security Council reform, the selection process for the new UN Secretary-General, and now, reform of the Charter of the United Nations. She encouraged members to continue promoting these issues within their national parliaments and to ensure that the Committee's discussions contribute to concrete action.

Advancing a rights-based, inclusive and sustainable future of work amid advances in artificial intelligence

Motion adopted by the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development
(Arusha, 8 October 2026)

The IPU Standing Committee on Sustainable Development recognizes that artificial intelligence (AI) is changing the nature of work and the labour market by automating tasks across sectors, shifting the demand for skills, and raising questions about labour rights, social protection and economic inequality. At the same time, AI can augment human capabilities, transform jobs and create new opportunities across sectors.

AI has the potential to support innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainable economic development, while raising productivity, creating new forms of employment, improving public services and assisting workers in their everyday tasks. Without deliberate policy, however, these benefits may not be distributed equally both within and between countries, particularly where access to skills, finance, digital infrastructure and technology is limited.

The Committee notes that evidence on the impact of AI on employment is still emerging and varies between countries and sectors. Available research does not yet point to large-scale job losses, although evidence from many regions and from the informal economy remains limited. Forecasts nonetheless suggest significant change in labour markets in the coming years, with both challenges and opportunities emerging for different groups and economies:

- Opportunities for young people entering the labour market may be changing in some of the roles most exposed to AI, while new opportunities may also emerge for those equipped with relevant digital and AI skills.
- Women may be disproportionately affected given their concentration in clerical and administrative work, underscoring the importance of gender-responsive policies and monitoring, and of ensuring women can participate fully in emerging AI-enabled opportunities.
- In developing economies, automation may affect established paths to growth, and many workers in informal employment lack access to social protection. Limited access to digital infrastructure, skills and finance may also make it harder for developing countries and small and medium-sized enterprises to benefit from AI and participate in new economic opportunities.

The Committee further notes that the impact of AI on work is not predetermined and will depend in part on public policy choices, and recognizes that parliaments, through their legislative, oversight, budgetary and representative functions, have a central role to play in ensuring that the transition is managed fairly and contributes to inclusive and sustainable development. This includes creating conditions in which AI complements human capabilities and improves productivity and job quality, while maintaining appropriate human judgement, oversight and accountability in the use of AI.

The Committee welcomes action already taken by parliaments – including legislation on the workforce impact of AI before deployment, measures to retrain affected workers, calls for human oversight of algorithmic management in the workplace, and inquiries into national readiness for the effect of AI on the labour market – while also recognizing the importance of social dialogue and consultation among governments, workers and employers in managing technological change. Policies should promote proactive upskilling, reskilling and AI literacy across the workforce, including for young people entering the labour market, so that workers and businesses are better placed to benefit from technological change.

Reflecting the need for timely parliamentary action to manage the impact of AI on the future of work, and building on existing IPU resolutions and documents on AI,* the Committee calls upon IPU Member Parliaments to:

1. Scrutinize national AI strategies and labour-market policies to ensure that they anticipate the impact of AI on work and that the introduction of AI in the workplace respects labour rights and supports inclusive and sustainable economic development;

2. Use oversight powers and budget scrutiny to support investment in education, lifelong learning and broad transferable skills, including pathways into work for young people, as well as appropriate social protection and support for workers undergoing labour-market transitions;

3. Call on governments to monitor the impact of AI on the labour market by occupation, age and sex, including in the informal economy, and use this evidence to inform parliamentary action and address inequalities in access to opportunities;

4. Promote measures to strengthen access to digital infrastructure, skills and technology, particularly in developing countries and underserved communities, and to enable small and medium-sized enterprises to benefit from AI;

5. Strengthen international cooperation on AI and the future of work by sharing parliamentary experience, through the IPU, with the International Labour Organization and the wider United Nations system to help ensure that the benefits of AI reach all countries, including those in the Global South, while encouraging the responsible use of AI to support sustainable development and resource efficiency.

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* IPU resolutions and documents on AI:
  - Resolution: *Addressing the social and humanitarian impact of autonomous weapon systems and artificial intelligence* (March 2024)
  - Resolution: *The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law* (October 2024)
  - Kuala Lumpur Declaration on *Parliaments and responsible AI* (November 2025)
  - Motion adopted by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights: *Advancing parliamentary action on artificial intelligence* (April 2026)

A United Nations fit for purpose: Towards a Charter review conference

Motion adopted by the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs
(Arusha, 7 October 2026)

A more open and representative United Nations is needed to advance peace and development for all people in the face of mounting global challenges.

At the 152nd IPU Assembly in Istanbul, Türkiye, in April 2026, the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs held a first consultation regarding Article 109 of the Charter of the United Nations, which calls for a review conference to be held within ten years of the founding of the Organization. Such a conference has never been held. Several decades later, as calls for UN reforms are growing louder, the time has come to activate this mechanism to review the original Charter, which less than one third of the current membership of the United Nations helped to draft in 1945. A new multipolar world has emerged since then, which renders some of the provisions in the Charter, including the composition of the Security Council, no longer effective in the face of today's unique challenges. A repositioning of the UN in this new world order through a Charter review conference is essential to make the Organization more efficient and better equipped to defend its founding principles.

This Committee welcomes the current UN80 Initiative of the UN Secretary-General as an important step towards making the UN more effective. However, this Initiative is not sufficient to ensure a UN fit for the current times. Essentially aimed at reducing costs and simplifying the UN system, the UN80 Initiative does not get to the root of the problem, which is political in nature and can only be fixed through a careful review of the Charter in order to update it and make it more representative of current social and geopolitical realities. At the same time, the Committee recognizes that any changes to the Charter should not tamper in any way with the fundamental values, purposes and principles that are expressed in it, which must remain the bedrock of multilateralism for generations to come.

As changes or additions to the Charter will require parliamentary ratification in almost all countries, the Committee calls on all IPU Member Parliaments to advocate for a Charter review conference within the next five years following a preparatory process led by Member States.

In particular, the Committee encourages each IPU Member Parliament to undertake the following actions:

- Organize an in-depth debate together with the Government to familiarize parliamentarians with the key elements of the Charter of the United Nations and consider possible reform proposals;
- Review the outline of a possible preparatory process leading up to a Charter review conference;
- Take stock of the specific legal requirements for parliamentary ratification of any amendment to the Charter;
- Request that the Government submit a report from the aforementioned parliamentary deliberations to all Member States of the UN under cover letter to the President of the General Assembly;
- Advocate for the establishment of a UN Working Group to put forward possible proposals for a Charter review conference;
- Inform the IPU Permanent Observer at the United Nations of key parliamentary debates and other initiatives that may help advance the process towards a Charter review conference.

IPU Budget for 2027

Approved by the IPU Governing Council at its 218th session
(Arusha, 6 October 2026)

	2026 Budget	2027 Budget		
		Regular budget	Other sources	All funds
Assessed contributions	*12,294,900*	12,540,100		12,540,100
Working Capital Fund (IPSAS)	*230,000*	230,000		230,000
Working Capital Fund (liquid)	*344,900*	391,800		391,800
Staff assessment	*1,294,200*	1,261,600		1,261,600
Interest	*100,000*	100,000		100,000
Programme support costs	*0*	318,100	(318,100)	0
Other revenue	*16,000*	16,000		16,000
Voluntary contributions	*4,714,500*		4,318,700	4,318,700
TOTAL REVENUES	***18,994,900***	**14,857,600**	**4,000,600**	**18,858,200**
1. Building strong and inclusive parliaments	*6,726,400*	3,648,000	3,562,000	7,210,000
2. Facilitating parliamentary diplomacy, dialogue and joint action	*8,499,000*	7,102,100	728,900	7,831,000
3. Strengthening the IPU as a responsive and accountable	*3,974,300*	4,003,500	27,800	4,031,300
Other charges	***144,600***	104,000		**104,000**
Eliminations	***(349,800)***		(318,100)	**(318,100)**
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	***18,994,500***	**14,857,600**	**4,000,600**	**18,858,200**

Approved 2027 capital budget

Item	2027
1. Replacement of computers and servers	35,000
2. Furniture	15,000
3. Vehicles	50,000
4. Website development	100,000
Total capital expenditures	**200,000**

Scale of contributions for 2027

Scale of contributions for 2027 based on the UN scale of assessment

Approved by the IPU Governing Council at its 218th session (Arusha, 6 October 2026)

Country Name	UN 2025–2027	IPU 2027 scale	
	Per cent	Per cent	CHF
Albania	0.010%	0.120%	15,100
Algeria	0.087%	0.230%	28,900
Andorra	0.004%	0.110%	13,800
Angola	0.010%	0.120%	15,100
Argentina	0.490%	0.750%	94,100
Armenia	0.007%	0.110%	13,800
Australia	2.040%	2.550%	320,000
Austria	0.626%	0.920%	115,400
Azerbaijan	0.034%	0.160%	20,100
Bahamas	0.015%	0.130%	16,300
Bahrain	0.050%	0.180%	22,600
Bangladesh	0.010%	0.120%	15,100
Belarus	0.043%	0.170%	21,300
Belgium	0.773%	1.100%	138,000
Belize	0.001%	0.100%	12,500
Benin	0.005%	0.110%	13,800
Bhutan	0.001%	0.100%	12,500
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.018%	0.130%	16,300
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.014%	0.120%	15,100
Botswana	0.013%	0.120%	15,100
Brazil	1.411%	1.840%	230,900
Brunei Darussalam	0.019%	0.130%	16,300
Bulgaria	0.071%	0.210%	26,300
Burkina Faso	0.005%	0.110%	13,800
Burundi	0.001%	0.100%	12,500
Cabo Verde	0.001%	0.100%	12,500
Cambodia	0.008%	0.110%	13,800
Cameroon	0.014%	0.120%	15,100
Canada	2.543%	3.110%	390,200
Chad	0.005%	0.110%	13,800
Chile	0.374%	0.610%	76,500
China	20.004%	11.750%	1,474,300
Colombia	0.197%	0.380%	47,700
Comoros	0.001%	0.100%	12,500

Country Name	UN 2025–2027	IPU 2027 scale	
	Per cent	Per cent	CHF
Costa Rica	0.063%	0.200%	25,100
Côte d'Ivoire	0.024%	0.140%	17,600
Croatia	0.088%	0.230%	28,900
Cuba	0.122%	0.280%	35,100
Cyprus	0.035%	0.160%	20,100
Czechia	0.344%	0.570%	71,500
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.005%	0.110%	13,800
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.010%	0.120%	15,100
Denmark	0.531%	0.800%	100,400
Djibouti	0.002%	0.100%	12,500
Dominican Republic	0.069%	0.210%	26,300
Ecuador	0.065%	0.200%	25,100
Egypt	0.182%	0.360%	45,200
Equatorial Guinea	0.008%	0.110%	13,800
Estonia	0.045%	0.170%	21,300
Eswatini	0.002%	0.100%	12,500
Ethiopia	0.010%	0.120%	15,100
Fiji	0.003%	0.100%	12,500
Finland	0.386%	0.620%	77,800
France	3.858%	4.510%	565,900
Gabon	0.011%	0.120%	15,100
Gambia	0.001%	0.100%	12,500
Georgia	0.009%	0.120%	15,100
Germany	5.692%	6.380%	800,500
Ghana	0.025%	0.140%	17,600
Greece	0.280%	0.490%	61,500
Guatemala	0.046%	0.170%	21,300
Guinea	0.004%	0.110%	13,800
Guinea Bissau	0.001%	0.100%	12,500
Guyana	0.011%	0.120%	15,100
Hungary	0.223%	0.420%	52,700
Iceland	0.035%	0.160%	20,100
India	1.106%	1.490%	187,000
Indonesia	0.579%	0.860%	107,900
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.386%	0.620%	77,800
Iraq	0.131%	0.290%	36,400
Ireland	0.472%	0.730%	91,600
Israel	0.609%	0.900%	112,900
Italy	2.813%	3.400%	426,600
Jamaica	0.007%	0.110%	13,800
Japan	6.930%	7.580%	951,100
Jordan	0.021%	0.130%	16,300

Country Name	UN 2025–2027	IPU 2027 scale	
	Per cent	Per cent	CHF
Kazakhstan	0.131%	0.290%	36,400
Kenya	0.037%	0.160%	20,100
Kuwait	0.222%	0.410%	51,400
Kyrgyzstan	0.003%	0.100%	12,500
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.006%	0.110%	13,800
Latvia	0.050%	0.180%	22,600
Lebanon	0.022%	0.140%	17,600
Lesotho	0.001%	0.100%	12,500
Liberia	0.001%	0.100%	12,500
Libya	0.040%	0.160%	20,100
Liechtenstein	0.009%	0.120%	15,100
Lithuania	0.081%	0.220%	27,600
Luxembourg	0.073%	0.210%	26,300
Madagascar	0.004%	0.110%	13,800
Malawi	0.003%	0.100%	12,500
Malaysia	0.326%	0.550%	69,000
Maldives	0.004%	0.110%	13,800
Mali	0.005%	0.110%	13,800
Malta	0.020%	0.130%	16,300
Marshall Islands	0.001%	0.100%	12,500
Mauritania	0.003%	0.100%	12,500
Mauritius	0.010%	0.120%	15,100
Mexico	1.137%	1.520%	190,700
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001%	0.100%	12,500
Monaco	0.011%	0.120%	15,100
Mongolia	0.004%	0.110%	13,800
Montenegro	0.004%	0.110%	13,800
Morocco	0.059%	0.190%	23,800
Mozambique	0.002%	0.100%	12,500
Namibia	0.007%	0.110%	13,800
Nepal	0.010%	0.120%	15,100
Netherlands	1.298%	1.710%	214,600
New Zealand	0.302%	0.520%	65,200
Nicaragua	0.004%	0.110%	13,800
Niger	0.004%	0.110%	13,800
Nigeria	0.150%	0.320%	40,200
North Macedonia	0.008%	0.110%	13,800
Norway	0.653%	0.950%	119,200
Oman	0.115%	0.270%	33,900
Pakistan	0.123%	0.280%	35,100
Palau	0.001%	0.100%	12,500
Palestine		0.100%	12,500

Country Name	UN 2025–2027	IPU 2027 scale	
	Per cent	Per cent	CHF
Panama	0.086%	0.230%	28,900
Paraguay	0.023%	0.140%	17,600
Peru	0.145%	0.310%	38,900
Philippines	0.198%	0.380%	47,700
Poland	0.831%	1.160%	145,500
Portugal	0.328%	0.550%	69,000
Qatar	0.245%	0.440%	55,200
Republic of Korea	2.349%	2.890%	362,600
Republic of Moldova	0.006%	0.110%	13,800
Romania	0.358%	0.590%	74,000
Russian Federation	2.094%	2.610%	327,500
Rwanda	0.003%	0.100%	12,500
Samoa	0.001%	0.100%	12,500
San Marino	0.002%	0.100%	12,500
Sao Tome & Principe	0.001%	0.100%	12,500
Saudi Arabia	1.217%	1.620%	203,300
Senegal	0.007%	0.110%	13,800
Serbia	0.040%	0.160%	20,100
Seychelles	0.002%	0.100%	12,500
Sierra Leone	0.001%	0.100%	12,500
Singapore	0.479%	0.740%	92,800
Slovakia	0.149%	0.320%	40,200
Slovenia	0.077%	0.220%	27,600
Somalia	0.002%	0.100%	12,500
South Africa	0.251%	0.450%	56,500
South Sudan	0.005%	0.110%	13,800
Spain	1.895%	2.390%	299,900
Sri Lanka	0.038%	0.160%	20,100
Suriname	0.002%	0.100%	12,500
Sweden	0.822%	1.150%	144,300
Switzerland	1.029%	1.400%	175,700
Syrian Arab Republic	0.006%	0.110%	13,800
Tajikistan	0.003%	0.100%	12,500
Thailand	0.341%	0.570%	71,500
Timor-Leste	0.001%	0.100%	12,500
Togo	0.002%	0.100%	12,500
Tonga	0.001%	0.100%	12,500
Trinidad and Tobago	0.033%	0.150%	18,800
Tunisia	0.018%	0.130%	16,300
Türkiye	0.685%	0.990%	124,200
Turkmenistan	0.036%	0.160%	20,100
Tuvalu	0.001%	0.100%	12,500

Country Name	UN 2025–2027	IPU 2027 scale	
	Per cent	Per cent	CHF
Uganda	0.010%	0.120%	15,100
Ukraine	0.074%	0.210%	26,300
United Arab Emirates	0.574%	0.860%	107,900
United Kingdom	3.991%	4.650%	583,400
United Republic of Tanzania	0.010%	0.120%	15,100
Uruguay	0.079%	0.220%	27,600
Uzbekistan	0.024%	0.140%	17,600
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.069%	0.210%	26,300
Viet Nam	0.159%	0.330%	41,400
Yemen	0.003%	0.100%	12,500
Zambia	0.006%	0.110%	13,800
Zimbabwe	0.007%	0.110%	13,800

Associate Member	UN 2025–2027	IPU 2027 scale	
	Per cent	Per cent	CHF
Arab Parliament		0.030%	3,800
Central American Parliament (PARLACEN)		0.020%	2,500
East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)		0.020%	2,500
European Parliament		0.060%	7,500
Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS)		0.020%	2,500
Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)		0.020%	2,500
Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO)		0.020%	2,500
Parliament of MERCOSUR (PARLASUR)		0.030%	3,800
Pan-African Parliament		0.020%	2,500
Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)		0.020%	2,500
Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC)		0.020%	2,500
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)		0.040%	5,000
Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF)		0.030%	3,800
Total		**100%**	**12,540,100**

Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

Rules of the Assembly

Amendments adopted by the 153rd IPU Assembly
(Arusha, 9 October 2026)

Rule 23

1. The President shall call a speaker to order when the latter does not keep to the subject under discussion or prejudices the debate by using abusive language. The President may, if necessary, withdraw permission to speak and may have the objectionable words struck from the record.

2. **Speakers in the General Debate are not permitted to use props, visual displays or audio/video recordings during their interventions.**

Amended Cremer-Passy Prize Rules

Approved by the IPU Governing Council at its 218th session
(Arusha, 9 October 2026)

PREAMBLE

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

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

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

Article 1

The Inter-Parliamentary Union hereby establishes a parliamentarians' award for excellence entitled the "Cremer-Passy Prize".

Article 2

1. The Cremer-Passy Prize is awarded by the IPU and is intended to reward a sitting parliamentarian who makes an outstanding contribution to the defence and promotion of the objectives of this Organization and to a more united, peaceful, sustainable and equitable world.
2. The Cremer-Passy Prize shall be awarded annually, at the second IPU Assembly of each year.
3. The winner of the Prize shall be invited to attend the IPU Assembly referred to in Article 2.2 and to address the Assembly in recognition of their achievement and to serve as an inspiration to the work of other members of parliament.
4. The Cremer-Passy Prize shall not be awarded posthumously, except under the circumstances outlined in Article 6.16. The nominee(s) should be alive at the time of their nomination.

Article 3

All parliamentarians from IPU Member Parliaments, who at some point in the year to which the Prize relates were sitting Members of Parliament, shall be eligible for the Prize. At the time of nomination, the nominee shall not have been convicted by a competent judicial authority of corruption, human rights violations, violence, terrorism, or any other serious criminal offence incompatible with the values and objectives of the IPU.

Article 4

1. Nominations for the Cremer-Passy Prize shall be accepted from sitting parliamentarians or groups of parliamentarians from the IPU's Member Parliaments and Associate Members, submitted by 18:00 (CEST) on 30 June of each year to the IPU Secretariat by filling in a specific form available at www.ipu.org.
2. A sitting parliamentarian may nominate him- or herself. The nomination shall provide the information and supporting evidence required under these Rules and shall be evaluated in the same way as other nominations.
3. Where possible, the nominating party is encouraged to submit both male and female candidates.
4. Nominations can only be accepted in either of the IPU's two official languages, English or French.
5. Failure to comply with the time limit laid down in Article 4.1 cannot be remedied.

Article 5

1. The IPU Secretariat shall review the content of the nominations submitted within 40 days after the deadline for submitting nominations in order to assess whether the nominees have met the criteria.
2. The IPU Secretariat shall conduct a basic integrity check on nominations, based on publicly available information and without prejudging matters that fall under national judicial jurisdiction.
3. The IPU Secretariat shall gather all the nominations deemed valid and submit them to the Prize Selection Board, together with a report on the nominations that have been rejected, setting out the reasons for their exclusion.
4. In the event of failure to comply with any of the criteria for the nominations, the IPU Secretariat shall inform the nominating party accordingly.
5. Where the nominating party does not remedy the non-compliance within 10 days of notification from the Secretariat, the nomination in question shall be rejected by the IPU Secretariat.

Article 6

1. The Prize Selection Board shall be composed of seven members, including the current IPU President, who shall chair the Board without voting rights except for the purposes of Article 6.8, and the most recent Honorary President from each geopolitical group.
2. Geopolitical groups that cannot be represented by an Honorary President shall nominate, in accordance with their rules of procedure, a retired Speaker or prominent MP.
3. The Secretary General of the IPU shall attend the Prize Selection Board as a non-voting observer in order to ensure that the proposals are assessed based on up-to-date knowledge of the current Member Parliaments of the IPU.
4. The members of the Prize Selection Board shall have 30 working days from the date of receipt of the nominations from the Secretariat to consider them**,** using the evaluation matrix appended to these Rules.
5. The Prize Selection Board shall meet as soon as possible from the expiry of the period referred to in Article 6.4 in order to discuss and decide on the Prize winner.
6. The Cremer-Passy Prize winner will be decided through a majority vote of the Prize Selection Board members using the evaluation matrix referred to above.
7. In the event of a tie, the Prize Selection Board shall hold a second vote between the two nominees with the most votes.
8. Where the tie remains after the second vote count, the Prize Selection Board Chair shall have a casting vote to determine the winner.
9. The Prize Selection Board may unanimously decide not to award the Cremer-Passy Prize in a given year whenever unforeseen circumstances emerge (force majeure).
10. The Prize Selection Board may unanimously decide to award the Cremer-Passy Prize to the runner-up in a given year should the eligibility or status of the winner change after the evaluation process or in the event of unforeseen circumstances.
11. Members of the Prize Selection Board shall not score nominees from their own geopolitical Group.
12. Any member of the Prize Selection Board who has a personal or financial relationship with a nominee must declare the conflict and recuse themselves from deliberation and voting on that nomination.
13. If members of the Prize Selection Board are unable to score the nominees within the given deadlines, their votes will be distributed equally among all nominees (except those from their own geopolitical group).

14. The IPU Secretariat shall make all the necessary arrangements to hold the meeting stipulated in Article 6.5 above.
15. If a nominee dies before selection, the nomination lapses.
16. If a nominee dies after selection, the Prize shall nevertheless be awarded posthumously in the winner's name and presented to the deceased winner's family, without substitution.

Article 7

The IPU may revoke an already-awarded Prize, on the recommendation of the Prize Selection Board, only where a final judicial finding after the award establishes that the winner engaged in conduct as described under Article 3.

Article 8

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

Article 9

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

Article 10

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

Article 11

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

Report of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians

Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 218th session
(Arusha, 9 October 2026)

1. The 42nd session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was held on 5 October 2026. It brought together 193 participants, including 139 parliamentarians (123 women and 16 men) from 73 countries, along with representatives from various international organizations.

2. Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, opened the Forum. The Forum elected Dr. Z.A. Hamid (United Republic of Tanzania) as President of its 42nd session. Dr. Hamid presided over the session. She welcomed Mr. M.A. Zungu (Speaker of the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania and President of the 153rd IPU Assembly), Dr. Tulia Ackson (IPU President), Ms. C. López Castro, and Ms. A. Filip (IPU Secretary General), who gave welcoming remarks. The Forum paid tribute to the outgoing IPU President as a steadfast champion of gender equality.

Recent activities to promote gender equality

3. Ms. F. Öncü, (Türkiye), Second Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, reported on the work of the Bureau at its last sitting, held in Istanbul in April 2026, and on the first sitting of its 56th session, held immediately prior to the 42nd session of the Forum. She informed the Forum of the Bureau's continued attention to technology-facilitated violence against women in politics and of its support for efforts to strengthen awareness and prevention of, and parliamentary responses to, this growing challenge. She also briefed participants on the upcoming regional conference on combating violence against women in politics in the Americas and the Caribbean, and on the forthcoming launch of the IPU report on sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in the Americas and the Caribbean, on the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence.

4. Ms. S. Mikayilova (Azerbaijan), Chairperson of the Gender Partnership Group, reported on the work of the Group at the 153rd Assembly. The Group welcomed the expected record share of women delegates at the Assembly and the continued efforts to disseminate the IPU's anti-harassment policy,

which had resulted in an increase in the reporting of incidents, with all such reports duly addressed. It also noted the growing number of national parliaments and regional parliamentary assemblies adopting or strengthening anti-harassment policies and encouraged them to ensure that independent reporting mechanisms were in place. The Group further welcomed the recent introduction of reserved seats for women in the lower chamber of the Parliament of Oman, following the dialogue it had held with the Omani delegation.

5. Participants were briefed on the IPU's activities to promote gender equality. Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, reported on the proceedings and outcomes of the IPU Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians, held in Belgrade, Serbia, in June 2026. Ms. Z. Hilal (Manager of the IPU Gender Partnership Programme and Secretary of the Forum) gave an overview of recent IPU activities to promote gender equality both globally and nationally.

Contributions to the work of the 153rd Assembly from a gender perspective

6. As a contribution to the work of the Assembly, the Forum held a debate, from a gender perspective, on the draft resolution on the agenda of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, entitled *Inclusive social development for all: Parliamentary strategies to promote the rights and empowerment of people living with disabilities*. Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, acted as Chair, with Ms. S. Claydon (Australia) serving as Rapporteur.

7. Participants stressed that persons with disabilities are not a homogeneous group and that women and girls face intersecting forms of discrimination and disproportionate exposure to violence, exploitation and abuse, especially in crises. They emphasized that women with disabilities must play a leading role in designing and evaluating policies and in shaping laws and budgets. Quotas and reserved seats were highlighted as key measures to facilitate the entry of such women into parliament, while it was noted that women's caucuses and caucuses of MPs with disabilities could support their advancement to leadership roles.

8. Participants called for targeted policies, informed by data disaggregated by sex and disability type, to enable women and girls with disabilities to access and thrive in education and employment, as well as for appropriate psychosocial and mental health support. They also called for gender-sensitive social protection, financial and family support systems to help women balance caregiving responsibilities with participation in social, economic and political life. They emphasized that healthcare and justice systems must prevent and address gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, and that women with disabilities must be able to make informed decisions about their health, including their sexual and reproductive health, and be protected from abuse at home, in institutions and in public spaces.

9. The Forum supported several amendments aimed at enhancing gender equality in and through the draft resolution. All such amendments were endorsed by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights.

Panel discussion: *Moving from commitment to action: Women's leadership in diplomacy and peacebuilding*

10. Discussions focused on advancing women's leadership in diplomacy and peacebuilding and on how parliaments could turn commitments to equality into shared power and effective action.

11. The panel discussion opened with presentations from Ms. M. Mokitimi (President of the Senate of Lesotho), Ms. A. Gorghiu (Romania, former Minister of Justice), Ms. V. Centeno (Ecuador, President of the IPU Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs) and Ms. F. Bustreo (member of Global Women Leaders Voices).

12. Participants called for gender parity in diplomacy and peacebuilding, stressing that women's proven leadership in preventing conflict and sustaining peace is still not reflected in their access to power as mediators, negotiators, and leaders of diplomatic missions and international organizations. Participants called for a shift from representation to parity leadership, for the institutionalization of women's decision-making authority, and for efforts to ensure that women receive the support they need

to remain in positions of authority and to exercise influence and leadership. This ambition extended to climate diplomacy and governance, with participants emphasizing that women must have equal power to shape responses to global challenges. Participants called for the adoption and effective implementation of evidence-based Women, Peace and Security (WPS) National Action Plans, backed by adequate budgets and sustained parliamentary oversight, in order to translate United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) into action. They also called for cross-party cooperation, as well as for men's engagement and leadership. Participants placed justice and survivors' rights at the heart of the WPS agenda, stressing that peace is only sustainable when survivors are at the centre of recovery and rehabilitation efforts. They noted that legislative action against femicide, and provisions allowing rape investigations to proceed without requiring a survivor's complaint, illustrate how parliaments can strengthen accountability, protect survivors and prevent further violence.

Hearing with candidates for the position of IPU President

13. The Forum heard presentations from the three candidates, Ms. S. Gafarova (Speaker of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan), Mr. M. Dick (Speaker of the House of Representatives of Australia) and Mr. R. Edwards Silva (Chile), who were invited to present their vision and strategy and to respond to questions from participants. The candidates recognized the key role played by the Forum in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment and noted that they looked forward to working closely with the women parliamentarians if they were elected.

Election to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

14. The Forum elected Ms. F. Abri (Algeria) to fill the vacant seat of the African Group, replacing, for the remainder of her term (until May 2027), Ms. F. Ilimi Haddouche (Algeria), who is no longer a member of parliament.

Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

15. The Bureau met on 5 and 8 October 2026. At its sitting on 5 October, the Bureau focused on preparations for the 42nd session of the Forum, and members exchanged updates on recent legislative developments and initiatives in their respective countries. At its sitting on 8 October, the Bureau took stock of the results of the 153rd Assembly from a gender perspective, and of upcoming initiatives to advance gender equality, and reviewed preparations for the Forum's next session and future work.

Report of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians

Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 218th session
(Arusha, 9 October 2026)

The Forum of Young Parliamentarians was held on 6 October 2026. It brought together over 100 participants, including 62 young parliamentarians (23 women and 39 men) from 48 countries, and was presided over by Ms. N. Abu Ghosh (Jordan), President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Abu Ghosh paid tribute to the IPU President, Dr. T. Ackson, thanking her for her leadership in strengthening the Forum and congratulating her on her legacy. The IPU President, in turn, highlighted reforms that had strengthened young MPs' influence in the IPU under her mandate, and encouraged young MPs to use their voice, challenge the status quo and keep opening doors for future generations.

The Forum held an exchange with Dr. T.A. Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), who highlighted how youth participation was integrated into the work of the WHO through its Youth Council. He called on parliamentarians to make health a political priority, to involve young people meaningfully in health policy-making and to strengthen domestic health financing. In response to questions from the Forum, he also emphasized the importance of pandemic preparedness and stressed the effects of artificial intelligence on young people's mental health.

Contributing to the work of the 153rd Assembly, young MPs examined the theme of the General Debate from a youth perspective. They stressed that trust in public institutions depended on transparency, accountability and effective parliamentary oversight, including in relation to public spending. They called for young people and other underrepresented groups, including persons with disabilities, to not only be in the room, but also to be in leadership positions and to be co-authors of policies, and for this inclusion to bring tangible opportunities in areas including education, health and employment.

The Forum received an update from its youth rapporteur, Mr. A.K. Abdelgader (Chad), on the youth amendments to the draft resolution on *Inclusive social development for all: Parliamentary strategies to promote the rights and empowerment of people living with disabilities*. He noted how the Forum's discussion on this topic during the 152nd IPU Assembly had contributed to his youth overview report, which was integrated into the draft resolution. His subsequent proposed amendments focused on promoting accessible education and mental health support for youth, as well as support for young persons with disabilities in transitioning from education to economic independence.

In preparation for the 154th IPU Assembly, the Forum appointed Mr. A.K. Abdelgader (Chad) to serve as youth rapporteur for the proposed draft resolutions on *Strengthening maritime security and protecting critical infrastructure in times of conflict: The role of parliaments in safeguarding international navigation and global economic stability*, and on *Parliamentary leadership to protect mountain and ocean ecosystems and achieve the 30% conservation goal by 2030*. The Forum then received briefings on the topics of both draft resolutions from the respective co-Rapporteurs.

Providing a youth perspective to the draft resolution on strengthening maritime security, young MPs highlighted how shipping disruptions not only affected maritime countries but also had downstream effects that negatively impacted young people thousands of kilometres away. In addition to higher food and energy costs, these can include effects on essential services, such as hospitals, schools, telecommunications systems and other infrastructure. Youth and populations in vulnerable situations are particularly affected.

Providing a youth perspective to the draft resolution on parliamentary leadership to protect mountain and ocean ecosystems, young MPs stressed that young people and future generations would live the longest with the policy decisions made today and, as such, should be lead decision makers in climate policy. They called for increased participation of youth from local communities and Indigenous groups in such decision-making. They also highlighted the importance of focusing on the quality of protection and called for the avoidance of shortcuts and loopholes. Young MPs also raised environmental restoration as an important consideration in achieving the 30% goal.

The Forum then examined recent developments in youth participation. Delegations shared their experiences, including new elections where record levels of young MPs had been elected, and the creation of new national youth strategies and youth councils. Young MPs called not only for greater youth representation in parliament, but also for an opportunity for young parliamentarians to take up leadership positions and to meaningfully influence policies. The Forum was also informed that young MPs accounted for approximately 14% of Assembly delegates, below the 25% target. A call was made to advocate for stronger youth representation in national delegations and geopolitical groups.
The Forum welcomed the election of a young MP to the IPU Executive Committee.

Young MPs were also briefed on future meetings. They received a warm invitation from Mr. H.E. Hasan (Bahrain), member of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians, to the 13th IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, which Bahrain had offered to host in 2027. They also took note of the Parliamentary Session to be held at the inaugural United Nations Youth Townhall in Heidelberg, Germany, in December 2026, in which they were encouraged to participate.

The Forum then held a hearing with candidates for the position of IPU President. The candidates praised the work of the Forum and committed to enhancing its impact in the IPU. In response to questions, the candidates highlighted the value of regular consultation with the Forum, as well as of harnessing its energy to enhance the IPU more generally, and of supporting young MPs' progression to leadership.

Earlier in the day, the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians held a brainstorming session to discuss ideas for revitalizing the Forum. They agreed to look into the possibility of devoting more time to meetings of the Forum at IPU Assemblies, and to supplement its current agenda with additional space for more spontaneous and interactive dialogues on issues important to youth, including through training sessions and intergenerational exchanges, as well as by connecting with youth parliamentary structures and integrating other empowerment opportunities.

Report of the Committee on Middle East Questions

Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 218th session
(Arusha, 9 October 2026)

Since the last Assembly, held in April 2026, the Committee on Middle East Questions had met informally, on 23 and 28 September 2026, as a follow-up action agreed at its 84th meeting under its standing priority to coordinate with the Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre on parliamentary actions regarding settlements in the West Bank.

At its first intersessional meeting, held on 23 September 2026 with members of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law invited to attend, the Committee heard a presentation from the International Committee of the Red Cross on core principles of international humanitarian law (IHL), which binds all parties to an armed conflict and beyond, as all States must respect and ensure respect for IHL. The presentation also covered the role of parliaments in committing to, legislating for, resourcing and overseeing the implementation of IHL, including through the scrutiny of arms transfers. Members acknowledged that the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law would include general recommendations on parliamentary measures with regard to respect for IHL in its report to the Governing Council, building on the resolution adopted by the 152nd IPU Assembly on *The urgent need for concerted parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and support peacebuilding in the Middle East and other regions*.

At its second intersessional meeting, held on 28 September 2026, the Committee held a hearing with Ms. Ö. Irmakkesen, Legal Adviser at the Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre, on IHL as applied to settlements in the West Bank.

At the 153rd IPU Assembly, the Committee held two sittings, on 6 and 8 October 2026, chaired by its President, Ms. A. Erdoğan (Türkiye). With four members present, the quorum required under its Rule 6.2 was not met. The Committee was therefore not able to take decisions or adopt follow-up commitments to its discussions as provided for in its Rule 7.2.

At its first sitting, held on 6 October 2026, the Committee held another hearing with Ms. Ö. Irmakkesen, who covered the same topics as in the earlier intersessional meeting. It also heard a briefing by Mr. R. Friedrich, Director of UNRWA Affairs, West Bank, at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), complementing the legal perspective provided by Ms. Irmakkesen.

Mr. Friedrich reported an increase in settler violence and harassment, with more than 5,100 incidents recorded in 2026, noting that Operation Iron Wall had displaced more than 34,000 Palestinian refugees, the largest forced displacement in the West Bank since 1967. The olive harvest was given as a clear example of targeted settler violence – meaning not merely physical violence but all impediments to the enjoyment of rights – with Palestinians driven away because they were prevented from sustaining themselves. Ms. Irmakkesen affirmed that, under the law of occupation, the occupying power must protect protected persons from any form of violence. Noting the entanglement between State authorities and settlers, she recalled that IHL prohibits intimidation, collective penalties and terrorism.

Based on these exchanges, members recalled that, under international law, ending the occupation of the occupied Palestinian territory is also the responsibility of third States. They underlined the need for parliaments to hold their governments accountable for taking all measures available to them to bring violations of international law, including IHL, to an end. They noted the urgency of reducing violence against Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Members observed that the unlawfulness of settlements, as consistently affirmed by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and by the UN Security Council, was the subject of broad international consensus, providing parliaments with a common basis for public and inter-parliamentary engagement. Parliaments can use their oversight role to ask their governments how they implement the obligations of non-recognition, non-assistance and differentiation identified by the ICJ and by the UN Security Council, and can review domestic legislation and national policy on trade, investment and services connected with settlements accordingly. In line with States' treaty obligations, they can also ensure that domestic law criminalizes war crimes – as defined notably in the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, including the direct or indirect transfer by an occupying power of parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies – and that it provides for universal jurisdiction. They can further ensure that decisions on arms transfers are consistent with their State's obligation to

ensure respect for IHL, as per the IPU Geneva Declaration on *Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis*. It was noted that this work is aligned with the resolution adopted at the 152nd Assembly. Members expressed a wish that the Committee carry these recommendations forward to Member Parliaments.

At the Committee's second sitting, held on 8 October 2026, Ms. A Filip, IPU Secretary General, gave an address. Drawing on the discussions held during the consultation on *Pathways to peaceful coexistence in the Middle East*, held on 5 October 2026, and within the Committee, she welcomed and encouraged frank exchanges in a small-group format with a view to developing specific ideas. She also encouraged members to engage with other actors and to identify voices within and outside parliaments who could support the two-State solution.

Under its rotating regional focus, the Committee then held an exchange with a delegation from the People's Assembly of the Syrian Arab Republic. Opening the exchange, the delegates welcomed further engagement with both the IPU and the Committee, and this sentiment was echoed by members of the Committee. The delegation identified the areas in which it would most benefit from the support of the IPU: help establishing the work of the parliament, technical and logistical assistance, and the exchange of expertise and good practices with other IPU Member Parliaments and Arab countries. The delegates emphasized that the expertise and support of other parliaments through the IPU were essential, including for developing and harmonizing new legislation contributing to a peaceful environment in the Syrian Arab Republic and the wider region. Responding to members, they confirmed their interest in dialogue and parliamentary diplomacy. The delegation reiterated its invitation to the IPU Secretary General and the President of the Committee to visit the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Committee raised the need to hold another formal in-person meeting, with the participation of its newly elected members, ahead of the 154th IPU Assembly, in order to decide on the Committee's workplan and to carry out impactful activities. The President of the Committee suggested hosting the meeting in Istanbul, and Geneva was also proposed as a potential location. Members further discussed the possibility of a visit to the West Bank, including refugee camps and UNRWA offices. A decision on this matter was deferred until the quorum is reached, potentially at the proposed formal in-person meeting.

Report of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 218th session (Arusha, 9 October 2026)

The Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) met on 7 October 2026.

Review of specific situations of humanitarian concern

The Committee received an update on recent developments related to situations of humanitarian concern. It paid particular attention to the humanitarian situation in the Lake Chad Basin.
The Committee held a hearing with the parliamentary delegation from Chad and was also briefed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The Lake Chad Basin (which incorporates swathes of Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria) sits at the intersection of humanitarian crisis, regional instability and transnational security risk in West Africa. Armed groups operating across porous borders continue to drive displacement and erode State presence, while climate shocks, resource scarcity and economic fragility deepen vulnerability and fuel recruitment. As of July 2026, more than 3.5 million people had been forcibly displaced, while 8.2 million required humanitarian assistance across the region. In Lac Province, Chad, recurrent attacks and military operations have displaced some 60,000 people. Displaced people and returnees are now particularly exposed in areas with limited protection services and few safe options to move. As of September 2026, Chad hosted more than 1.5 million refugees (of whom more than 1.4 million had come from Sudan), while nearly 200,000 people were internally displaced in the country.

With regard to the humanitarian situation in Chad, the delegation focused on two priorities: access to water in refugee-affected and hosting areas, and the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum. Regarding access to water, the delegation highlighted that access to water in Chad has become a

matter of civilian protection and stability, rather than a basic service. A poor rainy season in 2026 has compounded the issue of access to water, which is already well below normal levels in the refugee camps in eastern Chad. An increase in the number of incidents around areas where water is available, and the consequent deterioration of the health of civilians, especially that of displaced populations hosted in refugee camps, have also been observed. The delegation expanded on the efforts made by Chad to gradually integrate the water infrastructure of hosting areas into the national public service, for the benefit of both refugees and host communities (the *Un système d'eau pour tous* initiative). Regarding the civilian character of asylum, the delegation flagged current challenges regarding security in refugee camps in Chad, especially due to the risk of infiltration by armed groups and the recruitment of young refugees in these areas. The delegation stressed the importance of preserving the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and sites, including by placing them in areas located far from conflict zones, thus limiting potential influence and recruitment by armed groups.

The Committee took note of the current humanitarian challenges faced by Chad and the Lake Chad Basin region as a whole, expressed its solidarity with the situation and praised the efforts undertaken by Chadian authorities to host over one million forcibly displaced persons in the country's territory.

The Committee called on IPU Member Parliaments to raise awareness, within their parliaments and geopolitical groups, about this situation and to encourage their governments to increase financial support for humanitarian response efforts. The Committee also considered the proposal to carry out a mission to Chad in the future with a view to learning more about the situation of those forcibly displaced in the country.

Parliamentary commitments to promote respect for and ensure implementation of IHL

The Committee continued its consideration of the findings of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) report entitled *International Humanitarian Law and the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts*. During this session, Committee members exchanged on the protection of the environment in armed conflict. The Committee heard from the ICRC about the immediate and long-term impacts of armed conflict on the natural environment, and about the key IHL obligations protecting the natural environment. The Committee acknowledged that parliaments can play a role in ensuring environmental protection through the national implementation of key IHL rules protecting the environment.

The Committee recalled that it had recently organized a webinar entitled *Protection of the natural environment in armed conflict: How can parliaments ensure environmental protection through the implementation of IHL?* It draws attention to the four recommendations identified at the conclusion of the event and encourages IPU Member Parliaments to consider following up on them (see below).

The Committee was also briefed by the ICRC on recent developments regarding the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law and the upcoming meetings of the Global Initiative, namely the Global IHL Dialogue (November 2026, Geneva) and the High-Level Conference on Humanity in War (December 2026, Jordan). The Committee drew attention to the joint letter sent by the IPU Secretary General and the ICRC President to all Presidents of IPU Groups identifying key actions for follow-up, both on the Global Initiative and on the Geneva Declaration on *Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis*, endorsed by the 151st IPU Assembly in October 2025.

Humanitarian disarmament treaties

The Committee continued its work on raising awareness on key humanitarian disarmament treaties. During this session, the Committee was briefed by the Implementation Support Units of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). The Committee discussed the outcomes of the Third Review Conference of the CCM, which resulted in the Vientiane Capital Action Plan 2027–2031 and its formal acknowledgement of the role of parliaments. Committee members also welcomed the recent accession to the APMBC by Lebanon and considered potential strategies for parliamentary action in support of the Convention in the lead-up to its 30th anniversary in 2027.

Parliamentary commitments towards ending statelessness

The Committee discussed parliamentary strategies towards ending statelessness in light of the 65th anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness in 2026. Although the Convention has been instrumental towards ensuring the right to a nationality and eradicating statelessness, only 82 States are currently parties to it.

Several measures can be considered to achieve progress with regard to statelessness. These include: promoting accession to both the 1961 and 1954 statelessness-related conventions; reviewing and strengthening nationality legislation to ensure that it contains and fully implements safeguards against statelessness, including at birth; removing discriminatory provisions from nationality laws; supporting pathways to nationality and lasting solutions for stateless persons and communities; exercising oversight and supporting adequate resources to ensure that legal safeguards and reforms are effectively implemented; ensuring statelessness is captured in the next national census or survey; and ensuring the meaningful participation of stateless people and affected communities in the development of laws and policies.

Respect for international humanitarian law and the situation in the Middle East

As a follow-up to the resolution *The urgent need for concerted parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and support peacebuilding in the Middle East and other regions*, adopted by the 152nd IPU Assembly in Istanbul, Türkiye, in April 2026, and specifically its paragraph 7, the Committee decided to put forward general recommendations for parliamentary measures to promote respect for IHL and address any further deterioration. These recommendations build on those included in the IPU's October 2025 Geneva Declaration.

The overall objective of the proposed parliamentary measures included in these recommendations is to respect and ensure respect for IHL. Parliaments can use their legislative, oversight, budgetary and representative functions to contribute to the fulfilment of States' obligation to respect and ensure respect for IHL, as reflected in Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions. This includes taking measures to ensure that governments and armed forces comply with IHL, and, where a State has influence over parties to an armed conflict, using that influence to promote those parties' respect for IHL.

In particular, parliamentarians can:

1. *Speak out*: Use their influence as opinion leaders and representatives of the people to raise awareness among public authorities, civil society organizations and constituents about the fundamental rules and principles of IHL, counter misinformation and dehumanizing narratives, and speak out nationally, regionally and internationally when respect for IHL is at risk of being undermined.

2. *Legislate*: Ensure that IHL obligations are fully reflected in national legislation, including by adopting or reviewing legislation on the repression of serious IHL violations, and ensuring that national authorities have the legal means to investigate and prosecute those responsible.

3. *Oversee*: Exercise oversight of government decisions relevant to armed conflict, including decisions related to the use of armed force, arms transfers and participation in peace operations, to ensure that they are consistent with international humanitarian law and that the humanitarian impact of such decisions is clearly taken into consideration.

4. *Approve budgets*: Allocate predictable and multi-year resources for the implementation of IHL, including for national IHL capacity-building, the functioning of relevant national structures, and recurrent budgets for IHL training for armed and security forces.

5. *Bring IHL to parliament*: Ensure that IHL is mainstreamed across the work of parliament, including by establishing a parliamentary body dealing with matters pertaining to IHL, integrating IHL expertise into parliamentary research and legislative services, building the knowledge and expertise of parliamentary staff, and building partnerships with national IHL committees, humanitarian organizations including the International Committee of the Red Cross and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and relevant civil society organizations.

These constitute recommendations for consideration by IPU Member Parliaments.

Future activities of the Committee

The Committee invited members to join the third and final webinar in its IHL webinar series, entitled *Complying with IHL in large-scale conflicts: Key preparedness measures*. The Committee also agreed to organize, in the near future, an event on cyberwarfare and IHL.

Conclusions of the IHL webinar on Protection of the natural environment in armed conflict: How can parliaments ensure environmental protection through the implementation of IHL? (July 2026)

Parliaments are invited to:

- *Speak out* on the impact of armed conflicts on the natural environment and *raise awareness* among governments and constituents on this issue.
- *Consider* steps to approve their country's accession to the Environmental Modification Convention and, once their State has become party to the Convention, enact legislation to implement its norms.
- *Assess* domestic legislation to ensure the criminalization of widespread, long-term and severe damage to the environment in armed conflict, with extraterritorial jurisdiction, to support future accountability.
- *Ensure* that domestic legislation on protected environmental areas includes specific protections for such areas during armed conflict.

Report of the Committee on Health

Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 218th session (Arusha, 9 October 2026)

The IPU Committee on Health met on 5 October 2026 with eight members in attendance.
The Committee members examined issues and shared good practices and lessons learned from their countries on increasing domestic funding for health, sustaining the HIV/AIDS response and leveraging technology for the training of health workers, as well as on legislation on mental health, gender-based violence and adolescent health, and on inclusive policymaking in relation to the health of persons with disabilities.

The Committee also held a dialogue with partners on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and HIV/AIDS in the context of the changing donor landscape. The members exchanged with experts from the World Health Organization (WHO), the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, UNAIDS, the United Nations Population Fund, the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights, and the Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS and Health Service Organizations. In response to the concerns raised in the dialogue, the Committee adopted the following statement.

Recommendations of the IPU Committee on Health on continuity of SRHR and HIV/AIDS services

The IPU Committee on Health expresses concern that suspensions or reductions in official development assistance for health are dramatically impacting health services for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and HIV/AIDS. World Health Organization (WHO) data from 2025 highlights that more than two thirds of country offices have reported disruptions in at least one health service area. UNAIDS has reported that, in some countries, condom funding has fallen by more than 90%.

The Committee recognizes that SRHR and HIV/AIDS services are an essential component of healthcare for all. It notes with concern the evolving international financing landscape and changes in development assistance, which are affecting the continuity, accessibility and sustainability of SRHR and HIV/AIDS programmes and services in many countries. The most vulnerable communities and countries, notably in Africa, are the ones most affected by funding cuts and the ensuing disruptions in services.

The reproductive health and the future of young people – who make up 25% of the global population and constitute a top-priority group – are matters of particular concern. The Committee recognizes adolescents aged 10 to 17 years as a particularly vulnerable population within the broader adolescent age group, noting that, as minors, they may face legal, administrative, financial and social barriers to their independent access to SRHR and HIV/AIDS services. This may include limitations relating to consent, civil registration, confidentiality and lack of independent income. We therefore call upon parliaments and governments to review their current legislation and adopt appropriate legislative, policy, budgetary and service-delivery measures to address and eliminate these barriers.

The Committee underscores the importance of maintaining continued, equitable and non-discriminatory access to essential SRHR and HIV/AIDS services, including prevention, information, commodities, testing, treatment, care and support. It recognizes, in particular, the critical importance of HIV prevention, which is often among the first areas facing financial cuts when resources become scarce. If prevention services are weakened today, HIV infections, the number of people living with HIV/AIDS and the corresponding treatment needs will increase, something that can already be observed in some settings.

The Committee emphasizes the role of parliaments in promoting rights-based and evidence-informed interventions to identify and address SRHR and HIV/AIDS needs, with particular attention to populations facing barriers to accessing such services, and key populations affected by HIV/AIDS, including LGBT communities.

The Committee calls for continued attention to adequate and sustainable domestic financing for health, including the allocation of sufficient resources within national health budgets for essential SRHR and HIV/AIDS commodities, medicines, services and programmes.

The Committee recognizes the importance of continued dialogue and cooperation among parliaments, governments, civil society, communities, development partners and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen health systems and identify sustainable approaches to financing and service delivery.

The Committee encourages the exchange of experiences and good practices among parliaments on addressing financing challenges, strengthening national ownership and sustaining access to essential SRHR and HIV/AIDS services in a changing international funding environment.

[End of statement]

The Committee discussed the importance of health prevention with a focus on vaccination. The members heard presentations from experts from WHO and UNICEF and discussed challenges in relation to vaccine hesitancy, misinformation, and equity in access to vaccines between countries and regions. The discussions highlighted the importance of rebuilding trust after the COVID-19 pandemic by understanding people's lived experiences, translating scientific information into clear communication for the public and putting equity at the centre.

The Committee requested that the IPU Secretariat prepare a one-year workplan to follow up on the issues discussed.

The Committee re-elected Ms. O. Ataniyazova (Uzbekistan) as President for a one-year term.

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

Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 218th session
(Arusha, 9 October 2026)

The High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG) held its 21st meeting on 5 October 2026. The meeting was chaired by Ms. M. Guerra Castillo (Mexico).

At the outset, the Chairperson emphasized the importance of ensuring continuity in the Group's work and translating its deliberations, where possible, into concrete results and new initiatives. In this context, she referred to the development of the IPU reference framework on the definition of terrorism as an example of how the Group's discussions could lead to practical outcomes. She also highlighted the follow-up to the HLAG's previous discussions on online radicalization and the challenges associated with digital platforms, which had led the Secretariat to begin developing a practical toolkit on these subjects. The Chairperson encouraged members to continue contributing ideas, reflections and proposals that could help translate the Group's deliberations into concrete parliamentary initiatives.

The Group then focused on advancing implementation of the Call of the Sahel through parliamentary action. Ms. R. Abouras (Libya), HLAG Facilitator for Development under the Call of the Sahel, presented proposals aimed at translating the initiative's priorities into concrete action, with particular emphasis on development and resilience.

During the exchange, members stressed the need to move from discussions and recommendations towards tangible results on the ground. Particular emphasis was placed on ensuring that initiatives respond to the priorities and realities of Sahel countries and that their parliaments play a central role in

identifying and implementing appropriate responses. Members highlighted the importance of nationally owned legislation, effective parliamentary oversight, adequate resources, continuous capacity-building and stronger international and regional cooperation.

Mr. K. Kabre (Burkina Faso) emphasized the urgent need for concrete results from the Call of the Sahel and called for closer collaboration with the parliaments of affected countries and for activities capable of improving conditions for populations on the ground. Members also highlighted the importance of direct engagement with national parliaments in order to better understand their priorities and needs.

The discussion also touched upon the relationship between natural resources, conflict and terrorism. It was proposed that the HLAG examine more broadly how natural resources could be exploited in support of terrorism, taking into account experiences beyond the Sahel and involving relevant international organizations and expertise. The proposal received support during the discussion and was retained for consideration in the Group's future work.

As part of the discussion on the Call of the Sahel, the Group also exchanged views on strengthening coordination with regional parliamentary organizations. Recalling discussions held by the HLAG in 2023, members emphasized the value of closer engagement with regional parliamentary bodies in order to better understand their respective activities, identify opportunities for cooperation, strengthen complementarity and avoid duplication of efforts.

Representatives of regional parliamentary organizations participating in the meeting shared perspectives on their work and expressed interest in strengthening cooperation with the HLAG. The exchange highlighted the potential for more systematic dialogue and information-sharing between the HLAG and regional parliamentary organizations on issues relating to peace and security and the prevention of terrorism and violent extremism.

Members were also informed of preparations for parliamentary visits to Burkina Faso and Niger as part of the Call of the Sahel initiative. It was explained that the Secretariat had been in contact with the respective parliaments and had transmitted proposed programmes for the visits, with dates to be agreed with the parliaments. The visits are intended to enable direct exchanges with parliamentarians, promote a better understanding of national priorities and needs, and help identify concrete areas for parliamentary action and cooperation. Their outcomes are expected to help guide subsequent stages of implementation of the Call of the Sahel.

The Group then held an expert hearing on protecting children from recruitment and exploitation by terrorist and violent extremist groups, and on the role of parliaments in this regard. Mr. U. Garms of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) presented relevant international standards and practical tools developed by UNODC. He emphasized that children recruited and exploited by terrorist groups should be regarded primarily as victims and that security considerations and the protection of children's rights should be pursued as complementary objectives. Particular emphasis was placed on prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration, the best interests of the child, and the continued application of child protection and juvenile justice safeguards.

During the discussion, members highlighted the economic and social vulnerabilities that can expose children to recruitment and exploitation, including poverty, displacement, and lack of education and opportunities, as well as the growing risks associated with online recruitment. They emphasized the need for multidisciplinary responses combining security measures with education, child protection, social inclusion and development, and discussed the role of parliaments in strengthening legislation, allocating adequate resources and overseeing implementation.

Mr. K. Kabre (Burkina Faso) proposed that the HLAG, in cooperation with UNODC and relevant child protection actors, develop practical guidance for parliamentarians, including questions for parliamentary oversight, areas for legislative review, and simple indicators to monitor prevention and the identification and reintegration of affected children. It was also proposed that Sahel countries contribute to the development of the guidance so that it reflects realities and needs on the ground.

The discussion also drew attention to the links between terrorism, trafficking in persons, and the recruitment and exploitation of children and adolescents. The Chairperson considered that these interrelated issues warranted further examination and proposed that they be addressed at the next HLAG meeting in Geneva, with the participation of relevant multilateral organizations and experts. The discussion also pointed to the importance of further examining the links between trafficking in persons, organized crime and terrorism.

The Group was subsequently informed of the outcomes of the HLAG webinar on victims of terrorism, held on 21 August 2026. Members were reminded that recognizing victims' rights in legislation is essential, but that such recognition is insufficient if victims are unable to exercise those rights in practice. The webinar highlighted the importance of effective institutions, adequate resources, accessible information, timely access to justice and sustained parliamentary oversight, as well as the value of listening directly to victims and survivors in order to identify shortcomings in existing systems and to improve public policy.

The discussion highlighted the potential for further work to facilitate access to practical information on victims' rights, available assistance and relevant national institutions. In this context, it was suggested that the IPU's existing programme on counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism could be further developed for this purpose, rather than a separate platform being created. It was also suggested that the programme's interactive map could be used to provide country-specific information on the relevant national institutions responsible for assisting victims of terrorism, in cooperation with UNODC.

The Group was also informed of the workshop on *Strengthening parliamentary responses to terrorism: Introducing the IPU reference framework*, which would be held on 6 October 2026. Members thanked and congratulated the Secretariat for the excellent work carried out in developing and refining the IPU reference framework on the definition of terrorism. They welcomed the progress achieved and highlighted the importance of the framework as a concrete outcome of the Group's work. Members were encouraged to participate in the workshop and to contribute to the discussion on the framework's practical value for parliaments.

Regarding future activities, the Group identified several issues for further attention. Members proposed that the HLAG further examine the relationship between natural resources and terrorism, drawing on experiences from different regions and relevant international expertise.

The financing of terrorism was also proposed as a subject for further discussion. Members highlighted the importance of understanding the origin, transit and destination of funds used to support terrorism, and of ensuring that relevant international commitments are effectively reflected in domestic legislation. The Chairperson requested that the proposal be taken into account for discussion at the Group's next meeting in Geneva.

The Chairperson also proposed that the next meeting further examine the trafficking and recruitment of girls, boys and adolescents in the context of terrorism and violent extremism, with the participation of relevant multilateral organizations and experts. The proposal reflected the concern expressed during the meeting regarding the exploitation of children, as well as the need to identify practical parliamentary responses capable of strengthening prevention, protection and reintegration.

Throughout the meeting, members reiterated the importance of translating the work of the HLAG into practical parliamentary action. In their discussions, they emphasized that legislation must be accompanied by effective implementation, adequate resources, oversight, international and regional cooperation, and direct engagement with the countries and communities most affected by terrorism and violent extremism.

Report of the Working Group on Science and Technology

Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 218th session (Arusha, 9 October 2026)

One sitting of the Working Group on Science and Technology was held on 7 October 2026. As the position of Chairperson was vacant following the end of the parliamentary mandate of Ms. M. Cederfelt (Sweden), the meeting was chaired by Mr. N. In-na (Thailand), Vice-Chairperson of the Working Group. The agenda was adopted without amendment.

In his opening remarks, Mr. In-na recalled the Working Group's role in helping parliaments understand and respond to rapid scientific and technological change and in strengthening dialogue between parliamentarians and the scientific community.

A major part of the meeting was devoted to a joint Arusha–Quy Nhon dialogue on *Parliamentary and scientific diplomacy in times of conflict*. The exchange connected Working Group members in Arusha with scientists and other participants gathered at the International Centre for Interdisciplinary Science

and Education in Quy Nhon, Viet Nam, for the international conference Science and Technology for Sustainable Development. Participants considered how scientific knowledge and parliamentary action can reinforce one another in the response to conflict, scarcity, artificial intelligence (AI), technological disruption, and threats to human well-being. The discussion highlighted the value of scientific and parliamentary diplomacy as complementary ways of maintaining dialogue across political divides, and the importance of building more regular channels between scientists and legislators so that evidence, foresight and democratic oversight can inform policy before technological developments outpace institutions.

Contributions from Quy Nhon from Mr. M. Spiro, Mr. M. Bona, Mr. C. Kőrösi and Mr. T. Suzuki focused on the responsibilities of both scientific and political communities in shaping technological progress. From the parliamentary side, Mr. A. Hashim Khoori (United Arab Emirates) and Ms. S. Kiran (Fiji) called for scientific advice that is timely, independent, understandable and useful for decision-making. Particular attention was given to AI, artificial general intelligence and dual-use technologies. The discussion reflected both the opportunities offered by AI and concerns about safety, concentration of technological power, transparency, and the capacity of current institutions to keep pace. Participants discussed possible international approaches to advanced AI, including stronger cooperation, technology assessment, the precautionary principle, citizen participation and independent monitoring of dual-use developments. The exchange also underscored the fact that regulation should not only focus on risk, but also enable innovation and beneficial uses of technology while protecting the public interest. Participants agreed that the Arusha–Quy Nhon dialogue should be a starting point for continued exchanges between the parliamentary and scientific communities.

Working Group members also held a tour de table on parliamentary engagement with science and technology. The exchange showed that parliaments are increasingly developing structures, legislation and practical tools to address AI, strategic foresight, cybersecurity, data protection and digital transformation, while also experimenting with AI-supported parliamentary services. Members shared experiences including the establishment of dedicated committees and national AI strategies, the use of AI-supported interpretation and transcription, and the development of legislation and oversight mechanisms. Ms. K. Cariola (Chile), participating in her first Working Group meeting following her nomination by the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, highlighted work in Chile on AI regulation, digital sovereignty, neurorights, personal data protection and cybersecurity, as well as the value of initiatives such as the Congress of the Future, which promote sustained dialogue between parliament and the scientific community. Members welcomed the opportunity to learn from one another and proposed strengthening the Working Group's capacity to map parliamentary structures, legislation and practices globally so that useful examples can be shared more widely within the IPU.

The Working Group then considered its role in relation to the IPU Strategy for 2027–2031. Members agreed that science, technology and innovation increasingly cut across the work of parliaments and the IPU, and should therefore be addressed in a more coordinated manner. They supported closer cooperation with other IPU bodies on cross-cutting issues and discussed how the Working Group could help connect scientific knowledge with the wider strategic priorities of the Organization. In this context, Ms. L. Saint-Paul (France), participating on behalf of the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, proposed closer cooperation on online radicalization and on the use of new technologies by terrorist and violent extremist groups. Members also supported the idea of developing a more systematic overview of parliamentary approaches to science, technology and AI, including beyond the parliaments represented in the Working Group, with a view to strengthening peer learning and identifying areas where further parliamentary support may be required.

The Working Group returned to the proposed Annex to the *IPU Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology* on AI ethics. No new textual amendments were proposed. Members nevertheless noted that the AI landscape had evolved considerably since work on the Annex began and discussed how the work already undertaken could be incorporated into a broader and more holistic approach to AI within the IPU. Mr. A. Richardson and Mr. A. Reid from the IPU Secretariat briefed members on the Organization's expanding programme of work in this area, including parliamentary dialogue and peer exchange, policy guidance, international engagement, capacity-building, and the responsible use of AI within parliaments. They also noted that AI is now being addressed by several IPU bodies, making stronger coordination increasingly important. Members considered that the Working Group could play a useful role in connecting these different strands of work, helping to identify priorities and ensuring that the parliamentary perspective is reflected in international discussions on AI governance.

The Working Group also revisited the proposal for a dedicated retreat on the IPU Strategy for 2027–2031 and on the Organization's holistic approach to AI. The invitation from the United Arab Emirates to host the retreat remained open. Members considered that such a meeting could provide them with more time, outside the Assembly programme, to deepen their understanding of AI and other rapidly evolving technologies, examine both opportunities and risks, and reflect on the future priorities and contribution of the Working Group. It was agreed that the new Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretariat of the Working Group would continue discussions on the objectives, timing and format of the proposed retreat.

The Working Group elected Mr. N. In-na (Thailand), who had been serving as Vice-Chairperson, as its new Chairperson, and Mr. A. Hashim Khoori (United Arab Emirates) as its new Vice-Chairperson. Members welcomed Mr. A. Richardson, who will take over as Secretary of the Working Group, and expressed their appreciation to Mr. M. Omar for his long-standing contribution to the Working Group and to Mr. Y. Elagdi for his contribution to its work.

In terms of next steps, members were encouraged to continue sharing developments from their parliaments between meetings and to make greater use of the Working Group's web page to exchange information and good practices. Concluding the meeting, the Working Group reaffirmed the importance of continued cooperation between parliaments and the scientific community, and of ensuring that scientific and technological progress serves peace, sustainable development and human well-being.

Report of the Gender Partnership Group

Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 218th session
(Arusha, 9 October 2026)

The Gender Partnership Group held its 54th session on 4 and 8 October 2026. In attendance were Ms. S. Mikayilova (Azerbaijan) in the Chair, Mr. K. Vanlouwe (Belgium) (replacing Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium)) and Mr. M. Ali Sera (Indonesia).

As per its mandate, the Group reviewed the state of women's participation in national parliaments, as well as in IPU bodies and Assemblies. It examined in particular the composition of delegations at the 153rd Assembly. As of 8 October 2026, 39.4% of the delegates at the Assembly were women (see below), which is the highest share ever achieved, above the previous record 39% women delegates in Nusa Dua in 2022 and in Madrid in 2021. At this Assembly, 40 delegations out of 136 (29.4%) were gender-balanced, meaning that they were composed of 40–60% women or men. This is a higher percentage than at the last Assembly, where 28.2% of delegations (37 out of 131) were gender-balanced. The aforementioned 40 gender-balanced delegations attending the 153rd Assembly are listed in below.

Of the 136 delegations present, 130 were composed of at least two delegates, of which 9 were all-male (6.9%). The nine all-male delegations of two or more members were from the parliaments of Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cyprus, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Palestine, Sri Lanka, Togo and Turkmenistan. In addition, there were six single-member delegations attending the Assembly. All in all, four delegations are subject to sanctions at this Assembly.

The Group took stock of ongoing efforts to implement the *Policy to prevent and address harassment, including sexual harassment, at IPU Assemblies and other IPU events*. It welcomed the fact that the policy was increasingly being used and that instances were being addressed. The Group also noted with appreciation the recent steps taken by national parliaments and regional parliamentary assemblies to adopt similar policies or enhance existing ones. It highlighted the importance of independent reporting mechanisms to ensure the effectiveness of such policies.

The Group reviewed the state of women's participation in national parliaments, noting with concern that several parliaments still had few or no women members and reiterating its commitment to engaging with delegations from the countries concerned.

The Group took stock of developments in parliaments whose delegations it had met in recent years. In Algeria, following the July 2026 elections to the National People's Assembly, the share of seats held by women decreased further from 8.1% to 6.1%. On a more positive note, a woman was elected as Speaker for the first time in the country's history. The Group expressed its hope that this development would serve as a catalyst for increased women's representation at future elections in Algeria. In Oman, women hold 20% of seats in the appointed State Council but are not currently represented in the elected Shura Council. In 2026, a royal decree was adopted reserving 11 seats for women, to be applied at the next election in 2027. The Group welcomed this development and encouraged other parliaments to also adopt legal frameworks aimed at advancing women's representation.

As per its mandate, the Group held a dialogue session with the delegation of The Gambia, with a view to discussing how to improve women's representation in parliament. This followed the first dialogue held with the delegation in October 2025 during the 151st IPU Assembly.

The Gambian delegation informed the Group about recent steps taken to enhance the representation of women in the National Assembly, which currently stands at 8.6%. The Select Committee on Gender, Children and Social Welfare had proposed to reserve 14 seats for women and 2 seats for persons with disabilities, and had raised awareness among MPs on this matter. The proposal, which is required to take the form of a government bill owing to its financial implications, is currently under consideration by the government at the initiative of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare. The Group expressed its hope that the bill could be considered before the April 2027 elections.

The delegation reiterated its concerns regarding persistent barriers that can prevent women from running as candidates, such as harmful social norms, a lack of financial resources, and limited public awareness and political party support. The need for MPs to conduct community outreach was therefore also noted, so as to enhance understanding of the importance of women's political participation. Efforts were also required to encourage more political parties to adopt voluntary quotas, to financially support women candidates and to engage male parliamentarians as champions.

The Group asked the IPU Secretariat to consider support that could be provided for ongoing efforts in The Gambia, with a view to enhancing women's representation ahead of the 2027 elections.

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Statistics of the Gender Partnership Group

Composition of delegations of IPU Members attending the last eight IPU statutory meetings (Manama 2023 - present)

Meeting	Total delegates	Total/percentage of women delegates		Total delegations	Total/percentage of all-male delegations (2 or more)		Total all-female delegations (2 or more)	Total single-sex delegations (2 or more)	Total single-member delegations (male and female)
Arusha (08/10/2026)	627	247	39.4	136	9	6.9	2	11	6
Istanbul (04/2026)	678	244	36	131	10	7.9	1	11	5
Geneva (10/25)	593	219	36.9	132	9	7.4	2	11	11
Tashkent (04/25)	682	254	37.2	127	10	8.1	4	14	4
Geneva (10/24)	615	224	36.4	129	7	5.8	2	9	9
Geneva (03/24)	703	252	35.8	142	15	11.4	2	17	10
Luanda (10/23)	600	217	36.2	128	10	8.3	3	13	8
Manama (03/23)	661	228	34.5	136	21	16	3	24	5

Single-sex, multi-member delegations of IPU Members present in Arusha (status on 8 October 2026)

N°	Country	Arusha Oct26			Istanbul Apr26			Geneva Oct25			Tashkent Apr25			Geneva Oct24			Geneva Mar24			Luanda Oct23			Manama Mar23		
		Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total
1	Belize*	0	2	2	0	1	1																		
2	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0	2	2	absent			absent			absent			absent			5	3	8	5	2	7	3	5	8
3	Brazil*	0	3	3	0	4	4	0	6	6	1	7	8	0	4	4	0	7	7	2	3	5	0	6	6
4	Cyprus	0	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	3	1	2	3	2	3	5	1	2	3	absent			2	2	4
5	Ecuador	2	0	2	2	1	3	1	2	3	4	1	5	2	0	2	1	0	1	absent			4	1	5
6	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0	5	5	1	6	7	1	6	7	1	6	7	1	7	8	1	5	6	2	5	7	2	5	7
7	Mongolia*	2	0	2	2	0	2	absent			3	1	4	2	1	3	1	1	2	absent			0	3	3
8	Palestine	0	2	2	1	3	4	0	2	2	2	2	4	2	2	4	1	3	4	1	1	2	1	5	6
9	Sri Lanka	0	2	2	absent			1	4	5	1	4	5	absent			1	4	5	1	4	5	1	4	5
10	Togo*	0	2	2	0	1	1	absent			absent			absent			absent			absent			absent		
11	Turkmenistan	0	2	2	1	2	3	1	1	2	2	2	4	1	1	2	2	0	2	absent			0	1	1

Single-member delegations of IPU members present in Arusha (status on 8 October 2026)

N°	Country	Arusha Oct26			Istanbul Apr26			Geneva Oct25			Tashkent Apr25			Geneva Oct24			Geneva Mar24			Luanda Oct23			Manama Mar23		
		Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total
1	Croatia	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	1	2	3	absent			1	1	2	1	1	2
2	Libya	0	1	1	3	2	5	3	1	4	2	3	5	2	3	5	absent			2	3	5	2	4	6
3	Luxembourg	1	0	1	2	3	5	0	1	1	1	2	3	absent			0	1	1	absent			absent		
4	Montenegro	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	4	2	1	3	absent			absent		
5	Niger	1	0	1	1	3	4	2	2	4	absent			absent			absent			absent			2	3	5
6	Republic of Moldova	0	1	1	1	2	3	absent			absent			absent			absent			absent			absent		

** Delegations subjected to sanctions at the 153rd Assembly, pursuant to Articles 10.4 and 15.2c of the IPU Statutes, for being composed exclusively of representatives of the same sex for two consecutive Assemblies.*

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54th session of the Gender Partnership Group

Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 8 October 2026

Delegations with 40 to 60% women parliamentarians

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

The countries below are ordered according to the percentage of women parliamentarians in their delegations at the 153rd IPU Assembly.

There are a total of 40 gender-balanced delegations out of 136 delegations (29.4%) of IPU members attending the 153rd IPU Assembly (as of 8 October 2026) compared to a total of 37 gender-balanced delegations out of 131 delegations (28.2%) who attended the 152nd IPU Assembly.

Delegations with 40 to 49.9% women parliamentarians (13):

Azerbaijan	40%	Türkiye	40%
Bulgaria	40%	Germany	43%
Hungary	40%	Chile	44%
Kenya	40%	Ghana	44%
Liberia	40%	India	44%
Norway	40%	Indonesia	45%
Senegal	40%		

Delegations with 50% women parliamentarians (22):

Andorra	Mauritius
Australia	Monaco
Botswana	Mozambique
Cameroon	Netherlands
Egypt	Peru
Estonia	Rwanda
Eswatini	Serbia
Greece	United Kingdom
Latvia	Uruguay
Liechtenstein	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Mauritania	Zimbabwe

Delegations with 50.1 to 60 per cent women parliamentarians (5):

Angola	60%	Ireland	60%
Austria	60%	Uganda	60%
Finland	60%		

Calendar of future meetings and other activities

Approved by the IPU Governing Council at its 218th session (Arusha, 9 October 2026)

Global Parliamentary Conference on Human Rights	GENEVA (Switzerland) 12 – 13 November 2026
Parliamentary meeting at the Reykjavik Global Forum (15 – 17 November)	REYKJAVIK (Iceland) 15 November 2026
Parliamentary Meeting at COP31 (9 – 20 November)	ANTALYA (Türkiye) 16 November 2026
World e-Parliament Conference	BRUSSELS (Belgium) 17 – 18 November 2026
Regional seminar on promoting the rights of the child for the parliaments of the West African region	ABUJA (Nigeria) End of November 2026 (Dates to be confirmed)
Regional conference on violence against women in politics	MONTEVIDEO (Uruguay) 3 – 4 December 2026
Parliamentary meeting to be held in conjunction with the UN Water Conference (8 – 10 December)	United Arab Emirates December 2026 (Venue and dates to be confirmed)
Parliamentary event at the UN Youth Townhall (8 – 10 December)	HEIDELBERG (Germany) December 2026 (Dates to be confirmed)
Parliamentary Track at the 21st Internet Governance Forum (14 – 18 December)	NAIROBI (Kenya) 16 – 17 December 2026
Regional seminar on climate change and methane emissions for the parliaments of Latin America and the Caribbean	Between December 2026 and February 2027 (Venue and dates to be confirmed)
Webinar series on AI and digital policy: *Extreme risks from AI: The parliamentary role in setting limits*	Virtual 22 October 2026
Working together to advance women's political participation and decision-making: Series of in-person and online meetings between parliamentarians and partners in the Generation Equality Forum and/or WYDE | Women's Leadership project	Virtual November 2026
Empowerment series for young parliamentarians	Virtual November 2026
Webinar series on the digital transformation of parliaments and the use of AI in parliament: World e-Parliament Report 2026 – key findings	Virtual 2 December 2026
Webinar series to promote the use of human security and common security	Virtual October–December 2026
Webinar series on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation	Virtual October–December 2026
Webinar series on parliamentary training institutes	Virtual October–December 2026

Webinar series on parliamentary action on human rights issues	Virtual October–December 2026
IPU-ESCAP-ECE annual webinar on implementation of the SDGs	Virtual 2026 (Dates to be confirmed)
Regional seminar on the implementation of the universal legal instruments against terrorism	Virtual 2026 (Date to be confirmed)
Parliamentary Conference on Artificial Intelligence	MONTEVIDEO (Uruguay) 17 – 19 February 2027 (Dates to be confirmed)
Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations	NEW YORK (USA) February 2027 (Dates to be confirmed)
Parliamentary Meeting and side events at the Commission on the Status of Women (8 – 19 March)	NEW YORK (USA) March 2027 (Dates to be confirmed)
154th Assembly and related meetings	GENEVA (Switzerland) 10 – 14 May 2027
Science for Peace School for parliamentary staff on *Green economy, energy and the Sustainable Development Goals* (third edition)	ALLAN (Jordan) May 2027 (Dates to be confirmed)
Global Parliamentary Forum at the World Health Assembly	GENEVA (Switzerland) May 2027 (Dates to be confirmed)
Parliamentary event at the Global AI Summit	GENEVA (Switzerland) 21 – 22 June2027
Parliamentary Forum at the UN High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development	NEW YORK (USA) July 2027 (Dates to be confirmed)
Parliamentary event at the High-Level Week of the United Nations General Assembly	NEW YORK (USA) September 2027 (Dates to be confirmed)
Science for Peace Parliamentary Meeting on *Energy and climate change* (third edition)	QUY NHON (Viet Nam) September 2027 (Dates to be confirmed)
155th Assembly and related meetings	LA ALTAGRACIA (Dominican Republic) 9 – 13 November 2027
Parliamentary Meeting at COP32 (8 – 19 November)	ADDIS ABABA (Ethiopia) November 2027 (Dates to be confirmed)
Regional workshop for ECOWAS parliamentarians and parliamentary staff, co-organized with the WTO	ABUJA (Nigeria) 2027 (Dates to be confirmed)
Interregional Seminar on the Achievement of the SDGs for Parliaments of Developing Countries	BEIJING (China) 2027 (Dates to be confirmed)

Information seminar on the structure and functioning of the Inter-Parliamentary Union	GENEVA (Switzerland) 2027 (Dates to be confirmed)
Regional seminar for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from Gulf and African Countries, co-organized with the WTO	United Arab Emirates 2027 (Venue and dates to be confirmed)
13th IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians	Bahrain 2027 (Venue and dates to be confirmed)
Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians 2027	2027 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Third Global Parliamentary Summit on Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism	2027 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional seminar to promote implementation of the legal framework on counter-terrorism for the African Group	2027 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional seminar on SDGs and climate change for Asia-Pacific parliaments	2027 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Parliamentary consultation on pathways towards peace in the Middle East	2027 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Session of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO	2027 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional conference for European parliaments on global health security	2027 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Seminar on the promotion of humanitarian disarmament instruments	2027 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Seminar on the promotion of nuclear security and non-proliferation instruments	2027 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Working together to advance women's political participation and decision-making: Series of in-person and online meetings between parliamentarians and partners in the Generation Equality Forum and/or WYDE | Women's Leadership project	2027 Quarterly (Venue and dates to be confirmed)
Webinar to mark the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	Virtual 20 August 2027
Webinar series on promoting the Model Legislative Provisions to support the victims of terrorism	Virtual 2027 (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series on AI and digital policy	Virtual 2027 (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series on the digital transformation of parliaments and the use of AI in parliament	Virtual 2027 (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series on parliamentary action on human rights issues	Virtual 2027 (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series on democracy (events around the Global Parliamentary Report, the Indicators for Democratic Parliaments, and other themes)	Virtual 2027 (Series dates to be announced)

Empowerment series for young parliamentarians	Virtual 2027 (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series on peace, security and IHL	Virtual 2027 (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series on gender equality and women's empowerment	Virtual 2027 (Series dates to be announced)
16th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament	ASHGABAT (Turkmenistan) First half of the year 2028 (Venue and dates to be confirmed)
Third Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue	2028 Venue and dates to be confirmed

Agenda of the 154th Assembly

(Geneva, 10–14 May 2027)

1. Election of the President of the 154th Assembly

2. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda

3. General Debate

4. Special accountability segment on the implementation of IPU resolutions and other decisions

5. S*trengthening maritime security and protecting critical infrastructure in times of conflict: The role of parliaments in safeguarding international navigation and global economic stability*
(Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)

6. *Parliamentary leadership to protect mountain and ocean ecosystems and achieve the 30% conservation goal by 2030*
(Standing Committee on Sustainable Development)

7. Reports of the Standing Committees

8. Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and for the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development for the 156th Assembly and appointment of the co-Rapporteurs